

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Our Lady's P.S.



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

GAELIC FOOTBALL COACHING – Thanks to Armagh GAA County Board and O'Connells GAC, Tullysaran the children in P4, P5, P6 and P7 are enjoying Gaelic football PE coaching sessions for the whole school year. Aileen Magennis, former County Armagh senior footballer, has started working with the children on a Tuesday and is also facilitating afterschool Gaelic for the P6 & 7 children. This coaching programme is part of a scheme launched by Armagh GAA with a focus on improving children's participation and skill level in Gaelic Games. It has been supported by the committee of O'Connells GAC, who have agreed to financially assist the school with the costs incurred. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank the members and committee of O'Connells for their support with this scheme.

RESTART A HEART DAY – Wednesday 16th October is 'Restart a Heart' day and I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Comiskey has arranged for Aidan Early and some of the 'First Responders' to come into school and teach the P7 children CPR. They will then host a **CPR session for adults (3-4 pm)** which is open to everyone who is interested in attending. The school will make a donation to the 'First Responders' to support the brilliant work that they are doing to help save lives.

SCHOOL WEBSITE – I would just like to remind you about our school website (www.ourladysptullysaran.com). We will begin to add new photographs once everyone has returned their photograph permission slips. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their permission slips and downloaded the school app. Already 158 people have downloaded the app and I would encourage all parents/carers to download it as you will have direct access to our website, school documents, notices and messages. To encourage more parents to download the app and improve our carbon footprint as an environmentally friendly school we will no longer be sending paper copies of our monthly newsletters or dinner menus home. From November they will only be available on the website, though some paper copies will be available from our school office. I would like to thank Donna Mc Connell of 'D' Zine Hair Studio', Ciaran and Bernie Campbell of 'Campbell Fuels' and Phillip Macari of 'PV Macari Interior Design' for sponsoring the website. If anyone else would like to sponsor the website, please contact the school. Thank you.

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS & COFFEE MORNING – There was a large gathering for our beginning of year Mass which was celebrated by Monsignor Murray. Children from all of the classes participated in the Mass which was followed by a Coffee Morning in Aid of the Southern Hospice which raised **£455** for this worthy cause. Thanks to everyone who made a donation.

BROWN MONEY COLLECTION - Throughout the year we have a box in the office to collect brown money. In 2018/19 we collected **£45**. We are going to add this money to our Coffee Morning amount and donate **£500** to the Hospice.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION EVENING – Our annual Curriculum Information evening is on **Thursday 3rd October**. This is an excellent opportunity for parents/guardians to meet their child(ren)'s class teacher and receive an overview of the year ahead. The times for our Curriculum evening are as follows: **P3 & 4 @ 6.30pm, P5-7 @ 7pm and P1 & 2 @ 7.30pm**. I would encourage all parents/guardians to attend as important information will be disseminated and each session will last no longer than 25 minutes. If times clash, please attend your older child(ren)'s session.

ROOTS OF EMPATHY – I am delighted to inform you that we will be involved in the Roots of Empathy programme again this year. The programme teaches children about their feelings and that of others. Mrs Gillespie, our Primary Two Teaching assistant is a fully qualified facilitator of Roots of Empathy. She will be facilitating the programme in Primary Five and we are very grateful to Tracy and Rian Crumley, our Mummy and baby team who will visit the class so they can see how Rian is growing and developing.

SHARED EDUCATION – Our Reception/Primary 1, Primary 3 and 7 children will be participating in Shared Education Peace IV programmes with Killylea and Drumsallen Primary Schools. Our Shared Education projects are supported by the European Union's PEACE programme, managed by the Special EU Programme Body.

SCHOOL/ECO COUNCIL – We have been and will be holding our School/Eco Council elections in school this month. Children from P4-7 will be given the opportunity to stand for election. Boys and girls will be selected from each class to play a part in this important role in our school. Mrs Noreen Hegarty will be working with the students as they ensure our school has an influential pupil voice.

BREAKFAST CLUB – Breakfast Club is proving to be very popular, with large numbers of children attending daily. Could I remind you that it commences each morning at **8am** (children must not arrive before 8am in the interests of Health & Safety and Child Protection protocols) and runs to 8.40am, with a small concessionary charge of **£1 paid daily**. Current food options include toast, pancakes, cereal including Weetabix. All children must pay, even if they don't take food.

123 CLUB – 123 Club continues to operate for **P1, 2 & 3 children** for a concessionary fee of **£3 per day**. Mrs Helen Gillespie and Mrs Joanne Kearney supervise the children in 123 Club and provide a variety of fun activities for them. 123 Club is again proving to be very popular with both parents and pupils as it facilitates one pick-up time for families and younger children can also travel home on the bus at 3pm. It is also a good social opportunity for the younger pupils to engage and play with their peers. Please contact the school if you would like your child to attend 123 Club. All monies should be paid in advance or on a Monday in a separately labelled envelope as it is checked by the 123 Club staff.

4 O'CLOCK CLUB – In response to our parents' survey at the end of last year we are going to trial a '**4 O'CLOCK CLUB**' during November and December. Further information will follow later this month.

SNACK / FRUIT MONEY – Snack money for the month of October is now due. Cost is **£5.00 per pupil** (You can pay each term or full year in advance if you wish). Thank you to all parents who support us in supplying a healthy break.

SCHOOL DINNERS – The cost of a school dinner is currently, £2.60 per day = **£13 per week**. This must be paid each **Monday in advance**. (Payable either by cash or cheque, made out to the school). Please send money into school in a sealed envelope with your child's/children's name(s) and amount clearly written. School Dinners Cost **£49.40** for the month of October for those parents who wish to pay monthly. Our October menu is now available on our website.

LUNCHES - All pupils who take lunch must have a lunch box with their names clearly visible. Fizzy or energy drinks are not permitted in school as we try to promote a healthy balanced diet for all. **As we have children who suffer from specific and severe food allergies, we request that no peanuts, seeds or related products are brought to school. The school is a 'NUT FREE ZONE'.**

MEDICAL - Please contact the school directly if a new medical diagnosis has been made or an existing one no longer applies or has been amended. If your child has an asthma plan, please provide a copy of it with relevant medication to the office/class teacher. **Please make sure that you have returned the medical form and that all medication sent into school is within its best before date.** Thanks.

IMPORTANT DATES: (Please find an updated list of school closures on the school website.)

Thursday 3rd – 9th October – Book Fair.

Thursday 10th October – P4 & P6 Library visits.

P2 - 7 Parent Teacher Meetings – Week beginning 21st Oct (After-school Mon-Thurs – Dinner hall). **P1 meetings will be in February.**

Hallowe'en holidays – Monday 28th Oct – Friday 1st Nov. School reopens on Monday 4th November 2019.

R/P1 - 4 Christmas Panto – Wednesday 4th December.

Christmas Dinner – Thursday 5th December (School will close @ 1pm).

R/P1- 4 Christmas Shows – Wednesday 11th December.

P5 – 7 Christmas Panto – Thursday 12th December.

Christmas Holidays – 23rd Dec – 3rd Jan (School will close @ 12 noon on Friday 20th Dec). Children return to school on 6th Jan.

Wednesday 11th March – P4 First Penance @ 7pm.

Thursday 19th March – P7 Service of Light @ 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

Sunday 3rd May - Holy Communion @ 10 am & **Sunday 31st May** – Confirmation @ 2pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES – Currently we have Zumba (P3), Karate and Soccer (P2 & 3), Karate and ICT Club (P4 & 5), Fiddle (P4-7), Gaelic football and Soccer (P6 & 7) and Transfer class P7. P1 clubs will begin in term 2.

CONTACT DETAILS - Please advise the school in writing of any change of address or telephone contact details. It is **essential** that each pupil has a **Contact Mobile Number** for at least one parent to be used in the **event of an emergency** or to be updated for our text messaging service. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform the school if you are not receiving communication from the school.

On behalf of all staff I would like to thank you for your continued support. Please contact the school to arrange an appointment if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child/ren('s) education.

Many Thanks,

Tomás McKee

Mr Tomás McKee

Principal