



Welcome to our first Newsletter of the academic year 2021/2022. I know that by this point we all expected that Covid-19 would be firmly in the past, however, we find ourselves very much still in the middle of the pandemic, with high infection rates in our communities. I wish to thank you all for your continued support as we navigate our way through these 'trying times'. I extend my thanks to the entire school community for the success of our safe return to school throughout last week. We welcomed our nine new P1 children on the 1st of September, these children will be joined by our first cohort of Reception children on Monday 13th of September. A big welcome back to Mrs Cliona McDermott who has returned to P1/2 from maternity leave and to Mr Paul Donnelly who has returned as our P6/7 teacher.

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.

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 must book a PCR test even if your child has no symptoms. Children can return to school on receipt of a negative test result, but must have another PCR test on day 8. 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.

This year 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.

SCHOOL MILK

School milk will be available from Monday 20th of September. If you would like your child to take milk, please send a clearly marked envelope with full payment to school on or **before Wednesday 15th of September** so that Mrs Gallagher can place your order. Children in Reception do not need to pay for school milk. **The price of school milk from the 20th of September until our Christmas break is £12.20.**

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 navy jog bottoms or leggings, your child should also bring a 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.**

HOMEWORK

Written homework will begin for P1-P7 on Monday 13th of September. This year children must take their homework folder to school each day. DE have assured us that this is safe to do so, as long as we continue to promote good hand hygiene. It is important that children also stay connected to their Seesaw Class account which will be used for remote learning in the event of a class bubble having to isolate. DE have directed that schools should only use remote learning in the event of a large group or class bubble having to isolate.

2.15 SUPERVISION CLUB

We are delighted to be able to offer our 2.15 supervision club again this year for children in Primary 1 & 2. This club runs from Monday to Thursday from 2.15pm – 3.15pm. Due to increasing numbers and the Covid-19 restrictions in relation to staffing it is necessary to apply our criteria for this club again this year. The criteria:

- Child depends on the school bus at 3.15pm.
- Child has an older sibling who is in our P3-P7 until 3.15pm (to avoid the need for a double pick up).

A text has been issued and parents should apply for a place by Noon on Friday 10th of September by completing the online form. Any additional spaces may be allocated to working parents.

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 from the pharmacy* 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Our P5 children will celebrate their First Holy Communion on Saturday 25th of September in St Theresa's Church, Sion Mills, at 11am. The children must be in their seats by 10.45am at the very latest. Parents attending must wear a face covering whilst inside the Church unless medically exempt. Mrs Connolly will be working very hard with the children to make sure they are well prepared for the Sacrament. We wish the children the very best as they finally get to enjoy their special day.

GOOD RELATIONS WEEK

We are thrilled to be taking part in Good Relations Week in conjunction with the Rural Housing Association. Our P6/7 class are currently learning a song and dance routine which they will perform alongside children from Sion Mills Primary School on INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY - Tuesday 21st of September, on the grounds of Sion Mills Parish Hall. The event will be attended by local councillors and the Mayor. Mr Donnelly and Miss Gormley will attend the event with the boys and girls. We are so proud of their efforts so far and we can't wait to see them perform on the day.

SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAMME

We have provisionally booked our Swimming Programme to resume in January for children in P5-P7. We know that the children missed having this opportunity last year and we are very optimistic that they will once again enjoy this programme in the New Year!

COME ON TYRONE!!!!

Tomorrow (Friday 10th) we will celebrate the success of our Tyrone GAA team making it to the All-Ireland final. Children are invited to come to school wearing red/white or club/county colours, we will have a special guest appearance for our boys and girls as the excitement builds. We wish the Tyrone team every success and would love to be welcoming the them to St Eugene's PS in the very near future with the Sam Maguire Cup!