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**Diary Dates**

Wednesday 10th October – Flu Vaccinations in school

Friday 19th October – Coffee Morning in aid of Foyle Hospice

Wednesday 24th October – Library Van visit

Friday 26th October – Reporting to Parents Day

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

**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. We have places available in other classes too, should you be aware of any parents who may be interested in sending their child to St Eugene’s.

**Families First Awards**

This time last year, we were wishing Miss Gormley the best of luck in what turned out to be a successful nomination for ‘Primary School Teacher of the Year’. How the time flies!!

We are delighted to announce that our school has this year been nominated in the ‘Best Primary School’ category. Voting will open soon and we will keep you informed of when this is, through text, Twitter and Facebook.

Remember! Your vote is important!

**Welcome Assembly**

Our pupils enjoyed a lovely ‘Welcome Assembly’ on Friday morning, 28th September, where new pupils were officially welcomed into our school community. 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 and we wish every new pupil and every new parent the best of luck for this year and the years ahead. Well done to all of our pupils too, old and new alike!

**Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning**

A coffee morning will be held in the school hall on Friday 19th October from 10am – 12pm to raise money for the Foyle Hospice. As a registered charity, care to patients and their families is free of charge and the hospice depends on the generosity of the local community to raise the approximate £3 million that is currently required annually to maintain our essential services.

Please call in on the morning for tea/coffee and something nice to eat, in order to support this extremely worthwhile cause.

Claire West (parent of Dara in P2) is also running the London Marathon in aid of Foyle Hospice. Claire has put together a hamper which can be won by purchasing a ticket at the Coffee Morning or through the office in the coming weeks.

**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.

**Social Media**

Our Twitter and Facebook accounts are a fantastic means of communicating with our school community, sharing information and providing a window into life in school through photographs.

Both social media platforms allow you, our parents, to share positive comments about our work, the pupils and the school in general. We are delighted to see positive comments and our staff upload information when manageable as this can be time consuming.

We **do not** however have frequent opportunity throughout the school day to access social media and cannot respond to queries through either platform.

Please remember that during the school day, the best way to make an enquiry is by telephoning the office and should you have any issues to raise, we would ask that these are raised via the office or by arranging a meeting with a member of staff, rather than posting online. Thank You!

**Welcome Back**

We are delighted to welcome Miss Esther Cooke back to the school staff this term. Miss Cooke (known by the children previously as ‘Miss Esther’) has returned to St Eugene’s PS as a trainee teacher and will be learning from our staff in school, as well as teaching lessons in Miss Gormley’s class. We are delighted that Miss Cooke has re-joined us and she is looking forward to learning from pupils and staff alike!

**Literacy & Numeracy Support**

We are delighted that Ms Devine will be returning to St Eugene’s on a Wednesday and Thursday to provide some 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 parental consent is important.

**Shared Education**

Our P4 & P5 pupils had such a wonderful time with their friends from Newtownstewart Model and St Patrick’s PS at Todd’s Leap almost two weeks ago and the weather was fine thank goodness!!

This was the ‘launch’ of their element of our Shared Education Project, first established between the three schools last year and our P4 & P5 pupils will visit their partner schools on Wednesdays over the next few weeks, for shared learning.

**Tin Whistle**

We are delighted that all of our P4-7 pupils have 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.

**Tin Whistle for October = £4 due as soon as possible please.**

**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 so much 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.

**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 once the text has arrived. The majority of (but not all) times available will be on Friday 26th 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.

**Swimming**

P5-7 pupils have been attending swimming lessons since Friday 14th 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 on the last Wednesday in each month 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 visit is Wednesday 26th 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 26th October throughout the day (Exceptional Closure Day) to view the products and check sizing etc