



Family Note 5 (9th January 2024)

Dear parents,

I would like to wish you all a happy new year and look forward to working with you over the second term of our school calendar 23/24. We welcome the pupils and their families as well as the staff back to school after an enjoyable Christmas break. Below are some points of information for you as we begin the new term:

- **Staffing:** I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms Alison Cronin who joins us as part of the Support Teaching staff for the remainder of the school year. We wish Ms Mairéad Fogarty all the very best as she commences her Maternity Leave.
- **Board of Management (2023-2027):** Our new Board of Management is now in place since 1st December 2023. The following are the members of our Board:
 - **Chairperson & Patron's Nominee: Rosie Healy**
 - **Patron's Nominee: Mary Woodcock O Sullivan**
 - **Principal & Secretary: Lucy O Sullivan**
 - **Staff Nominee: Niamh Fenton**
 - **Parent Nominee: Niamh O Connor**
 - **Parent Nominee: Tony Roche**
 - **Community Nominee: Leonard Moran**
 - **Community Nominee: Mary Kelly**

We look forward to working together with the Board over this current 4-year term and thank those involved for volunteering their time and commitment to the management of our school.

- **Science Fair:** All roads lead to the RDS in Dublin for this year's BT Primary Science Fair on Thursday next, 11th January! Mr O Connor and the pupils in 4th, 5th & 6th Classes have been selected to present their science project entitled: **"Do we need to change our Summer Holidays because of Climate Change?"**. Much research, planning and preparation has gone into this class project and we wish the pupils and staff a safe and enjoyable trip to the capital! Thank you to our sponsors **Nutty Scientists, Southern Scientific Services & Kerry Group**. We look forward to sharing our project and an account of the day with everyone shortly.
- **Music with Henry:** Henry will continue with weekly music lessons this term with pupils from 1st- 6th Classes. Please send €8 to your child's class teacher by Friday 26th January. Please make sure that your child has their tin whistle and music copy in their school bag each day.
- **ISL:** Weekly Irish Sign Language lessons continue with John Patrick Doherty each Thursday. Pupils are encouraged to practice their ISL at home each week.

- **Reading Folders:** We continue with this literacy initiative across all classes. It is working extremely well and we can see the benefits daily for all pupils. Pupils from Senior Infants to 3rd Classes will now have a 'PM+ Reader' each week to focus on their vocabulary development and sight word recognition. The PAT programme & Toe by Toe will continue to focus on phonological awareness and development. Thank you for your support with this at home.
- **Spelling Programme:** Pupils from 1st – 6th Classes will now commence the Brendan Culligan Spelling & Dictation programme for Term 2. This allows pupils to focus on spelling of high frequency and sight words. It also allows for the opportunity for pupils to work on and develop their own personal spelling list. Spelling homework will change from Monday next to incorporate this approach. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.
- **Support Teaching:** We are currently reviewing and updating our Support Teaching Timetables. Pupils in all classes will work with our support teachers at different stages throughout the term. The levels of supports given to pupils as well as the methods of support teaching may change depending on the areas of need and progress made by pupils and classes throughout the term.
- **After School & Homework Clubs:** Both activities will now run from Monday to Friday inclusive. For senior pupils, whilst homework will be supported from Monday – Thursday (2:40-3:40), teachers will organise alternative activities for Fridays. Please ensure that you check your child's homework and sign their homework diary when you are satisfied that it is fully completed.

Thanking you for your continued support,

L O Sullivan (Principal)