

Beginning of School Year Letter 2008 - 2009

Dear Parents,

We welcome your children back to a new school year. We hope you all had a good summer and that the school year ahead will be an enjoyable experience for us all.

Firstly, I want to welcome our new pupils, James Hopkins, Jack Reilly, Hannah Booth, Caitlin Byrne, Leah Heuze, Conor Taylor, Conor Walsh, Dylan Brugman and Rhian McPhee. Best wishes also to last years 6th class as they start secondary school.

School Uniform:

All children are expected to wear their full school uniform everyday. Days allotted to P.E. are, as follows (school tracksuit must be worn on the following days).

Ms Griens Class: Mondays and Thursdays

Mr.Gormleys Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Ms. Kelly's Class: Mondays and Thursdays

Please put your child's name on his/her school uniform to avoid them being misplaced.

First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 17th of May,
Confirmation will take place on Saturday 30th May.

Swimming Lessons for children from 3rd to 6th class, will commence on Friday, 16th January 09 for a block of ten weeks (Further details will be given at a later date)

Music: Music lessons for children from 2nd to 6th class will continue each Thursday with Mr. Tom Lyons. (Tin Whistles can be purchased from the class teacher at the cost of €5)

Photographer: The school photographer will visit the school during the 2nd term to arrange a date for individual and class photographs to be taken. Parents will be notified in advance.

Gaelic football: Mr.Gormley will continue to provide football training for the middle and upper classes of our school during lunch break.

Local History Project

The children of 5th and 6th class are in the process of researching the history of Ballyheane. We would be very grateful if any of you have any materials, photos, stories etc. that you could share with us, regarding this exiting project e.g. history of Ballyheane N.S. Ballyheane Church etc.

Parent/Teacher Meeting

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place only Monday 20th October. Each parent/guardian(s) will be allotted a specific time to meet with the class teacher to discuss their child's progress. It is very important that parent/guardian(s) attend these meetings.

Calendars

The children from 5th and 6th class will produce individual family calendars for each family for 2008 under the guidance of Miss Grier. They will be available in mid- December.

Homework Journals

Children from 1st to 6th class are asked to have a home work journal which should be signed each night by their parent/guardian. If a child has any difficulty with his/her homework, please note it in the homework journal as the class teacher checks it daily.

Healthy Lunches

Children are encouraged to eat a healthy and wholesome lunch each day. Crisps, big bars, fizzy drinks and chewing gum are not allowed.

Ballyheane After School Care

A daily bus service from the school to Ballyheane After School Care is now in operation. Children who finish school at 2 p.m. or 3.10 p.m. (1st to 6th class) can avail of this service. Further information re. this service is available by contacting the school at 9030803 or Margaret Moran bus driver at 0868820187.

An Post Saving Scheme

Saving stamps valued at €1 can be purchased from Mr. Gormley on Monday and Wednesday mornings. After saving €20 the child can lodge the €20 directly into their own post office savings account.

School Trips

Class outings will be arranged on various dates as the school year unfolds (Details regarding these trips will be given to you prior to the events).

School Mass

End of year school mass will take place in the school hall in the last term. Music/choir for the mass will be provided by the children. All parents grandparents etc are welcome attend.

School Absences

As a parent or guardian you must let the school know if your child is absent from school and the reason why. It is school policy that reasons must be given in writing. The school is obliged to notify the National Education Welfare Board if a child is absent for 20 days or more, or where the absences give rise to concern.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the B.O.M. of our school for their continued support and dedication. Patrons Representative Kieran Irwin, Parents Reps Michael Gibbons and Ellie Malone, Community Reps. Kathleen Flynn ,Jarlatha Kelly.

A warm welcome to our new parish priest **Fr. John Cosgrave**. We wish him well in his new appointment and look forward to working with him in our school and in our local community.

Finally the passing of Fr. Curran

The Staff and pupils of our school were shocked and saddened by the passing of Fr. Curran Last July. As Chairman of our B.O.M. he was always very supportive, dedicated and committed to the whole school community. He will be sadly missed by the staff and pupils of our school.

(Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam)

Thanking you,

Anne Marie Kelly (Príomhoide)