**September Diary Dates:**

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the academic year 2019/2020. We hope that the welcome letter we issued to all families last week was useful for the first few days of school. You will find details about our action packed month of September in this Newsletter, please remember a copy can also be downloaded from our school website [www.steugenesps.com](http://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.

Newsletter 01

September 2019

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| Wed 11th | Non-Uniform Day. £1 donation NSPCC. |
| Mon 16th | After-Schools Programme begins P3-7. |
| Tues 17th | Tin Whistle begins P4-7. £1 per week. £3.50 to purchase a new whistle. |
| Wed 18th | Swimming begins P5-7. £1.50 per week to be paid in advance. |
| Thurs  19th | Gaelic Coaching begins P6/7. |
| Fri  20th | Relax Kids with Edel McGinley P1/2 |
| Mon  30th | Welcome Assembly for new children, presented by P7 at 9:30am. |

**NSPCC SPEAK OUT, STAY SAFE PROGRAMME**

We are pleased to tell you that this year we will be working with the NSPCC, who will be delivering their ‘Speak Out. Stay Safe’ programme, this Wednesday 11th of September. Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff will give our children information on keeping safe and how to get help if they have any worries. We are delighted to be supporting the wonderful work of the NSPCC by holding a non-uniform day at the cost of £1 per pupil.

**TIN WHISTLE FOR P4-7**

Mr Noel Devine will be back again this year to teach Tin Whistle, the first session will take place on Tuesday 17th of September. Our Tin Whistle sessions are compulsory as this forms part of the Music Curriculum which the school must deliver and like ICT, Maths or Literacy – pupils are not obliged to ‘opt out’. The sessions cost £1 per week and can be paid in advance (£6 will cover all sessions during this half term to Halloween). Pupils needing a Tin Whistle for the first time can purchase these from Mr Devine for the very reasonable cost of £3.50.

**SWIMMING FOR P5-7**

This year our P5-7 pupils will visit Riversdale Leisure Centre, Strabane, each Wednesday, beginning on 18th of September for 15 weeks. Due to financial constraints we find ourselves in a position where we require the children to make a payment for their session, the school will cover the cost of the weekly transport. The swimming sessions cost £1.50 per week but this must be paid in advance. The total cost for the 15 weeks is £22.50, we would be grateful if you could return the slip on the back of this newsletter and payment of £22.50 before Monday 16th of September.

**AFTER SCHOOLS PROGRAMME**

Exciting news about our After-Schools Programme this year… In addition to the 2:15 -3:15 Supervision Club for P1&2 we will be offering a range of clubs to our P3-7 pupils from 3:15 – 4:15. These clubs will include, Fitness Club, Film Club, Art Club and Game Skills. We are in the process of confirming dates with Derry and Strabane Council for our Game Skills Club and will communicate information about the activities later in the week. We hope to offer these clubs from Monday 16th of September.

**GAELIC COACHING**

We are fortunate to welcome Fiachra McNulty back to school this year to deliver Gaelic Coaching to our P6/7 class. The coaching sessions will take place on Thursday mornings and PE Gear will be required. These sessions are part of our PE curriculum and should only be missed under medical advice. Negotiations are currently underway with our local club in Newtownstewart with the hope that we will be able to offer Gaelic Coaching to some of our younger classes also.

**RELAX KIDS YOGA**

On Friday 20th of September, Edel McGinley will visit P1/2 to deliver a taster session of Relax Kids. We look forward to finding out more about Relax Kids and if successful we hope to be able to arrange that Edel will visit our school on a more regular basis to deliver this programme.

**WELCOME ASSEMBLY**

We would like to invite our parents and friends to attend our annual Welcome Assembly on Monday 30th of September at 9:30am in our school hall. For those of you who are new to St Eugene’s PS, this is always a special morning on the school calendar. Our P7 pupils who have entered their final year with us will present an assembly to welcome any child who has joined our school for the first time this year. A morning not to be missed!

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

St Eugene’s PS is very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of Governors who work tirelessly behind the scenes to manage our school and ensure that our children’s interests are always at the heart of any decisions that are made. We would like to make you aware that we now have a vacancy for a Parent Representative on our Board of Governors. If this is something you feel you may be interested in, please make Miss Gormley aware of this as we hope to hold elections for the position in early October.

**FRIENDS OF ST EUGENE’S PS (F.O.S.E)**

During the school year 2018/2019 our previous Principal worked with members of our school community to establish a support group known as Friends of St Eugene’s or F.O.S.E. The group worked very hard last year to raise funds for our school and held a very successful Fashion Show in spring. F.O.S.E are always on the lookout for new members, if you or any member of our school community are interested in getting involved leave a message at the office with Mrs Gallagher and we will put you in touch with the group. We hope to meet for the first time this year in October.

**MEDICATION**

****If your child requires medication during the school day, it is the duty of the Parent/Guardian to make sure:

* That it is *in date*
* That your *child’s name* is clearly marked on all items
* That it is in a *small ‘lunchbox’ type container with a secure/clip lid*, labelled with your child’s name
* That the *prescription label* is visible on all items
* That you have enclosed a *signed, written note* clearly advising of dosage instruction.

NB – remember the school can only keep blue inhalers on the premises. All other colours must be kept at home. If these need to be administered during the school day, you must make arrangements to come to the school to do this. Please be aware that we cannot store or administer any non-prescription medication for safeguarding reasons.

**ATTENDANCE**

PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS: A morning phone call to the school office is required if your child will be absent. A note is then required for the class teacher on your child’s return to explain the reason for absence. Please note that arriving in late (after registration closes) is recorded as an absence for that session of the day**.** We urge all parents to avoid being left in a situation in which an absence is recorded as ‘unexplained’, holidays should not be planned during Term time as these will also be recorded as unapproved absences. The EWO (Education Welfare Officer) is able to access our Attendance Data and will make contact with parents of children who have unexplained/unapproved absences or poor attendance.

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| 100% attendance | 0 days missed | Excellent |
| 95% attendance | 9 days of absence = 1 week and 4 days of learning missed. | Satisfactory |
| 90% attendance | 19 days of absence = 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed. | Poor |
| 85% attendance | 28 days of absence = 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed. | Very Poor |
| 80% attendance | 38 days of absence = 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed. | Unacceptable |

We are encouraging excellent attendance in our classes with weekly ‘lollipop stick dip draws’, all those with full attendance for the week will have their lollipop stick in the pot and one will be selected for a homework pass reward. We appreciate that children do fall ill and it is not always possible to be at school every day, particularly in cases of vomiting and diarrhoea when you must wait 48 hours after the LAST EPISODE before sending your child back to school. We hope that the weekly reward will be fair and give children the opportunity to be rewarded rather than missing out on a monthly or termly reward due to only a small/short absence.

**SAFEGUARDING PUPILS AND STAFF**

Parents are reminded that we operate a safe handover policy at our green pedestrian gates in the morning, we appreciate your co-operation with this policy. If you need to visit our school office to pay a bill or make an enquiry you should use the bottom buzzer and wait for Mrs Gallagher to grant access. Parents must not proceed beyond the office unless invited to do so by a member of staff, this is for your safety as much as the safety of our children. If you need to speak to your child’s teacher, please telephone the office on the first instance and you will be advised on the next steps. We ask that parents remember that Miss Gormley is a teaching Principal and should only be asked out of class in emergency situations, Mrs Gallagher will gladly advise you on how best to arrange to speak to a member of staff if you telephone the office.

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**SWIMMING PERMISSION SLIP**

**PLEASE CUT ALONG THE DOTTED EDGE AND RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL WITH PAYMENT OF £22.50 BEFORE MONDAY 16TH OF SEPTEMBER**

**I give permission for my child/children \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to attend 15 weekly swimming sessions at Riversdale Leisure Centre, Strabane. I have enclosed payment of £22.50 to cover the cost of the sessions. I understand that the school will cover the transport costs and that two members of staff will accompany the children on to the Leisure Centre.**

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