

St. Louis G.N.S.

September 2017 Vol I



Website

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



Words of Welcome

Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais ar scoil! We welcome you all to the start of another school year in St. Louis Girls' School. We hope you had an enjoyable summer break 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 throughout the school. 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 newest member of staff, Ms Sarah Reilly, who is teaching 2nd class and we also welcome back Ms Caroline Deery who is teaching 6th class this year.

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 22nd**. 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 18th of September. This is a good opportunity to clear out your wardrobe before winter sets in! Please bring in your clothes, shoes etc. in black plastic bags to the collection point at the front of the school. We will send you a reminder text nearer the time.



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 reading, tables, spellings, and other 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** is now full but if you would like to put your daughter's name on a waiting list, as places may become available during the year, you can call/text Mrs Gallagher on 086-8128946.

Parent-Teacher Meetings



There will be a change in the format of our Parent-Teacher Meetings this year. The meetings will be held over two days **only, Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th November**. A letter will be sent home a week in advance for you to pick your preferred time slot on one of these two dates. As always, teachers who have siblings from the same families will make every effort to coordinate the times for their parents. We hope that by giving you three months notice, you will be able to book time off work if the need should arise. We greatly appreciate your input into your children's education and look forward to meeting with you in November.

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 don't hesitate to make an appointment to meet with her class teacher. Please remember that the principal only becomes involved if issues remain unresolved. Your child's class teacher together with our Special Education teachers work with your child every day and are best placed to discuss any issues with you. If at all possible, please avoid dropping in to 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 and your child will adjust 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 Phone 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. **The school cannot accept any responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's own risk.**

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.

Please consult your child's Homework Diary for further details of our School Rules and Healthy Eating Policy

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 with Mr Gerard McQuaid and will run weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays until March. There will be a break in November until Christmas to facilitate practices for Christmas activities in the hall.

Swimming lessons for Ms Mc Nally's 3rd and Mrs Cunningham's 4th classes will commence on Thursday 14th September and will run for six weeks.

Cumann na bhFiann will once again hold its weekly Gaeilge classes in the school hall from 7.00pm to 8.30pm 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 20th September**.

Children's Committees

The Student Council, Green Schools', Action Team Partnership and Active Flag committees for the 2017/18 school year will be finalised and any necessary elections held by the end of September. It is hoped to commence the work of the committees in early October. Names of the committee members and their plans for this year will be published in our October newsletter.



Text-a-parent

Our **Text-a-Parent** service is in use again. This has proven to be an invaluable means of communication between the school and you, the parents. 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.**



Parents' Association AGM

The PA will hold its Annual General Meeting in early October on a date to be decided by the out-going committee. An agenda and more details will be sent out nearer the date.

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 22nd September.

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 late September. Mrs Flynn and Miss O'Reilly will send out information nearer the time.

The **Be Active Club** is a free activity for second class students only and will begin on **Monday October 2nd from 3-4pm**. Information will be sent out a week in advance and we welcome assistance from parents to help us run this activity successfully. If you are willing to help out, please contact the school office and we will arrange for you to be Garda vetted.

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



School Holidays

Mid-Term: Closing Friday, October 27th

Re-Opening: Monday, November 6th

Christmas: Closing Friday, December 22nd

Re-Opening: Monday, January 8th

Mid-Term: Closed Thursday 15th & Friday 16th February

St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday: Closed Monday, March 19th

Easter: Closing Friday, March 23rd

Re-Opening Monday, April 9th

May Bank Holiday: Closed Monday, May 7th

June Bank Holiday: Closed Monday, June 4th

Summer Holidays: Closing Friday, June 22nd

Staffing Schedule

Principal: Mrs Farrell

Class Teachers: Rang II: Ms. Brady & Ms. Reilly

Rang III: Ms Mc Nally & Mrs Treanor

Rang IV: Mrs Treanor & Mrs Cunningham

Rang V: Mrs Mc Geown & Ms Coyle

Rang VI: Ms Holland & Ms. Deery

Special Education Team: Mrs Hannon (Deputy Principal),

Mrs Gallagher (Assistant Principal), Mrs McKenna, Mrs Flynn, Mrs Healy,
Ms O'Reilly & Mrs Foster

SNAs: Mrs Dowd & Mrs Dunlop

Secretary: Ms. Mullen

Caretaker: Mr Fanning

Family/School Liaison Officer: Mr David Mc Cague

School Chaplain: Fr Stephen Duffy

