

Scéalta 1

News & Information for St. Mochta's National School Community August 2019

Welcome Back Everybody

We hope you all enjoyed the summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back to our amazing new school building on Thursday, 29th August 2019. We are very proud of our new building and excited for the children to see the yard and ball courts.

School Office

Kindly note the office will be open from 8.30am to 3.00pm on school days. Staff will not be available to deal with queries outside these times. The new contact telephone number is 01-8130430 and the school email address is info@stmochtas.ie.

Should your child participate in any after-school activities, please inform yourself of their contact details and agree the collection time with the relevant After-School Co-Ordinator. Please also contact the After School Co-ordinator directly for any queries. Thank you.

Due to the high volume of work, school personnel are not in a position to fill in documentation relating to Passport applications.

School Hours

Please note that children should **not** arrive at school before 8.30am. The gates open at this time and supervision is available on the school yard. Apart from Junior Infants (see below), all classes have school at the normal starting times of 8.50am on Thursday 29th.

Details regarding entry and exit procedures will be emailed to you before school starts. We are busy planning new procedures which will be reviewed and may need changes or adjustment for the health and safety purposes of all our pupils.

Which teacher, what gate, what line?

The attached '**Teacher Allocation Sheet**' indicates your child's Class Teacher, Room and Line Number and this information will shortly be available to view on our website www.stmochtas.ie. For new Junior Infants, a separate message will be emailed indicating which teacher and class your child has been allocated to.

Welcome to our new Junior Infants

A particularly warm welcome to our new Junior Infants who will be starting school for the first time on Thursday 29th. Please enter the school by the Porterstown Road Entrance and continue through the Pupil Entrance Door on to the yard. Staff will be available to guide you over the first few days.

We ask all parents/guardians to please ensure each child has spare underwear and tracksuit bottoms in their school bag.

Below you will find school times for the first week for Junior Infants only. We hope you enjoy your time at St. Mochta's.

<u>Aug 29</u>	<u>Aug 30</u>	<u>Sept 2</u>	<u>Sept 3</u>	<u>Sept 4</u>	<u>Sept 5</u>	<u>Sept 6</u>
10.00-11.50	10.00-11.50	9.30-11.50	9.30-12.30	8.50-12.30	8.50-1.30	8.50-1.30

Parking

The **School Car Park is strictly for staff only**. Avoid parking 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 has given us the use of their back car park during school term (afternoons only), so please use it.

Set –Down Area

We are delighted to have a Set-Down Area to facilitate drop-off. To ensure this facility operates in a safe and efficient manner for all, please take note of the following guidelines.

- The Pedestrian Gates will be opened at 8.30am, followed by the gates for vehicles.
- On the school building side of the area, parents should only drop their children and go – **please do not leave your vehicle.**
- On the road-side of the area – this parking area is reserved for parents to allow a 5 minute parking time-frame for walking younger children to their lines/classrooms.

These guidelines will be reviewed and amended as needed.

New Students to St. Mochta’s National School – Senior Infants to Sixth Class

Please report directly to School Reception on your first morning at 9.00am with your parent/guardian. It is most important that a parent/guardian stays with each child until he/she goes into the classroom.

Best Wishes

We extend our best wishes to Ms. Kirwan who joined our teaching staff over the summer.

Best wishes to Ms. Mackle, Ms. Keane and Ms. Lambert who will be on career break for 2019/2020.

Best wishes also to Ms. Cox and Mr. Terry who have moved on over the summer. We wish them every success in their future endeavours and thank them for all of their contributions to St. Mochta’s National School over the years.

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. We are encouraging all parents to pay your child’s fees online. New payment links will follow this email to all those who have yet to pay.

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

All pupils are expected to have all their books, copies and uniform by 29th August 2019.

School Books for the next academic year

Please help your child bring in all their school books, stationery, etc. to school on the first day. The books will be kept in the classroom.

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.

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. If your child has an existing Medical Care Plan, you will receive a copy of it over the next few weeks. Please update the form as necessary and return it to the office as soon as possible. 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.

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.

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.

Further information for parents is available from Túsla by clicking CTRL and the following link. [School Attendance - what parents need to know](#). Our Attendance Policy was updated and ratified by the Board of Management in June 2018. Should you wish to take a child out of school for a few days, please write directly to Ms. O'Boyce, Acting Ms. Principal. Please familiarise yourself with updated procedures by reading the new Attendance Policy.

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 Mr. Cryan. 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.

Some gentle reminders:

- No chewing gum on any part of the school property.
- Please **do not bring any dogs on the school grounds**.
- If you ride a bike, scooter, etc. to school, please dismount before entering the school gate and walk to the lockup areas – a reminder that the Board of Management does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to equipment locked on the school property.

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 2019/2020 is available on our school website.