****

**Reception/P1 Pupils**

Do you know of any pupils in the local area who are perhaps old enough for Reception Class (children who have turned 4 since 2nd July 2017 or due to turn 4 soon), or any pupils currently at nursery or Playgroup and due to begin school next September?

The time for pupils to apply for places in Primary School is approaching soon. We would appeal to you to please let any parents know about our fantastic school and/or ask them to get in touch to arrange a visit and meet the staff and pupils.

**Teacher of the Year Awards**

We wish Miss Gormley every success at the Families First Teaching Awards which take place in Donegal Town on Saturday night. Miss Gormley has been shortlisted in the Best Primary School Teacher Category. Thank You to all of you who voted for Miss Gormley.

We are extremely proud of Miss Gormley and delighted that she is being recognised for her professionalism, dedication and commitment to the pupils of St Eugene’s PS. We know in our school community that Miss Gormley is a fantastic teacher and that she will continue to be whether she receives the award or not. Good luck Miss Gormley!

**Value of The Month – October**

***Courtesy*** – Please discuss this value at home with your child(ren). Adults will be on the lookout for children displaying this value throughout the month.

**Important Dates**

Friday 13th October – SUSTRANS ‘Doctor Bike’ for P5-7 pupils (see below)

Tuesday 24th – Thursday 26th October – SUSTRANS Cycle Training P6/7

Thursday 26th October – Halloween Dress Up Day – more details to follow

Friday 27th October – Reporting to Parents Day

Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November – Mid Term Break

**Literacy & Numeracy Support**

We are delighted that Ms Devine will be returning to St Eugene’s on a Tuesday and Thursday (from this week) to provide some additional Literacy & Numeracy support for some of our pupils. With the ever increasing financial cuts being made to essential services designed to help pupils who perhaps need a little extra guidance, this support is so very welcome. Those pupils who can avail of the support should have received a letter by now. Please return the reply slip as soon as possible as this support cannot begin without written, parental consent.

**Welcome Assembly**

Our pupils enjoyed a lovely ‘Welcome Assembly’ on Friday morning, where new pupils were officially welcomed to our school. A huge Thank You to all of the adults who came along to support the pupils and enjoy their readings, presentations and singing. It was a memorable occasion for all of our pupils.

**Arrival at School**

School begins at 9.15. Pupils can be supervised from 9.00 onwards but should not be on the school grounds before this time, unless they are attending Breakfast Club (see below).

**NSPCC**

We are delighted that the NSPCC and their mascot ‘Buddy’ will be visiting our school in November as part of their ‘Speak Out, Stay Safe’ Campaign. The NSPCC will deliver a presentation to P1-4 and P5-7 pupils (separately) and P6/7 will participate in a Workshop afterwards. A letter will be with you shortly with further information.

**‘Odd Sock Day’**

The NSPCC (as a charity) do not charge for their work but do request a contribution from the school to help fund their very important and worthwhile work. Therefore – on the day (Friday 17th November) we will be encouraging pupils to come to school in ‘Odd Socks’ and bring a minimum contribution of £1 each, with all proceeds going to the NSPCC

**Internet Safety Workshop**

The NSPCC will also offer a free Internet Safety Workshop for parents. This will last no more than 60 minutes and will likely be arranged for 2.15 or 3.15 on a given day. (We will supervise pupils of parents who wish to attend)

At this point, a date has not been fixed. A reply slip is attached. Should you wish to avail of this very valuable opportunity – please fill in the reply slip, indicate your preferred time and if there is enough interest then we will arrange this. Friends and parents of pupils in other schools are welcome also.

**Tin Whistle**

A small number of pupils have not been attending Tin Whistle. Music is an integral part of the curriculum, just like Literacy, Numeracy or ICT and thus it is a requirement that we provide pupils with Musical tuition. We are fortunate that Mr Devine is available and willing to offer expertise in playing a musical instrument and would remind parents that **pupils should be attending**. **Tin Whistle for October = £4** due as soon as possible please.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is a fantastic way for children to begin their school day, especially if they can be at school before 9am. Mrs Preston serves a range of foods including pancakes, cereal and toast as well milk, water or juice to drink. The Breakfast Club operates from 8.10am and children can have breakfast and be supervised until school begins = Cost £1 per day. Once they have eaten, pupils can avail of Board games, arts, sports, or outdoor play on dry mornings. In order to make this service sustainable we need an increase in numbers so if your child is interested in attending for a morning, a few mornings or the entire week please send them along.

**Uniform**

There has been a marked improvement in the appearance of our pupils with the vast majority wearing their full uniform every day – this is great to see and we can sense the pupils taking more pride in their appearance. The absence of coloured trainers (except at play) has certainly helped in this regard…again, thank you for supporting this. A reminder though that all items of uniform should be labelled with your child’s name as this makes it much easier to identify the owners of various items.

**Meet The Principal Coffee Morning**Last year you kindly completed some questionnaires to help our school plan for the future. As a further part of this process, parents are invited to join Mr Gallagher for a tea/coffee and an informal chat about St Eugene’s PS on Thursday 19th October from 9.15 – 10.00. If you are available and think that you have any constructive ideas to help move our school forward, then we would love for you to attend. Please ring the office **on or before Tuesday 17th October to let us know of your intention to attend.**

**Attendance**

Regular attendance at school has a very positive impact upon pupil attainment. We are aiming again this year to improve the attendance of our pupils.

As part of this initiative we have organised a ‘Team’ system with each team assigned a teacher. We would appeal to parents to give this initiative your full support by making sure that pupils attend every day unless they are genuinely ill.

Pupils will continue to be awarded for 100% attendance on a monthly basis as per last year.

**Attendance Challenge Winners!!!**

The Yellow Team (Mr Gallagher’s Team) had the most attendances for September and thoroughly enjoyed their extra play after lunch on Friday – Lorcan Therien accepted the trophy on behalf of the team. Well done to the Yellow Team. Can the Red or Blue team catch up this month!?

**Reporting To Parents**

A text alert will be sent out shortly to advise parents that a meeting with your child’s teacher can be arranged for the end of this month. Please arrange the meeting by phoning the office. The majority of (but not all) times available will be on Friday 27th October (Exceptional Closure – school closed to pupils) and where parents have more than one pupil at the school, we will arrange for all meetings to take place on that day. **Meetings will last for 10 minutes.**

**Free School Meals**

Is your child entitled to Free School Meals? If they are, it is important to apply for these, even if you do not intend that your child takes the dinners.

Many elements of Dept of Education funding for schools are based upon the no. of pupils in our school entitled to Free School Meals. So – by applying, you are helping our school avail of much needed funding which is vital with the current reductions in school budgets which already leave schools without the necessary finance to properly provide for our pupils.

**Inhalers/Epi Pens**

If your child requires an Inhaler (BLUE only please), Epi Pen or other specialist medication in school, please ensure that your child’s teacher has this and that it is **in date.**

**Swimming**

P5-7 pupils have been attending swimming lessons since Wednesday 6th September and they are thoroughly enjoying the sessions. Each session cost £1 and this can be paid weekly or in one £15 payment at the beginning of term. Please ensure that your child pays for their session.

**Healthy Break**

In St Eugene’s we promote a healthy lifestyle and diet. We encourage all pupils to bring a healthy snack to school for mid-morning break. Please refer to the list of healthy options available on the website or through Twitter (@StEugene58) and Facebook

**Car Park**

Please be mindful of the ‘Yellow Box’ at the pedestrian gate – This space needs to be kept clear at all times.

**Prayer of the Month – October**

Hail Mary full of grace,

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,

And blessed is the fruit

Of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death,

Amen

**Mobile Library Service**

The Mobile Library will visit our school every second Wednesday from approx. 1.30 until approx. 2.45. Pupils who are members of the Library can return and borrow books from the van, or return any borrowed from nearby libraries.

Parents/Grandparents – you too can avail of this service when the van is on the school grounds. Next visits are Wednesday 11th and 25th October.

**Attendance Notification**

Please remember that if your child is too ill to attend school, the office MUST be notified either by a phone call on the morning of the absence or a note of explanation when your child returns to school. Without this information, we cannot properly complete our school register.

**School Uniform Orders**

We will shortly be taking orders for school coats etc. All garments offer excellent value for money and are made from hard-wearing, machine washable fabrics, with our school logo printed on them.

Coats = £18

Polo Shirts = £7

PE Kits = £10

Hats = £4

If you would like to order any of these items, please call into the office on Wednesday 25th or Thursday 26th October between 2.15 and 3.30 or on Friday 27th October throughout the day (Exceptional Closure Day) to view the products and check sizing etc



**Money! Money! Money!**

Don’t forget that all old, round £1 coins will no longer be legal tender from 15th October 2017. We will be unable to accept any of these coins from Wednesday 11th October onwards.

**SUSTRANS**

As part of the Active Travel Programme, Ronan McLaughlin from SUSTRANS will be in school on Friday morning of the 13th October for ‘Doctor Bike’. Any pupils from P5-7 can bring in their bike on that morning (or the day before) and Ronan will check its road safety and carry out some basic repairs.

This is a fantastic, free means of ensuring that your child’s bicycles is fit and safe for use.

From Tuesday 24th – Thursday 26th October, Ronan will also be offering Cycle Training to P6 and P7 pupils. More details to follow (bicycles can be left in school throughout the week).

**NSPCC Internet Safety Workshop**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would/would not (delete as appropriate) be interested in attending the NSPCC Internet Safety Workshop for Parents.

My preferred time would be (Please tick) 2.15 \_\_\_ 3.15\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this slip no later than Friday 13th October*

**NSPCC Internet Safety Workshop**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would/would not (delete as appropriate) be interested in attending the NSPCC Internet Safety Workshop for Parents.

My preferred time would be (Please tick) 2.15 \_\_\_ 3.15\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this slip no later than Friday 13th October*

**NSPCC Internet Safety Workshop**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would/would not (delete as appropriate) be interested in attending the NSPCC Internet Safety Workshop for Parents.

My preferred time would be (Please tick) 2.15 \_\_\_ 3.15\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this slip no later than Friday 13th October*