

# ST. TIERNEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear parents and pupils,

It feels strange preparing a Summer Newsletter when we have had our normal school year cut so short. I want to acknowledge the amazing efforts undertaken by all families to continue with teaching and learning at home during these uncertain and often stressful times. We know that everyone's circumstances are different and you have had to deal with many different things including managing your household, attending work, working from home and caring for vulnerable family members, as well as helping your child(ren) adapt to home learning. I also want to thank our teaching staff who adapted quickly in preparing detailed Home Learning packs and establishing Google Classroom so that we could continue to support and guide our pupils throughout school closure. Also to our non-teaching staff who have worked behind the scenes, helping prepare resources and organising things in school so that we can ensure a safe and secure environment for pupils when they return. Finally, I want to thank our amazing pupils, who have shown such resilience and character. I am sure they have missed their friends and normal school routines but hopefully they have benefitted from unexpected family time and learnt skills in other ways such as baking, crafting, farming and gardening as well as from school books. We have tried to make them feel connected to the school and to each other through activities and challenges on the school website and we hope that they have enjoyed these.

As we look towards September, we await clarification and guidance from Department of Education on the reopening of schools. Although this guidance will not be published until the end of June, it has been indicated that there will be a 'Phased Return to School' with 'Blended Learning' taking place at home and in school, with a certain number of pupils attending on different days so that schools are able to implement social distancing. Once we have received clear directive from the Minister a plan will be drawn up and we will communicate this to you as soon as we can. Our intention is to be as clear and transparent as possible.

We are currently planning for a safe environment for our children, parents and staff. Policies and procedures are being updated and will be available on the school website. To prepare for blended learning, teachers will continue to undertake professional development and training.

We would also like to take on board your views and experiences with home learning over the past 13 weeks. I have published a parental survey on the school website which asks you to reflect on this and consider what might be useful moving forward to September. There is also a 2<sup>nd</sup> survey that focuses on school before closure and links in to our School Development Plan. I would appreciate if you would take the time to complete both as your thoughts and opinions are hugely important. They can be accessed on the 'Parents' section of the school website under 'Surveys'. There is also one for pupils in the Pupil section of the website that you might help them complete. The password to access all of these surveys has been sent by message.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated, Mrs Murray

**It is also important to look back on the first two terms of the school year and acknowledge the great efforts and achievements of our fabulous pupils. Here I have highlighted just a few.**

In September we welcomed our new P1's, launched our Extended Schools Art and ICT clubs and hosted the first Open Assembly.



In September we had a very successful night and many pupils represented the school and achieved success at Lisnaskea Feis, competing in Poetry, Hand Writing, Art, Irish Poetry, Own Poetry Writing and Grúpa Cheoil.

In November we supported Anti-Bullying Week and the Eco-Council helped to tidy up the chapel grounds. We also achieved success at the Cumann na mBunscoil Blitz and in BBC Radio Ulster's Two Minute Tales.



In December we celebrated with our Christmas concerts and also gave back to the community by donating very generous hampers of food and gifts to St. Vincent de Paul. Our School Council organised a fundraiser to purchase a beautiful new crib for the school, our P7's entertained the local senior citizens at their Christmas lunch and our P5's decorated Christmas cakes and brought them to share with the residents of Carn Court..



In January we continued with our Sustrans Walk to School programme. We also welcomed our families and grandparents in to school during Catholic Schools Week to celebrate Grandparents Day.



In February our P7's enjoyed some STEM learning as part of our Shared Education programme and we also had brilliant success at the local Credit Union Quiz.



Finally, in March, although we didn't get to share it with the community as we had planned, our pupils showcased their unbelievable gifts and talents at our St. Patrick's Day concert and our girls team were the overall winners in the Fermanagh heat of the Ulster Cumann na mBunscoil blitz.



I am sure you will agree we have much to celebrate and even more photos and memories can be viewed on the school website.

## CLASS ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2019 - 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

(These may be subject to change in light of Covid-19)

**Primary 1** Mrs Michelle Beacom

**Primary 2** Mrs Elaine Murray & Mrs Eimear O'Reilly (Principal Release)

**Primary 3 & 4** Mrs Sharon Conlon

**Primary 5 & 6** Mrs Maeve McElroy/ Mrs Louise McAloon

**Primary 6 & 7** Mr Gerard McMahan

Congratulations and Good Luck to Mrs McElroy who will begin her maternity leave in early September.

### SCHOOL UNIFORMS

School jumpers can be ordered from myclothing - <https://www.myclothing.com> and S.D Kells may also have some. My Clothing also have cardigans, hats, bags and fleeces. Full uniform should be worn at all times and should be clearly marked with the child's name. **Please check throughout the year that the name has not washed off** as this causes problems in returning jumpers etc to their owners. We will confirm in the Return to School plan whether or not school uniform should be worn and if school bags are needed during phased return.

### MUSIC

Arrangements for music will be confirmed once a Return to School Plan is in Place.

### CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Fr Chester is hopeful that Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be celebrated in the Autumn term.

### FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

Best wishes to Primary Seven as they move on to their new schools. Although we cannot celebrate with them in the usual way, we will say farewell to them through a virtual class assembly.

### WELCOME

Unfortunately we were unable to invite them in for their Induction Day but we look forward to welcoming our 18 new Primary 1's who will be joining us in September.

A special word of thanks to Margaret the cook and all the kitchen staff for providing refreshments at all the social events in the school throughout the year and to Gerry for always having the school ready. Also to Joanne, our Secretary and to all of our Classroom Assistants and dinner supervisors who make such a valuable contribution to school life.

A Provisional Holiday and School Closure List for 2020-21 is available on the school website.



Please contact me at [emurray339@c2kni.net](mailto:emurray339@c2kni.net) if you have any queries over the summer.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer break and we will see you in September ☺