

## **ST JOSEPHS' PRIMARY SCHOOL , MACROOM**

Welcome back all our pupils after the Summer holidays and also any new pupils who have recently joined us. We look forward to another happy and successful year. Welcome also to our newly appointed teachers wishing them long and happy careers in teaching. Our best wishes also go to Mrs. Monica O'Brien on her retirement from the staff of St Josephs. Thanks to all of you who welcomed me back to St Josephs. I look forward to working with you.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER:**

- Children should wear school uniform in school, black shoes to be worn with uniform and runners with school tracksuit.
- If a child is absent for any reason a note must be sent to the class teacher when the child returns.
- If you wish to speak to a teacher regarding your child please contact the school office to make an appointment or send a note to the teacher in your child's home work journal.
- Children should only have mobile phones in school if it is absolutely essential that the child needs it after school. All phones are to be, 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.
- 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'.
- Please label all your child's belongings.

**HEALTHY EATING:** We ask all families to support the pupils and teachers as we implement our Healthy Eating Policy. Healthy food helps your child physically and mentally and healthy eating habits will benefit them for life.

**ALLERGIES:** Some children in school suffer from an allergy to nuts. In the interests of all children please do not give nuts to your child for lunch.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER:**

- 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.
- 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.
- Remind your child/ren to walk directly on the footpath as soon as they exit the car.
- When coming out to be collected after school, again, remind your child/ren to walk along the footpath
- 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 for your co-operation. Traffic congestion will always be a problem but it can become a smaller problem with a little consideration.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** If you have changed address or phone numbers (including mobile no.) recently please inform the school immediately. 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.

**EDUCATION WELFARE ACT:** Under Child Welfare Legislation parents are obliged to communicate to the school the reasons for pupil absences. Your child has these notes in the home work journal or on separate sheets for Junior classes, where these explanations should be recorded and returned to the class teacher.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Drama classes for Junior Classes classes.
- Swimming for 2, 3rd classes.
- Engineering Day for Senior Classes during Science Week
- A music workshop with the Callino Quartet for 5th & 6th Classes on Friday 16th October
- A traditional Music Workshop with Aoife Granville for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Classes on Thursday 12th Nov.
- Gaelic Football for Senior classes. We will take part in the Mini Sevens Competition.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR THIS TERM:**

- Mercy Day - 24th September. You are invited to join us a special Mass to celebrate Mercy day on Wednesday, in St. Colman's Church at 11.00a.m. All children will go home at 12.30 p.m on the 24th
- Halloween Break is from 26th - 30th. October (inclusive).
- 7th. December the school is closed
- 8th. December is a School Planning day for the Staff so school is closed
- Christmas Break starts on 22nd. December and school will re-open on 7th January 2010.
- Parent Teacher meetings on the Wed. 4th Nov (afternoon)

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION:** We 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. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth classes are enjoying using interactive white boards this year. This was made possible because of fundraising by the Parent Association. New members are needed, so if you would like to help, you can contact Marjorie Harris (087) 1348907, Joan Hunt (086) 0661304, Sandra Kelleher (087) 6465285, Tina Murray(087)6523919.

**COMPUTERS:** Eli Lily factory from Dunderrow have recently donated 30 computers which will be installed in our computer room. Many thanks to the parents who were instrumental in getting them and also for transporting them for us.

**Swine-Flu - Schools' Response**

Following advice from the HSE and the Dept. Of Education and Science we will be taking all necessary precautions to try to ensure that the risk of infection from H1N1 virus does not spread through the school. These include:

1. Reminders to pupils and adults to regularly wash hands thoroughly.
2. Sanitiser gel have been installed in all the classrooms and at the entrances to the school.
3. Liquid soap dispensers are in all the children's toilets
4. Advice regarding the proper use of tissues.
5. In the event of a child becoming ill we will follow the normal school procedures of contacting parents/guardians, if it is deemed necessary. (As outlined above it is vitally important that we have a number of up-to-date contacts for each child).
6. We will store extra hand cleaning items and wipes in each class.

The symptoms of this virus are similar to normal flu (they can include fever that begins very suddenly, a cough, a sore throat, a runny nose, headache and muscle aches), but they develop very quickly.

We ask that you:

- ensure that your child brings his/her own toilet bag with a supply of tissues, a hand towel/wipes to school.
- Advise your child about the importance of regular hand washing, using soap at all times.
- Reassure your child that the effects of the flu generally last a short time and that it is not very likely to affect him/her at all.

Looking forward to working with you.

Yours Sincerely

Sr. Brigid O' Connell (Principal)