

ST. KILLIAN'S SCHOOL

Westgate Road, Bishopstown, Cork.

Phone: 021-4865839

NEWS LETTER - November, 2016.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Sam Rice as a new member of staff. Ms. Rice is class teacher of Rowan.

The shops and towns are decorated and lit for Christmas and in school we too are thinking about how we will prepare and celebrate for Christmas.

Many thanks to the PA and parents who supported the bag pack in Dunnes. The money raised will go towards the provision of additional resources for the pupils in St Killian's.

Many pupils and classes have prepared the Team Hope shoeboxes. I would like to thank all those who have been involved in this important fund raising. The Team Hope shoeboxes will be sent to many children throughout the world who would not otherwise receive any gift at Christmas time.

Approaching the season of Advent, as Christians we prepare for the Christmas Season. Advent means 'coming' in Latin and signifies the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians mark the four Sundays prior to Christmas day as Advent.

St Killian's will prepare for Christmas by attending Mass during Advent. We will have our annual Christmas Celebration on **Wednesday December 14th** at 1.45pm where parents, family and friends will join with the pupils to celebrate Christmas. We will also have a 'real' Christmas tree which will be in the foyer at the beginning of December, we ask that each pupil could bring in a Christmas decoration for the tree (please put name on the decoration so it can be returned at the end of term). We will have our Christmas post box and Christmas 'Elves' to help distribute cards, and at the end of the term we will have our annual Dino's lunch.

Sue Lenihan, Principal.

School Closures: Tuesday 22nd December - School will close at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays and reopen on Monday 9th January.

Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th February – School closed

Friday 17th March – School closed

Friday 7th April – School will close at 12 noon for Easter Holidays and reopen on Monday 24th April.

Monday 1st May – School closed

Monday 5th June – School closed

Monday 26th June – School closed at 12 noon for Summer Holidays

ADVENT-Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Whole school will attend Mass at 11.30 am Thursday 8th December.

Advent Masses Thursday 1st December and Thursday 15th December at 10am - All classes will attend one of these masses in preparation for Christmas, class teachers will advise of dates closer to the time.

PLEASE advise the school if you **do not wish your child to attend Mass during December** and numbers permitting the pupils will be supervised in school. If your child has difficulty walking to the church due to health or other difficulties please be advised that school insurance does not cover staff driving pupils to the church. If you wish your child to attend mass you are most welcome to attend with your child, please advise the class teacher of any arrangements in this regard.

St Killians Christmas Celebration Wednesday 14th December 1.45 pm.

School Uniform:

Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat every day, as it is important that they are able to get out into the yard, and to participate in social outings, even when it is raining. We have a school foldable waterproof coat.

Please contact the school for information on cost and where to purchase.

School Leavers:

Letters were sent to all parents regarding school placement in June last year. For those in 6th Class next year we advise that you start thinking about Secondary School placement as applications for many schools are very early in the year.

We operate a cohesive transition programme for Sixth class pupils. The class teacher completes a transition programme with all pupils. We, as a school, liaise with your chosen school, SLT, OT, SENO and NEPs to ensure that where possible pupil supports are transferred through to the Secondary School. Transition meetings between parents and school happen in the Spring term.

Please advise the class teacher of the proposed Secondary School as soon as possible.

School Donation:

Many thanks to all who send in the voluntary donations.

Please be advised donations are collected by the prefects every Wednesday, and if you have 2 euro spare (any donation large or small is most welcome) on a weekly basis the donations are used to provide additional equipment and supports for all pupils in St Killian's.

Breakfast/Lunch Club:

Children will be offered breakfast and lunch in school daily. Please advise in writing to your child's teacher if your child has any allergies/dietary requirements.

Building Project:

The pre-fab project has started, and we hope to have the new classrooms in place by early December, weather permitting. The pre-fab will have two new classrooms, three bathrooms and a quiet room which we hope to develop as an additional sensory room.

Access to a Sensory room is vital for many of the pupils in St Killian's. It provides an opportunity to relax and regulate, to develop social skills and work with peers and to engage in OT programmes. Most of our fund raising this year will be aimed at purchasing padding for the room, and then sensory equipment, both of which are very expensive, and not currently covered in the grant for the classrooms.

Prefects/Stars of the week/Class Monitors:

We have prefects for this term appointed from the Senior Classes.

Star of Week is awarded every Friday in assembly.

Congratulations to all pupils who have been appointed Prefect, Star of the Week, Class Monitor or who have received a Pupil Achievement Award.

It is due to the excellent manners, social skills, organisation skills and application to work that these badges are awarded. The pupils receiving such an award are a credit to the school and their family and friends.

Photocopying/Art Supplies/Insurance:

Thank you to all parents who have sent in €59 for the cost of the above items for this year. Please be advised that we do not receive a grant for the above items, and as the school staff produce individual books for IEP time for every pupil, the photocopying costs in school are very high.

Booklists:

Please ensure all books are in school. As the curriculum provided for each child is individual it is important that the books are bought promptly and sent into school, named and covered. We do not operate a book scheme as the needs of every pupil are different, we also do not receive a grant to cover the cost of books.

Teacher Meetings:

Please note if a parent/carer needs to meet a teacher they are welcome to do so. However, they should arrange an appointment by writing to the teacher or by phoning the school.

It will not be possible to facilitate meetings without an appointment except in exceptional circumstances. This is to ensure that the meeting is given appropriate time and attention for the best interests of the child and taking into consideration the teacher's responsibilities for the rest of the class and their learning.

Transport:

As many are aware, transport remains a difficulty for Bus Eireann to organise. For the school, the provision of a suitable number of bus escorts also proves difficult for certain routes. We are still looking for escorts for certain routes and sub-bus escorts to cover leave.

Please contact the school office for more details if you know of someone who might be interested on (021) 4865839.

Confirmation:

Confirmation enrolment night will take place in the Church of the Real Presence, Curraheen on **Monday 23rd January, 2017**.

Confirmation Day is **Thursday 30th March, 2017**.

Please be advised that **school will close at 12.00 on Confirmation day** due to Health and Safety reasons. Those making their confirmation will be invited back to the school after mass to celebrate with school staff, family and friends. Details will be forwarded closer to the time.

Communion:

First Confession will take place on **Monday 27th March, 2017** at 7.30pm in the Church of the Real Presence, Curraheen.

Communion Day is **Saturday 6th May, 2017**.

Nurse Monica – re Winter Vomiting Bug

To reduce the likelihood of spreading the Winter Vomiting Bug it is important to remember the following:

- If your child has recently had vomiting/diarrhoea, do not send them to school until they have been well for 48 hrs.
- At home, wash your hands regularly with hot water after using the toilet and when touching food.
- If someone vomits at home, use hot water and detergent to clean up any soiling and wash your hands thoroughly after.

There is no specific treatment for Winter Vomiting Bug apart from sipping plenty of clear fluids such as water or flat lemonade. Symptoms will usually last only a day or two, but can occasionally last longer.

If you are concerned (e.g. prolonged vomiting/diarrhoea), telephone your GP for advice.

For more information you can also visit www.hse.ie or call 1850 24 1850.

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS:

St. Killian's School has registered with the HSE to begin the process of becoming a Health Promoting School.

This process can take up to 3 years to achieve. We had previously registered in 2012-2013 and received a certificate. We can continue to maintain the actions from those years.

A Health Promoting School is defined by World Health Organisation as "A school that constantly strengthens its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working" (WHO1998).

There is a connection between Health and Education. HPS works to include health into the culture and life of the school. HPS encourages and promotes self-esteem and self-confidence by providing opportunities for all members of the school community to contribute to school life.

Promoting a healthy school provides challenges for pupils and staff through a wide range of physical, academic, social and community activities.

We all need to look at how healthy lifestyles and environments may be built upon within the school.

T = TRY

T = TOGETHER

E = ENJOY

E = EACH

A = ACTIVE

A = ACHIEVE

M = MEMORIES

M = MORE
