

ST. CATHERINE'S N.S. LINKS – SEPTEMBER 2013

A HUGE “GOOD LUCK” TO THE CORK TEAM FOR SUNDAY’S FINAL! Go néirí go geal libh! FRIDAY is RED REBEL DAY in all schools so lets dress up in RED & WHITE to support our brilliant Cork Hurling Team in the All Ireland Final on September 8th.

LATEST NEWS:

Dear Parents – firstly may I say how lovely it is to welcome you and your children to St. Catherine’s for another school year which we hope will be happy, healthy and purposeful for us all. The term has got off to an amazingly busy start and it is great to see our Staff & pupils – new and old- settling in so well. I hope you find the following updates helpful and informative:

- Why not follow us on Twitter at @StCatherinesNS to get all the latest news or on our website at www.stcathns.com where you will find news, policies, as well as Calendar for year ahead – Check out dates for Parent Teacher Meetings and Staff Meetings too.
- A warm welcome to newly appointed staff : Ms. Hayes (4th Class), Mrs. Dasari (Resource), and Ms. Costelloe (S.Inf).
- The Mercy Order has decided to make the convent available to a most deserving and much needed charity- Pieta House. The work of Pieta House is critical and we extend a warm welcome to them as our new neighbours.
- Reminder 1: If you are walking your dog around the area please clean up after them or else we have to when little feet stand on what should have been cleaned up!
- Reminder 2: We try to operate a voluntary one-way system at drop off and collection times and ask for your cooperation with this.
- Book Rental – This has come fully into operation this year and should see significant savings for parents. We thank the parents who volunteered to assist us with the logistics of this scheme. Their help has been absolutely invaluable.
- Thanks also to the parents who have volunteered to sort out our large stock of second hand uniforms again as the year begins– we hope to have these ready for parents in the near future and will let you know where they will be sited in future. All we ask is a tiny donation at your discretion to help defray dry cleaning/laundry costs.
- Our sincere gratitude to all the officers of the Parent’s Association who I know will be holding their AGM in the near future in the school. Only 25 parents of our 381 pupils attended the AGM last year so needless to mention we are hoping that more of you will get involved in future as we greatly need and value your support in St. Catherine’s and our Parent’s Association has always been hugely instrumental in ensuring the school is so well resourced and supported. It is also a great place to meet new friends and share your talents and skills.
- Hospice Coffee Morning – SEPTEMBER 20th – FRIDAY 9-10.30 a.m. in the Halla – looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible☺. I know so many of our families here have had loved ones tenderly cared for by the wonderful staff of the Hospice and this is our chance to say THANK-YOU.
- Football training is about to get underway and the girls will really enjoy the sessions with Ms. Kellegher, Ms. Walsh & Mr. Clune. Happily the numbers attending are increasing too following on from our great success last year!
- List of After School Activities should reach you this week and contact can be made with the various teachers on this .

- We thank Fr. Kieran Twomey (former Parish Priest of Dennehy's Cross Parish) for his huge commitment, kindness and support to us and wish him every success in his new parish of Blackrock. We warmly welcome Fr. Bertie O' Mahony as our new P.P. and member of the Board of Management.
- The school has the required number of pupils on Roll for September 30th to allow it to retain the additional post that had been sanctioned temporarily until October. This has allowed us to only have one multi-grade.
- Head Lice come back to school with us every term so we ask that families get into a weekly routine of checking for these nasty visitors please. Your local Pharmacist will be only too happy to advise you on this.
- Washbags – these are needed by pupils on Senior Corridor and are simply to contain a small hand towel please. We would ask that the girls get into the habit of making sure their towel is washed regularly.
- Walking Bus- we will keep you posted on any developments on this.
- We remind you that we recommend that pupils have a water bottle with them in school and are allowed to sip from this. Many teachers also allow a fruit break and this really encourages pupils to eat more fruit and veg 😊. We wish to continue the wonderful progress made using Food Dudes last term so we are proposing to have a Fruit & Veg of the week From next week and will be encouraging the girls to try them as often as possible and maybe any recipes you found helpful to encourage the eating of them could be sent in to us also 😊.



- Homework Journals are to be checked and signed by a parent nightly.
- Currently mobile phones can only be brought to school by senior pupils and must be turned off outside the gates and turned on again only outside the gates in the afternoon. Phones found on are confiscated for 7 days and thankfully we have never had to resort to this step of our policy.
- St. Catherine's is a NUT free Zone due to allergies and all nuts and Nutella are banned in the school at all times. We thank you for your understanding in this matter and know that you will appreciate the dangers of Anaphylactic Shock for the pupils involved. Additional allergies may be present in individual classes and class teachers will inform you of these if necessary.
- Finally may we thank you all for the very prompt payment of contributions to school expenses when we are only too aware of the difficulties many families face. May we remind you again to please inform us if we can ease your family's burden in any way. Every child in St. Catherine's will, as always, have full access to all books and requisites as well as school outings, events etc irrespective of your circumstances so never worry about keeping us informed.

Mrs. C L O' Sullivan

Principal