

# **EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL**

## **SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Board of Management and Staff, welcome back to a new school year. We wish you and your families all the best for 2017/2018. We extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Junior Infants and Hannah, Jack, Raul and Hugo who have joined various classes in our school. We also extend a "Ceád Míle Fáilte" to Ms Andrea Brocklebank who will substitute until Ms Tallon returns. May the year ahead be a successful and enjoyable one, in which our pupils continue on their journey to reach their potential.

The Board of Management would like to bring the following routine information to your attention at the beginning of the school term:

School opens at **8.45 a.m.** Formal lessons begin promptly at 9.00 a.m.

Classes normally finish at 1.30 p.m. for the infants and 2.30 p.m. for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes. **Pupils should be collected promptly at those times.**

**The Board of Management is not responsible for children on the premises before 8.45 a.m. or after 2.30 p.m. In the interests of the children's safety, please bear this in mind. Please make sure that children do not re-enter the school after 2.30 p.m.**



### **SAFETY**

***The Board of Management is acutely aware of two dangerous aspects of our school:***

- ***the bridge and stream***
- ***the narrow busy and dangerous road***

***It is recommended that when delivering your child to school, you park safely before or beyond the railings. Please do not pull in at the bridge.***

***We have instructed the children to wait inside the gate at 2.30 p.m. Parents and/or children waiting on the bridge can cause congestion and may lead to an accident.***

***These recommendations are made in the interests of the safety of all the children. If you notice another parent ignoring the recommendations, you have the support of the Board of Management in mentioning the matter to the parent concerned in the first instance or to the School Principal or a member of the Board of Management.***



### **PLEASE NOTE**

Please check your child's school bag on a daily basis for any notes, etc., from the school.

### **SCHOOL TRACKSUITS**

Wednesdays and Fridays are tracksuit days for every class.

It is very important that parents put their child's name on their uniforms and tracksuits and jackets/coats because every year a large number of tracksuits, etc., are left in the school and we cannot identify them.

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### **PUPIL INFORMATION FORMS**

It is vital that the school is notified of any changes regarding addresses, telephone numbers, mobile numbers, emergency contacts, so please make sure that this information is up to date for each child. Please return the forms you have received as soon as possible.

Teacher or hand it in to the Office. Many new rental books have been purchased please ensure that these are kept in good condition as they are used annually.



### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Just a reminder that in the interests of hygiene, children are asked to bring in their own hand towel/face cloth for drying their hands.



### **GREEN SCHOOLS**

As you know we are pursuing the flag for Biodiversity. We will soon have our sensory garden beds installed. The teachers and children are making great use of the Amuigh faoin Spéir Learning Zone. We encourage you to keep walking or scooting on Wednesdays.

### **BOOK BILLS**

Many thanks to the large number of families for settling their bills and making voluntary contributions to the School. If you have any monies outstanding or are unsure of your bills, please contact Statia or Linda in the office. As with all payments to the School, cheques are desirable for security reasons. Please put your cheque in an envelope and write your name, your child's name and the reason for the payment on the envelope. It would be very helpful if separate payments were made for separate bills, especially voluntary contributions. Your child may then give the envelope to the Class

### **IRISH DANCING**

Irish Dancing resumed on Thursday, 14th September 2017. The fee for Irish Dancing is €20 per term or €60 annually. All children attend this class as part of the dance element of the P.E. curriculum.

### **HEALTHY EATING POLICY**

Please note that in an effort to maintain our Litter Green Flag, we are asking children to bring home their uneaten lunch, wrappers and cartons. This will serve the dual purpose of cutting down on our waste and also allowing you to see exactly what your child has eaten during the day. Please consult the policy on our website regarding appropriate lunches. Your co-operation in this matter would be very much appreciated.

### **NUT ALLERGIES**

One of the pupils in the school has a severe allergy to nuts. In order to ensure the health and safety of all the children in the school, we would ask that you avoid including nuts in school snacks and lunches. Please Note: Peanut Butter and Nutella have a high nut content and should be avoided.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The school uniform is to be worn by all children. Children should wear school tracksuits on P.E. days only and the grey polo shirt should be worn with these (no soccer/football jersey or t-shirts please).

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### **COMMUNICATION**

The Board of Management and Staff, particularly the teachers, value highly communication with the parents of our pupils. It is in the best interests of the children that this communication be efficient and effective. Communication between adults can all too easily take up the educational time of the children.

The most efficient way of communicating is by writing a note in your child's journal. Separate notes should be written in instances such as explanations for illnesses, unavoidable lateness, concerns in regard to a child's work or happiness in school and other simple communications. If there is an important matter which you wish to discuss, use the journals to request an appointment with the teacher in the first instance and only then, if necessary, the School Principal.



### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

I attach herewith a notice regarding "Inclement Weather" for your attention.

### **SAVINGS CLUB**

A Savings Scheme has been in operation in the school since 2008. It operates every Tuesday morning. The Scheme incorporate all classes from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class. The minimum amount that can be lodged is €1.00. The Savings Scheme will resume on Tuesday, 3rd October 2017 and will be run by Mrs Imelda Lambert and Mrs Bridget Alipour. We are sincerely grateful to these parents for giving up their time. The Scheme will operate every Tuesday morning in the

school. The aim of this Scheme is to encourage children to appreciate the benefits of having their own Post Office Account. Please note that this is entirely optional and children need not participate if they do not wish to do so.

### **GOAL JERSEY DAY**

Friday, 13th October 2017, is the annual GOAL Jersey Day – the pupils are invited to wear their County colours to school. Pupils may wish to make a voluntary contribution to GOAL on the day. €2.00 is the suggested donation.

### **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Can I take this opportunity to thank our Parents' Association for all their fundraising efforts. We are blessed to have such committed parents. Sincere thanks to Susan Curtin, Tracey Russouw and Lisa Murphy for presenting the school with €550 which they raised in the Women's Mini Marathon. Good luck and thank you to the children and parents taking part in the bag pack fundraiser this weekend. We hope to install a bike and scooter bay. Thank you to the PA Chairperson Lisa Murphy and the committee for all the effort they put in to co-operating and working with the school on behalf of the children.

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## **ACTIVE FLAG**

What fantastic news!

You will have heard by now that following all the efforts of the children, the Active School Committee and Mr O'Dwyer, the school has been awarded the Active Flag. We are one of only a small number of schools in the country to have received this and so we are very proud. We will keep up our activities and our new Active Committee will be announced soon. Watch this space for our Flag raising event. Click into the Active School link on the homepage of our website.



STEM

## **EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE & MATHS**

The School is delighted to have been awarded a plaque of excellence in the STEM subjects. The children from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> had fantastic fun experimenting and extending their knowledge. Check out the blog on our website.



## **SCHOOL MASS**

There will be a school mass at 9am in the school hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. All welcome.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The school council for the forthcoming year will be announced shortly.

## **ALADDIN ROLL BOOKS**

The school is now using computerised roll books for completing attendance records. Children will be marked absent if they are not in school before roll call at 9.50am. If they arrive later on, this will be recorded and the time of arrival will be entered. The absent count will remain however. This is to comply with Department guidelines.

## **DATES FOR DIARY:**

Confirmation: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>, March 2018

I look forward to a productive and happy year ahead and wish students, parents and staff every blessing for 2017/2018

**Philomena Cleary**  
**Principal**