

# St. Joseph's Primary School

September 2008

Dear Parents,

Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais! A special welcome to our new pupils and newly appointed teachers who have joined our school this year. It is my wish that your stay with us will be happy and successful.

Now that we have settled into the new school year, I would like to send you some news items, reminders and dates for your diary.

## **School Calendar: 1st term School Closures**

Mid-Term break	October 27 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> (inclusive)
School closed	December 8 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas holidays	December 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> January

## **What's new for this year?**

**Uniform:** Our new blue school jacket looks very well! Don't forget everyone is wearing black shoes with the pinafore uniform this year!! Runners are to be worn with tracksuits.

**Football:** This year we will have football as an extra curricular activity after school and we are entering the Sciath na Scol and Mini Sevens competitions in football! Your support will be greatly appreciated.

## **Reminders:**

**1. Access to and from the school:** Please use the school gate when going to and from the school at all times. The Convent grounds are not primary school property so please do not park, drop or collect your children there.

### **2. Opening times:**

School begins at 9.00a.m. Gates open at 8.50 a.m. The Board of Management accepts no responsibility for any pupil who arrives before this time.

**3. Parking outside the school:** Traditionally the parking spaces outside the school are reserved for the teachers and I ask you to uphold this tradition again this year. Thank you!

### **4. Home time: Please be on time to collect your child.**

**If there is any change in the person collecting your child you must inform the class teacher either by note or by phone call to the school.**

**For safety reasons if your child is in the infants classes you must physically collect your child at the school gate.**

### **5. Appointments:**

If you wish to meet a teacher please make an appointment at the office or through a note in your child's homework journal. It is unfair to turn up at the classroom door, especially when the class is present, to try to discuss an issue. All matters are best dealt with when the teacher can allocate time and a quiet space to address any issues or concerns a parent might have. Dates for Parent teacher meetings will be announced later.

### **6. Health Promotion:**

We are a health promoting school and operate a healthy lunch policy in the school. You co-operation with this is really appreciated.

**7. Milk Scheme:**

This will resume in October.

**8. Labelling pupils' belongings:**

Please make sure that your child's name is on his/her jacket, cardigan, tracksuit jumper, books, clothes, lunchboxes etc.

**9. Education Welfare Act:**

Under Child Welfare Legislation parents are obliged to communicate to the school the reasons for pupil absences. Your child has been given a number of pages where these explanations should be recorded and returned to the class teacher. I would ask all parents to assist us in maintaining our records by completing same on all occasions of absence.

**10. Mobile Phones:**

Children should only have mobile phones in school if it is absolutely essential that the child needs it after school. All phones must be turned off, named and put in a box in the hall in the morning. Phones may be collected at home time. The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, damage or theft of these phones. Any phone not handed up will be confiscated.

**11. Mercy Day Mass:**

You are invited to join The Sisters of Mercy, the students and staff of St. Joseph's Primary School and St. Mary's Secondary School to a special Mass to celebrate Mercy day on Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> September in St. Colman's Church at 11.00a.m.

**All children will go home at 12.30 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.**

**12.Updating pupils' records:** In the next week you will get an update of details form. Please complete this and return to the class teacher.

**13. Homework:** this should be done at an agreed time, in a quiet room away from distractions. Parental support and involvement is of the utmost importance. But remember "mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí"! (Patience and encouragement get better results). Homework journals should only be signed when a parent is fully satisfied that the entire homework assignment is completed.

**14. Parents Association:** We at St. Joseph's greatly value and appreciate the support and co-operation that the parents of our pupils consistently give us in school. In particular, Our Parents' Association has played a major role in assisting us in providing the very best for our pupils. I would encourage you to come to Parents' Association meetings. The atmosphere of the meetings is informal and relaxed and new members are always welcome.

**15. Children leaving the school during the school day:** For safety reasons a parent must collect a child in the classroom and sign 'the sign in/sign out copy'.

On a personal note, I look forward to working with you, your children and the wonderful staff of St. Joseph's Primary School where in a caring and happy environment your child will be given every opportunity to achieve his/her potential.

Le gach dea-ghuí

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Kathleen O'Driscoll