



Remember that a copy of this newsletter can also be downloaded from our school website www.steugenesps.com at any time. We encourage our parents, grandparents and extended families to like and follow our Facebook and Twitter accounts to be up to date with all our exciting news at St Eugene's PS.

HALLOWEEN MID-TERM BREAK: 27TH OCTOBER – 2ND NOVEMBER 2021 INCLUSIVE

(Children return to school on Wednesday 3rd of November)

COVID-19

We are incredibly proud of how our school community responded to protecting our pupils and staff during the last academic year and we appeal to our families to continue with the same level of caution as in 2020-2021. **Please familiarise yourself with the procedures below.**

- If your child is feeling in any unwell please do not send them to school. If your child displays symptoms of Covid-19 such as a temperature above 37.8, a cough or loss of taste and/or smell please book a PCR test and isolate until you receive a negative result. Children must wait for 48 hours from the temperature subsides before returning to school. Children who are positive must isolate for 10 days and follow the advice from track and trace.
- If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has Covid-19 you will be contacted by PHA who will inform you that you must book a PCR test even if your child has no symptoms. Children can return to school on receipt of a negative test result. Children who do not have a PCR test will have to isolate at home for 10 days.
- If a member of your child's household is positive, we request that children are kept at home to protect pupils and staff in school.

Please inform the school if your child has been identified as a close contact. In an emergency situation outside of school hours you may contact the Facebook page by private message or email lgormley873@c2kni.net to report a positive case. **Please stay connected to your child's Seesaw Family App and make sure that we have your correct mobile number on our text system as this is how we will notify you of a positive case in school.**

ARRIVING EARLY AT SCHOOL

The Breakfast Club is an excellent morning service and suits many of our working parents and also those parents who find it easier for their child to eat breakfast at school. We are delighted to be able to continue to offer our Breakfast Club each morning from 8.15am. The cost remains the same at £1 per day and the club is open to all children from Reception to P7. Breakfast is served in our HALL. Children will be socially distanced and sit within their class bubbles.

There will be a selection of toast, pancakes, cereals and juice available with the last serving at 8.45am. Children arriving between 8.45am and 9am may use the service for supervision and the cost remains £1.

We ask that parents do not proceed beyond the pedestrian gate due to COVID-19 restrictions. Children will not be permitted into the building prior to 8.15am as staff will be arriving, sanitising and setting up for service.

SCHOOL LUNCH

Each family can view the lunch menu on the Seesaw App. **School lunch is priced at £2.60 per day or £13.00 for the week.** Please send all money in a clearly marked envelope.

HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS EVENT

Children are asked to attend school on Tuesday 26th of October in Halloween fancy dress. We ask that no 'weapons' are sent to school such as pretend knives or guns and we encourage parents to be mindful of 'sinister costumes' by making sure that your child's fancy dress is age appropriate.

PARENT-TEACHER TELEPHONE MEETINGS 2020

This year our Parent-Teacher meetings will be conducted via telephone. These phone calls will take place on Wednesday 27th of October, **please note that the school will be closed to pupils on this date.** Your child's teacher will call you at your scheduled time from a withheld number and the call will last no more than 10 minutes. It is vital that you make a telephone appointment to discuss your child's progress at school and any concerns that there may be. [Mrs Gallagher will be taking bookings for Parent – Teacher telephone meetings from 10am on Monday 11th of October.](#) please contact the school office from this date to book your time slot.

HALLOWEEN BREAK

The last day at school for pupils during this half of the term will be Tuesday 26th of October. Pupils will be off school on Wednesday 27th of October for Parent/Teacher telephone meetings. Children will remain off school for mid-term break and will return on Wednesday 3rd of November. We hope that all of our families will have a safe and relaxing break after such an intense half term back at school.

PUPIL WELL-BEING & SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE

Given the times that we are in, we are feeling incredibly blessed to be able to continue to offer a School Counselling Service to our boys and girls. This has been made possible thanks to funding from the Gemma McHale Foundation. We are also pleased to have started a new programme from the Reverse the Trend Foundation called NEURONIMO. The Neuronimo programme helps children create healthy habits around mental and physical health. The programme uses behavioural science to teach children how their brains and bodies respond to fear, anxiety, impulsiveness and what actions they can take to manage responses and reactions. When children understand why their heart is beating faster, or why they can't sleep, or why their mind goes blank or why they lash out, they can implement actions which help manage these emotions. Each class will engage in a daily Neuronimo session and we look forward to seeing the positive impact that this programme will be sure to have on our boys and girls.

SPORTS FOR CHAMPIONS VISIT TO ST EUGENE'S PS

Our children in P1 to P7 will now have all received a sponsorship form for a very SPECIAL EVENT we have coming up at St Eugene's PS. We are looking forward to welcoming TEAM GB ATHLETE AYAZ BHUTA to our school on Wednesday 3rd of November for a day of fun and fitness. Ayaz Bhuta earned a Gold Medal at the Tokyo Olympics earlier this year. Our boys and girls are asked to collect sponsorship for their workout with Ayaz. 60% of money raised will go directly to our school with the other 40% going towards the training of athletes. A crowdfunding page has also been set up for members of our school community who may wish to donate and do not have access to one of the children's sponsorship forms, the crowdfunding page can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/steugenes>

SAM MAGUIRE CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday 21st of October we will celebrate the success of Tyrone in the GAA All-Ireland Final. The Sam Maguire cup will be brought to St Eugene's PS. Our boys and girls are invited to wear a Tyrone jersey or the colours of the team – red and white as we celebrate the occasion. Days like this create memories that will last a lifetime and we are really looking forward to the event.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to our P5 children who received the Sacrament of the Eucharist on Saturday 25th of September in St Theresa's Church, Sion Mills. The children did themselves, their families and our school proud. Thank you to the grown-ups at home, who helped prepare the children for the special day and also to Mrs Connolly for all her hard work in getting the children ready to receive the Sacrament. A special word of thanks to Fr Canning for a lovely Mass on the day.

GOOD RELATIONS WEEK

Our P6/7 class had a brilliant day at the Rural Housing cultural event on INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY in Sion Mills. The children performed a song and dance routine with pupils from Sion Mills PS for local residents, councillors and the Mayor Graham Warke. Thank you to Ruth from Rural Housing for organising the event and to Andrew and Jade, the tutors who prepared the children for their performance. At St Eugene's PS we strive to provide an inclusive and diverse range of experiences for our children as this reflects the current environment that the boys and girls are growing up in. We believe it is important to teach our children to embrace other cultures and experiences.

CREDIT UNION

We are pleased to be able to resume Credit Union savings again this year. If you are a member of Sion Mills Credit Union and would like to send in savings, please do so each TUESDAY. If you would like to join the Credit Union, please telephone Mrs Gallagher at the office for an application form.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Each class will have two sessions of physical education per week, this is on top of daily energetic outdoor play at break and lunch time. On PE days children should come to school wearing their compulsory PE uniform. PE uniform is a pale blue polo shirt and plain navy jog bottoms or leggings; your child should also bring a plain navy hooded top as well as their waterproof coat. Children should only wear laced trainers if they can tie them themselves. **OUR PE DAYS ARE TUESDAY AND THURSDAY.**

CAR PARK CONGESTION

Parents who collect children by car will be aware of the heavy congestion in and around the school grounds at 3.15. Miss Gormley has been on patrol in the car park the past two afternoons and there has been a marked improvement in the congestion by following the simple steps below:

1. Parents who arrive first must park as close to the exit end of the car park as possible.
2. Cars should fill the car park in two rows (side by side) and park directly behind the car in front without leaving a large gap.
3. If you are at the entrance gate or outside of it, please do not exit your vehicle, wait until you are safely within the car park to collect your child. Staff will keep children within the safe area until we feel it is safe for them to proceed to their car.

We encourage children who live in the village to travel by foot or bike in line with our active travel policy. Our Pupil Council will be working to come up with other solutions to the congestion. Thank you for your patience and co-operation as we work to address this issue.

