

ST. CATHERINE'S N.S. LINKS – SEPTEMBER 2015

Some really important bits😊

- As we already have 120 children looking for 56 places in Junior Infants for 2016/2017 and 107 for 2017/2018 we urgently request those of you who have not already submitted Pre Enrolment Forms through the website for younger siblings to do so as soon as possible please.
- **All classes will finish at 1.40 on next Wednesday September 23rd for Staff Meeting.**
- Hospice Fundraiser: This year we are supporting a Childrens' Hospice Charity so we are holding Lunch For LauraLynn this Friday 18th – We ask for a donation of €2 per family and a treat in lunchboxes 😊 More below.....
- Logistically we have to safely manage the arrival and departure of over 440 children daily. To do this we ask that parents drop pupils in Junior & Senior Infants to their classroom doors where minders and teachers are on duty. All other pupils go to Halla from 8.25 to 8.40 a.m. Classes exit by particular assigned doors as always. We have noticed large numbers of girls going out different exits which means we cannot keep track safely of them. We have told the classes again of their assigned door and ask for your cooperation with same.
- Despite what you might be told - In Classes 1st to 6th Tracksuits may only be worn on Tracksuit Day. Full uniform is to be worn on all other days.

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:

- Do 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 and After School Activities – Check out dates for Parent Teacher Meetings and Staff Meetings too.
- A warm welcome to newly appointed staff : Ms. Keane in 2nd Class, In. Ní Challanáin in 3rd, Miss. Collins and Mr. Hanevy in SEN Team.
- **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. If at all possible drop children , who are old enough, within walking distance of school and try and ease major congestion around the campus.
- **Reminder 3:** Head Lice and bugs come back to school too!! Only treat if lice are found and regularly fine comb hair to check. You should immediately notify the school if you find headlice in your child's hair. Alerts are then sent by TEXT to parents in that class so that all pupils are checked & treated that night. As the girls know – hair is to be tied up in school please😊 .
- **Book Rental** – This is fully operational this year. We thank the parents who volunteered to assist us with the massive logistics of this scheme. Their help has been absolutely invaluable.
- Thanks also to the parents who volunteer 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.
- **Parents' Association:** Our sincere gratitude to all the officers of the Parent's Association who I know will be holding their AGM in first week of October. Only 35+ parents of our 444 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 maintained. It is also a great place to meet new friends and share your talents and skills.

- Yesterday we were delighted to welcome members of the Defence Forces to St. Catherine's for the presentation of our new National Flag and once again the girls were a credit to their families and their school. Do check out photos at <http://stcathns.com/SchoolBlogY3/>
- We are really looking forward to welcoming our Lord Mayor, Cllr. Chris O'Leary will pay us a visit us at 9.30 on 8th of October. Do pop in if you are around.
- Hospice Lunch For LauraLynn – Friday, SEPTEMBER 18th –this year we are reverting to our old format of Pupils bringing in a treat & €2 per family and we have decided to fundraise for The Childrens' Hospice through supporting the LauraLynn Foundation. We are sure you agree that it is a most wonderful cause knowing that terminally ill children and their families can be tenderly cared for by the wonderful staff of Hospice and this is our chance to say THANK-YOU.
- Football training is underway and the girls really enjoy the sessions with Ms. Walsh, Ms. Kellegher, Mr. Hanevey & Mr. Clune. Happily the numbers attending are increasing too following on from our great success last year and I hear they are a great bunch!
- Washbags – these are compulsory for **all** pupils on Senior Corridor and are simply to contain a small hand towel/or facecloth please. We would ask that the girls get into the habit of making sure their towel is washed regularly also.
- **Walking Bus**- resuming now & 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 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. These are to be used to record absences too please (centre pages). For Junior pupils please call or email office if your child is absent. Once a child has reached 20 days absences The Education Welfare Board must be notified by the school Principal.
- 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 **TOTAL NUT free Zone** due to allergies and all nuts/ nut butters/ nut bars 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. With this in mind we also ask that you do not send in cakes or treats for whole classes as we are not able to give these out under Health & Safety.
- You will have noticed that the car park has been extended and this is primarily to facilitate easy entry for Emergency Vehicles. We point out **that no children or adults may enter the school through the carpark for Health & Safety reasons.**
- 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. Spare uniforms are available at end of Junior Corridor but are in need of organisation once again and will be available once they have been checked by PA volunteers☺.

Mrs. C L O' Sullivan , Principal