

Scéalta 2

News & Information for St. Mochta's National School Community 4th September 2019

Welcome Back

We are delighted to report that everyone has made a great start to the new school year. All of our classes are working hard and trying their best. Well done everyone. A special well done to our new Junior Infants who are settling in well to St. Mochta's National School. Keep up the great work everyone!

Contacting the School

- A reminder that 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 contact telephone number is 01-813-0430.
- The school email address is info@stmochtas.ie. As this is a new address, please ensure that school emails are not going into your Spam/Junk box.
- 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.

New Entry & Exit Procedures

As you are aware, the school has introduced new entry and exit systems. Thank you to our whole school community for your co-operation and patience with our new procedures. The children have adapted to the new routine already.

We remind everybody that when using the Set-Down area, only the designated walking paths should be used by pedestrians, should you need to cross the Set-Down area, please use the cross-path. Thank you for your full co-operation. To ensure the Set-Down facility is used for maximum benefit, please respect the school's request. The drop-off area is alongside the school building and the short-term parking area is on the Porterstown Road side. We would like to thank our volunteers who are helping to guide parents/guardians when using this area.

At collection times, it can be very busy outside the school. We ask for everyone to be patient as the whole school community adapts to the new procedures. The school will continue to monitor the procedures and adapt if necessary. Please be mindful of how busy the roads can be at these times. All families should cross at the designated crossing areas under the guidance of our Traffic Wardens.

A few reminders

- **First Aid**
A First Aid station is set up during break times. If your child has a minor bump to the head, they will be sent to First Aid and receive ice. For minor bumps, we are happy for your child to stay at school and you will receive a text to inform you. If a First Aider decides that it would be better for your child to be sent home, you will receive a phone call.
- **Mobile phones**
Please be advised that the use of mobile phones in school is not allowed. We understand that some children do carry phones and we would like to remind you that they must be switched off and kept in their schoolbags at all times. Children carry mobile phones into school at their own risk.
- School gates open at 8.30am in the morning. School personnel are available to supervise in the yards from 8.30am and St. Mochta's National School does not accept responsibility for any children who arrive before this time.
- When arriving and leaving the school, kindly ensure your child walks on the designated paths and does not walk on the grass, climb the trees or mount the fencing. This is for the safety of your child. Many thanks.

- Once children have arrived to school, please be advised that they must stay on the premises and cannot leave until the end of the school day. If your child needs to leave for an appointment during school hours, please call to reception to sign them out.
- Kindly note **dogs are not allowed on any part of the school premises (including the car park)**. Thank you for your co-operation.
- Once children leave school at 1.30pm/2.30pm, they are in the care of their parents/guardians. Please ensure your children walk on the footpaths and cross the roads with our Traffic Wardens. Children should not walk through the staff car park. Please pay particular attention when crossing the road at the entrance/exit to the staff car park.
- We ask everyone, including pupils, parents, toddlers and pre-schoolers, who cycles or uses scooters to and from school daily to kindly take note of the following:
 - Please make sure to dismount from bikes/scooters before entering school property
 - **No bikes, scooters, etc. are allowed on the school yards at any stage. This includes toddlers and young children.** Feel free to use the bicycle racks at the front of the school to **lock your bikes** while pupils are being dropped/collected to/from their lines.
 - Please walk to the bike lock up areas, using the footpaths and not through the carpark. Please ensure that all bikes and scooters, etc., are locked – the Board of Management cannot be held responsible bikes that go missing.
 - It is important that all those who cycle or use scooters wear helmets.

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.

School Break Times & collecting your child for an appointment

Outlined below are the times of school breaks. Should you need to collect your child for an appointment, please avoid these times. To avoid delays, it might be easier to collect your child **before** they go on break. Office staff are unable to leave the Reception to look for children in the yard.

<u>Class Level</u>	<u>Morning Break</u>	<u>Lunch Break</u>
3 rd Class to 6 th Class	10.30.am - 10.40am	12.00pm - 12.30pm
Junior Infants to 2 nd Class	10.30am - 10.40pm	12.35pm - 1.05pm

New Junior Infants

Well done to all our new girls and boys in Junior Infants. We are very impressed and proud of the way you have adapted to your new school. From tomorrow, Thursday 5th September, we look forward to having our Junior Infants for the full school day – 8.50am to 1.30pm.

In the interest of health and safety, please note that St. Mochta's operates a 'drop and go' system in the mornings. It is very important that parents/guardians leave the school premises straight away as we have approximately 900 children being dropped to school. Many thanks for your co-operation.

The pupil entrance door will close at 8.50am promptly. We encourage you to arrive on time, however, if your child arrives after this time, they must enter through the main school reception. Once all classes have been brought in from the yards, staff will be available to escort your child to their class.

On Wet Days

In the event of a wet morning, a decision will be made as to whether the children will line up on the yard or in the hall. If there is a light mist, pupils will line-up as usual on the yard so please ensure that your child has a suitable raincoat. If it is very wet, Junior and Senior Infants will walk directly to their class rooms and all other children will go to the hall. Please familiarise yourself with the procedures below.

Please see the table below for your information. We thank you in advance for your understanding and full co-operation with this new system.

	Drop-Off on Wet Days only!	Collection on Wet Days only!
Junior & Senior Infants 1 st & 2 nd Classes 2.30pm	Enter through the Pupil Entrance. Children will enter classrooms. Parents/Guardians will exit via the door beside the PE Hall	Junior and Senior Infant Parents enter via the Pupil Entrance Door, collect children from classroom door. Continue straight through and exit via the door beside the PE Hall. 1 st & 2 nd Classes, parents should enter the building via the Gate at the end of the building (near the ball courts), collect your child from the classroom door and exit via the door with the canopy (<i>i.e. the pupil entrance door in the mornings</i>).
3 rd to 6 th Classes	Enter through Pupil Entrance, walk down infant corridor and children only will line up in the PE Hall. Adults will exit via the door beside the PE Hall.	3 rd and 4 th Classes will exit through the door with the canopy at the middle of the building (<i>i.e. the pupil entrance door in the mornings</i>). 5 th & 6 th Classes will exit via the door beside the PE Hall

Registration for the Sacraments

Children in 2nd Classes and 6th Classes received the registration forms for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please note the Pastoral Centre will be opened on two evenings from 6.00pm to 8.00pm to accept registration forms on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th September. Parents and children should attend on one registration evening with their completed form. Your child should be baptised Roman Catholic to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. To receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, your child should be baptised and have received the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion.

Registration Forms will ONLY be accepted with your child's Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate. Later Registrations will NOT be accepted after the registration dates. If you have any queries, please contact the Pastoral Centre directly on 01-821-3218.

Hearing & Vision and MMR Vaccination Forms

Today, Junior Infants will bring home with the HSE Forms for Hearing & Vision and MMR Vaccination Forms. The school facilitates this HSE program. All forms should be completed and returned to the Class Teacher by Wednesday 11th September 2019. Any queries should be directed to the HSE directly. You will be advised of the dates for testing and vaccinations in future newsletters.

School Car Parks are 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.

PE Timetable

The PE Timetable is being worked on and will be finalised shortly. Once completed it will be to all families. Children should wear their PE Tracksuit on their appointed PE Day.

Book Rental/Arts and Crafts Fees

Many thanks to all the families who have paid the Book Rental and Art & Craft & Pupil Insurance fees to-date. If you still need to pay these fees, a new link for outstanding amounts will be forwarded to you later today.

Kindly note that all **rental books will only be distributed to pupils who have paid** the Book Rental fee.

The Art & Craft fee is essential to ensure your child has sufficient resources in class – homework journals, photocopying, printing, computers and art & craft materials. We are fully dependent on the fee to provide the best possible education for your child.

Board of Management

The current Board of Management will soon complete its term. We will be seeking new parent nominees, one male, one female, to the new Board of Management which will commence in December. The Board meet once a month to oversee all aspects of managing our school. If you have skills that could benefit the school and you are interested in serving on our Board of Management please contact the PA or Ms. O'Boyce, Acting Principal.

Trials – Cross Country Teams

Mr. Kenny will hold trials for the 2019/2020 Cross Country Teams next week. Weather permitting, 3rd & 4th class trials will take place on Tuesday 10th September and trials for 5th & 6th classes will be held on Wednesday 11th September. There will be separate trials for the boys and girls at each class level and all children are welcome to try out. These trials will take place during normal school hours.

After School Activities

- Miss Murphy will be running a 10-week mindfulness programme for children in 4th and 5th classes starting on Wednesday 25th September and finishing Wednesday 11th December (no class on Wednesday 20th November). Classes will be held in her classroom (6th class) after school and will finish at 3:30. The cost is €80. For further information, forms and enquiries please contact Miss Murphy directly at the following email address: missmurphystmochtast@gmail.com. Forms will be given to interested children in school or can be emailed.
- Details on other after-school activities will be mentioned on the Scéalta as they become available.

Community News

- Blanchardstown Garda Station will hold an Open Day on 14th September from 2pm to 5pm. There will be a sensory hour from 1pm to 2pm. There will be tours of the station, face painting, display of garda vehicles, and Garda units such as the Dog and Mounted Units, among other things. All are invited.
- Castleknock Celtic Children's Soccer Academy for boys/girls, aged 4 to 7 years takes place on Saturdays at 10am. Children interested in learning all the basic skills should call to the Clubhouse in Porterstown Park.
- Garda Westmanstown Rugby invites new beginners to join their club. Men, women, boys and girls are welcome. For further details, click on the following link <https://www.facebook.com/WestmanstownRFC/>
- Castleknock Community Centre will host Courageous Kids who will run their Hear Me Roar Programme for 8-10 year olds beginning on Sunday 8th September from 11.15 to 12.45pm. This is a 4 week programme aiming to build your child's confidence and courage while tackling them about the emotion of fear. For further details, please click <https://courageouskids.ie/>
- ENTWINE performing arts school is open at Luttrellstown Community Centre. Anybody interested should visit their website www.entwine.ie
- For your information, Children's Health Ireland at Connolly in Blanchardstown is a new paediatric healthcare service. It is part of the new model of care for children's health services in Ireland providing care as close to the patient's home as is clinically appropriate. Click on the link for further information. <https://childrenshealthireland.ie/connolly/>