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**Welcome Back!**

Welcome to a new school year in St Eugene’s. We are delighted to see all of our pupils return safe and well from their holidays and we look forward to another enjoyable and successful year in school.

We are delighted to once again join with you our parents in working closely together to ensure that we provide the best possible experience of school for you and your child. Please communicate with the staff if you have any issues or worries. No school year will pass without some little bumps in the road but with parents and staff supporting each other along the way, we can navigate those bumps in the best interests of the children.

***Some helpful information below that will help with a smooth transition back to school for your children….***

**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).

**Breakfast Club**

We will be offering the Breakfast Club again in the 1st term of the year and will review its viability based upon the numbers attending. Breakfast Club will operate from 8.10am and children can have breakfast and be supervised until school begins = Cost £1 per day.



**Uniform**

Please make sure that your child wears the appropriate uniform each day. 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.

***Black shoes*** should be worn as part of uniform – trainers of various colours and designs can be brought in to be worn at break or lunch for play so that black school shoes can be protected and last longer.

**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 are organising 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.

***How will the Team System work?***

* Pupils will be divided up into 3 teams – with a teacher and teaching assistant assigned to each team.
* Each team will be comprised of pupils from P1-7 and will have its own colour and motto
* Pupils can gain points for their team through regular attendance and will be kept up to date each week at Assembly as to how they are doing.
* At the end of each month the team with the greatest score will receive the ‘Attendance’ Trophy and will enjoy a supervised trip to the local play park, or extra playtime on the school grounds
* We will keep a record of each monthly winner so that the winning team at the end of the year can be identified

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

**School Dinners**

There has been a 5p increase in the price of a school meal. School meals now cost £2.60 per day, or £13 per week. Remember that if you are entitled to Free School Meals to visit the Education Authority Website for further information. We would ask that if you are entitled to Free School Meals but your child does not intend to avail of these to still make an application as this can help the school to benefit from funding for projects, staff and resources.

**Inhalers/Epi Pens**

If your child requires an Inhaler or Epi Pen in school, please ensure that your child’s teacher has one which is **in date.**

**Swimming**

P5-7 pupils will begin attending swimming lessons on Wednesday 6th September for 15 weeks. Each session cost £1 and this can be paid weekly or in one £15 payment at the beginning of term.

**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

**Important Dates**

Monday 11th September – After School Sports begin with Danny Gallagher 3.15-4.15

Friday 29th September – Welcome Assembly

Friday 27th October – Reporting to Parents Day

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

**Milk**

The nutritional value of milk is very high and it helps children to develop a strong and healthy body. Please encourage your child to take milk each day as part of their healthy diet.

Milk will be available for pupils from ***Monday 11th September***. The cost of milk for your child for each term is as follows…

***Term 1: £13***, Term 2: £12 Term 3: £11(all termly costs equal 20p per day)

To ensure that we order the correct amount of Milk, please send in the £13 for this term, in a sealed envelope with your child’s name on it, ***on or before Wednesday 6th September.***

We will only be able to order milk each week for those who have paid.

**Mass**

Each year we gather together to celebrate Mass at the beginning of the year and pray for God’s blessings throughout the year ahead. Mass will again take place in St Theresa’s Church, Sion Mills this September, with a date to be confirmed as soon as possible.

**SUSTRANS**

We are delighted that our application for the Active School Travel Programme has been successful and this year we will be working towards a Bronze Award with Sustrans. Our Active Travel Officer is Ronan McLaughlin and he will be visiting the school in September to talk to the pupils and outline the programme for the year. Some key elements in Term 1 will include Cycle Training for P6/7 pupils and Free Bicycle Safety Checks for P5-7 pupils

Further information about the work of Sustrans can be found on their website [www.sustrans.org/schools](http://www.sustrans.org/schools)

**Prayer of the Month – September**

**Our Father**

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us,

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

Amen

