

St. Louis G.N.S.

September 2015 Vol I



Website

To stay in touch with our news, events and activities, log onto the **school's website at**

www.stlouisgns.ie



Fáilte romhaibh go léir agus muidne ag filleadh ar scoil arís! We welcome you all to the start of another school year in St. Louis Girls' School. We hope you had an enjoyable summer with time to relax and have fun with your families.

We extend a very special welcome to our new pupils in second class and also to the new girls who have joined us in other classes. We hope you will be very happy in our school and that you will enjoy learning, making friends and growing up with us.

We are delighted to welcome our new member of staff, Ms Caroline Deery, who is teaching 5th class and we also welcome back Ms Rosemary Holland who is teaching 6th class and Ms Rachel Mc Nally who is teaching 3rd.

We wish Fr Stephen Joyce well in his new appointment in Tydavnet parish. Fr Stephen will remain on our Board of Management for the present, while we welcome Fr. Stephen Duffy as our new school chaplain supported by Fr Paddy McGinn.

Book Bills

Thanks very much to those of you who have already paid your book bill. The closing date for the second instalment or full payment is **Friday, September 23rd**. If the bill is causing you difficulty, please call in to discuss it or to set up further instalment payments over the course of the year.

Recycling



We will have a clothes recycling collection on Monday 17th of October. This is a good opportunity to clear out your wardrobe before winter sets in! Please bring in your clothes and shoes in black plastic bags and there will be a collection point at the front of the school. We will send you a reminder text nearer the

Homework

Homework is very important to progress learning and to link home and school. Always take the time to help your child with her homework especially her tables, spellings, reading and learning work. As well as hearing your child's reading, try to take the time to read to her or with her every evening. The **Homework Club** runs each week from Monday to Thursday and is a great opportunity for your child to get her homework done early and to get assistance from the supervising teacher if needed. If you would like more information, call Mrs Gallagher on 086-8128946.

Clubs



The **Friday Fun Club** promotes the development of social skills and self-confidence in a fun and relaxed atmosphere through a wide range of activities. The club will begin in early October. Mrs Flynn and Miss O'Reilly will send out information nearer the time.

The **Be Active Club** for second class students will begin on **Monday October 3rd from 3-4pm**. This is a free activity for our second classes. Information will be sent out a week in advance and we will be relying on assistance from parents to help us to run this special activity successfully. Please consider helping us if you can.

Basketball for fifth and sixth class students will continue again this year, courtesy of the staff and pupils of St. Louis Secondary School. Dates will be sent out closer to the time.

Some Important School Rules

Punctuality

Please remember that students should arrive at school each morning before 9-00a.m. The security door will close at 9-10a.m. each morning and from that time on, pupils will have to ring the bell to get in. Being late really disrupts the teaching and learning in the classrooms so please try to be on time. Supervision takes place in the PE hall each day from **8-35a.m. to 8-50a.m.** supervised by a member of staff on a rotational basis. The children walk to their classrooms at 8-50a.m. where they are met by their teacher. If your child arrives before 8.35am or is left after 3pm the school is not responsible for them under the terms of our insurance policy.

Attendance

We will continue to work with our Family School Liaison Officer, Mr David Mc Cague and the Educational Welfare Officer Ms Maria Kieran in order to improve the children's attendance records. We will continue to present Awards Certificates each June to ensure excellent attendance. **We ask you not to take your child on holidays during the school year as this is seriously disruptive to their learning.**

If your child is absent from school, please send in a note to her teacher on her return or give the school office a quick call to explain the absence. This is very important as we record each absence on our student management system. Children who miss 20 days or more will be reported to the National Educational Welfare Board. You will be informed when this is necessary and asked to attend a meeting.

Parental Concerns

If you have a query or concern about your child or any aspect of her learning, please make an appointment to meet with her class teacher to discuss the issue. Please remember that the principal only becomes involved if issues remain unresolved. Your child's class teacher together with our Learning Support and Language teachers work with your child every day and are best placed to discuss her with you. If at all possible, please avoid dropping into see the teacher in the morning as class is starting, as this first stage of the day is a very important one for the children's learning. It is important to remember that September is a settling in month which your child will adjust to in her own time as she gets to know her teacher and her teacher gets to know her. However, if you are concerned about any aspect of her schooling, you are more than welcome to make an appointment to meet with us.

Mobile Phones

It is important that you remember the terms of our Mobile Phones Policy. We would ask you not to send a mobile to school with your daughter unless you feel that it is absolutely necessary. The students are not allowed to have their phones during the day. Each phone is handed to the teacher first thing in the morning. They are stored securely during the day and returned before the students go home at 2-45pm. If it is necessary for your daughter to take her phone to school, you must write a note to her teacher informing her that she will have a phone with her this year. It is absolutely forbidden for a student to have a phone in her possession during the school day or to send messages, make calls, go online, access social media sites or take photographs or recordings. Students are not allowed to have their phones switched on during morning supervision or before they leave the school grounds at 2-45pm.

Bullying

We are continuing our Anti-Bullying Campaign again this year, which involves a series of lessons tailored to each individual class and twice-yearly surveys. Any form of bullying in the school will be taken very seriously and dealt with according to the School's Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy. Cyber bullying will be dealt with in the same way. Advice and assistance will be sought from the Home School Liaison Officer and Monaghan Garda Station. An Anti-Bullying Report will be made at each Board of Management Meeting.

Administration of Medication

We are unable to administer any kind of medication without the written consent of parents. If it is necessary for your child to take medication for a short period, you must come into the school office to sign written permission. If your child is in need of long-term medication, there is an application process to the Board of Management which we will be happy to explain to you.

Child Protection Guidelines

St. Louis Girls' School has adopted the Child Protection Guidelines for Primary and Post Primary Schools according to the Department of Education and Skills. All members of staff have received instructions to report any form of abuse or neglect to the Designated Liaison Person. The DLP in the school is the principal, Mrs Bernie Farrell and in her absence, Mrs Margaret Hannon, the deputy principal, takes on the role of DLP.

Physical Education

In our Physical Education Programme, the children take part in the five strands of the curriculum. They are games, athletics, dance, outdoor activities and swimming. Each class has 6 weeks of swimming lessons in one school year. Each lesson costs €3-50 and this is a compulsory part of the curriculum. The money for the lesson is collected each week by the class teacher. Please encourage your child to attend her swimming lessons as it is very important for children to learn how to swim while still young. **Please do not ask for your child to be excluded from swimming except in exceptional circumstances.** Your child's class teacher will inform her which day will be PE day for this year. On PE day, the children wear their tracksuits and ordinary runners. **Please note that converse are not allowed.**

P.E. Activities

Irish Dancing for all classes from 2nd to 5th resumed yesterday and will run weekly on Wednesdays until March. There will be a break from 16th November until Christmas to facilitate practices for Christmas activities in the hall.

Swimming lessons for 6th classes will commence, tomorrow, Friday 9th and for 3rd classes on Monday 12th and will run for six weeks.

Gaelic football lessons for all other classes also started yesterday, courtesy of Monaghan GAA and will run for a period of 8 weeks.

Ciaran Murtagh of the Coral Leisure Centre has kindly offered to facilitate two **Keep Fit** sessions for one of our 6th classes. The first of these will be held on Friday 16th of September.

Gymnastics Club

Olympic Gymnastics Classes for primary school children will be held in the school hall on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 pm. The classes which are run by Caitríona Mullen of Borderbounce Club, will commence on Wednesday 14th September. For further details contact Brendan at 086 2621368.

Cumann na bhFiann, Club Óige

Cumann na bhFiann will once again hold its weekly Gaeilge classes in the school hall from 7.30pm to 9pm for children of primary school age. Please drop in to meet with the leader if you would like your daughter to take part in this class. Classes will resume in the school hall on **Wednesday 21st September 2016**

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance

Please consider purchasing the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance for your daughter. Cover is provided in the form of a series of benefits, including medical and dental expenses provided they are not recoverable from any other source. This insurance can be claimed as a result of non-culpable accidents. You can choose a premium of **€9** per annum for 24 hour cover or **€6** per annum for school activities only. It is important to point out that this insurance is entirely optional, but it gives you the opportunity to claim for accidents which happen to your child whether during school hours or for the entire day. If you would like further information, it can be found online at www.allianz.ie/schools. Please fill up the attached application form if you wish to avail of this service and send the form and the correct amount of money into the school in an envelope by Friday 25th September.

Pupil Online Database

As you are aware by now, the Department has developed an electronic individualised database of primary school pupils, called the Primary Online Database (POD). POD collects individual information on each pupil, including their PPSN. All of our existing pupils enrolled before this academic year have a record of their data on POD. From now, it is **compulsory** for **all pupils** to have a record on POD in order to be counted for the school's capitation payment and for teacher allocation purposes.

Text-a-parent

Our **text-a-parent** service is in use again. It has proven to be an invaluable means of communication between the school and you the parents. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to contact us. If you have any concern about your number being included in this service, please let us know. Please always inform us immediately if you change your telephone number or address details.

Museum Visits

All our classes will visit the museum on Friday 16th September for a special workshop entitled "Tall Tales and Musical Stories"

We extend a special thanks to Ms Pauline Tilson of Monaghan County Museum and to Mrs Treanor for organising all the museum outings for our girls.

Parents' Association AGM

This will take place on a date to be decided in October in St. Louis GNS. An agenda and more details will follow later.

School Holidays and Important Dates

Staff Only-School Development Planning Day: Wednesday August 31st

Children Return To School: Thursday September 1st

Mid-Term: Closing Friday October 28th

Re-Opening: Monday November 7th

Christmas: Closing Thursday December 22nd

Re-Opening: Monday January 9th

Mid-Term: Closed Thursday & Friday February 23rd & 24th

St. Patrick's Day: Closed Friday March 17th

Easter: Closed Friday April 7th

Re-Opening Monday April 24th

May Bank Holiday: Closed Monday May 1st

June Bank Holiday: Closed Monday June 5th

Summer Holidays: Closing Tuesday June

27th

Staffing Schedule

Principal: Mrs Farrell

Rang II: Ms. Brady & Ms. O' Reilly

Rang III: Ms Mc Nally & Mrs Treanor

Rang IV: Mrs Treanor & Mrs Cunningham

Rang V: Mrs Mc Geown & Ms Deery

Rang VI: Mrs Coyle & Ms Holland

Learning Support/Resource/Language: Mrs Gallagher (Assistant Principal),

Mrs Flynn, Mrs Healy,

Mrs Gilliland & Mrs Hannon (Deputy Principal)

SNAs : Mrs Dowd & Mrs Dunlop

Secretary: Ms. Mullen

Caretaker: Mr Fanning

Family/School Liaison Officer: Mr David Mc Cague

School Chaplain: Fr. Paddy Mc Ginn & Fr Stephen Duffy