

Scéalta 1
News & Information for
St. Mochta's National School Community
August 2017

Welcome Back Everybody

We hope you all enjoyed the summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Thursday, 31st August 2017.

Build Update

I am sure you have driven passed the school and seen the major works taking place for our new school build. With this in mind, and in the interest of the health and safety of our pupils, staff and whole school community, new entry and exit procedures are being implemented. One of the big changes is that the **school is not in a position to facilitate parents/guardians in the yards in the mornings**. This is due to reduced yard space from 3 yards to 1 yard. In this instance, children can be brought by their parents/guardians through our new Gate 3 as far as Gate 2. Further information, guidelines and maps on our new procedures will be emailed to you on Monday. We appreciate your full co-operation in advance.

Children being dropped to school by Breakfast Club and After School Care Services

It is your responsibility to inform your childcare provider of our new entry/exit procedures. Providers of these services will have to follow the same guidelines as parents/guardians. As stated above, these guidelines will be emailed to you on Monday.

Welcome to our new Junior Infants

A particularly warm welcome to our new Junior Infants starting school for the first time on Thursday 31st. Please enter the school by Gate 3 and continue to Gate 2. To ensure an easy transition, parents of new Junior Infants will be able to bring your child directly to their line from Thursday August 31st until Monday September 4th. The teacher will collect the pupils from their line. Parents will exit the school through Gate 1. From Tuesday September 5th, the new entry procedures will apply for all junior infants – from Gate 2, children will be assisted to their lines by school staff. Below you will find school times for the first two weeks for Junior Infants only. We hope you enjoy your time at St. Mochta's.

<u>Thurs Aug 31</u>	<u>Fri Sept 1</u>	<u>Mon Sept 4</u>	<u>Tues Sept 5</u>	<u>Wed Sept 6</u>	<u>Thurs Sept 7</u>	<u>Fri Sept 8</u>
10.00-11.50	10.00-11.50	9.30-11.50	9.30-12.30	9.30-12.30	8.50-12.30	8.50-12.30

From Monday 11th September, Junior Infants will attend school at the usual hours of 8.50am to 1.30pm

Senior Infants to Sixth

All classes have school at the normal starting times of 8.50am. For safety reasons, each morning there is **no** running allowed around the yard before the 8.50am bell. Everyone's co-operation with this arrangement is expected.

New Students to St Mochta's – Senior Infants to Sixth

Please report directly to School Reception on your first morning. The meeting time has been changed to 9.15am (originally 9.00am). It is most important that a parent/guardian stays with each child until he/she goes into the classroom.

Which teacher, what gate, what line, what class?

Once completely finalised, the list of class teachers, including line-up numbers and class room numbers will be emailed to all families on Monday.

School Newsletter and Correspondence

In keeping with our Green Schools initiatives, we will continue to send Scéalta and all school correspondence via email. Please ensure your correct email address is given to the office at the start of the school year. Thank you.

Contact Details

It is essential that we have the correct address and contact details (**e.g. home telephone, parents' mobile numbers and email addresses**) for your child. If **any** of your details have changed over the summer, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

School Expenses

To those who have already paid, many thanks and to those who have yet to do so, please do so in the coming weeks. The previous links emailed to you will have expired. Once the class list has been emailed next Monday, the list of outstanding payments to be made will be emailed to you. All pupils are expected to have all their books, copies and uniform by 31st August 2017. We are encouraging all parents to pay your child's fees online.

- Pupil Insurance, Art & Craft Fees
- Book Rental Fees

School Book Orders through Michael Doherty School Supplies (MDSS)

All Junior Infant books ordered through MDSS will be delivered directly to your child's class teacher before Thursday 31st. For all other class levels, any outstanding orders will be delivered to the school and dropped to your child's class before the 1st day of school

Parking

There is very limited parking on Porterstown Road. **School Car Park is strictly for staff only.** Do not park in nearby housing estates and do not obstruct local residents' driveways. Think safety, courtesy and consideration at all times. Thank you for your co-operation. **The Clonsilla Inn by kind permission have given us the use of their back car park during school term (afternoons only), so please use it.**

Important – Nut Allergy

Some of our pupils have a severe allergy to peanuts/nut products, cross contamination and breathing products in the air. Since this condition can be life threatening, please minimise the risk to this child by:-

- Avoiding giving children peanuts in school lunches
- Avoiding giving peanut butter sandwiches, other spreads such as nutella and snacks/bars containing nuts or labelled "may contain nut traces" in school lunches
- Asking children not to share lunches

Due to the severity of the problem, it is important that all parents in **every class** carry out the suggested measures and reduce the risk of allergic reaction to these children. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Attendance at School

St. Mochta's National School encourages full attendance at school throughout the year. Further information is available by reading our Attendance Policy (available on our school website). We would like to remind parents that a reminder text will automatically be sent to you when your child has missed 10 and 15 days. If your child misses 20 days, an email will automatically be issued to you. The school is also obliged to inform the Educational Welfare Services if a child misses 20 days. Last year 96 students were absent for over 20 days. We need to improve on this next year. Regular attendance at school is an essential factor in your child's education. If there are valid and authentic reasons for absences, then you should have no concerns. Further information for parents is available from Túsla by clicking CTRL and the following link. [School Attendance - what parents need to know](#)

Illness

Parents should acknowledge their child's absence from school due to minor illnesses on their return, in writing, in the child's School Journal or in a note to their class teacher. There is no need to telephone the school. However, please let us know if your child has a contagious illness. We would greatly appreciate a phone call. There are children in the school who are at increased risk of contracting these illnesses.

Medical Concerns

We have a number of children with medical needs in our school. It is important that we are fully aware of all medical needs. Please notify the school office about your child if you have not already done so. If you have previously notified the school of a medical condition, an updated medical form will be sent to you. Please make any necessary amendments and return it into the school office. If your child requires medication, please make sure your class teacher and the school office are supplied with new and clearly labelled replacements for the new school year.

Code of Behaviour, Global Consent & Book Rental Participation

We remind you that you have signed these forms previously and they continue to be valid for the next academic year.

Special Education/Professional Reports

Should you have any special educational reports, please bring a hard copy to the school for the attention of Ms. O' Boyce or Ms. Farrell. Many thanks.

Labelling/Lost Property

Lost property during the school year is greatly decreased if items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please ensure jumpers, PE tracksuits, coats, etc. are labelled with your child's name and class.

Finally, we wish your child a happy and successful school year ahead. Our concern at all times will be for their happiness, safety and welfare. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a query or concern.

A happy new school year to one and all in St. Mochta's National School Community!

School Calendar for 2017/2018 is available on our school website.

Maria Farrell, Principal

Margaret O' Boyce, Deputy Principal

www.stmochtas.ie

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