

St Tierney's Primary School

8 Eshnadarragh Road, Mullaghconnolly, Roslea, Co. Fermanagh BT92 7JS



Principal: Mrs Elaine Murray Email: [info@sttierneysps.roslea.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@sttierneysps.roslea.ni.sch.uk)

Tel: 028 6775 1493

Web : [www.sttierneyspsroslea.com](http://www.sttierneyspsroslea.com)

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12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent(s)

It has been a very busy but successful start to the new school year after the extended closure and it is brilliant to have all of our pupils back in school where they belong. We really appreciate all the extra efforts of staff, pupils and families to ensure that extra measures we have put in place are followed, allowing us to work and learn in as safe an environment as possible. With the recent increase in positive cases and the amount of schools that have been affected with closures at whole school or class level, it is important that we remain vigilant and that measures are in place to deal with any positive cases. Parents should continue to have arrangements in place in the event that pupils are asked to stay at home at short notice. If you have not returned the Home -School Agreement issued in September please do so as soon as possible.

Although we have had to scale back on extra-curricular activities, open assemblies etc for the time being, we have been working hard with the pupils to ensure that their emotional needs are met as well as their learning needs.

This includes extra Wellbeing activities in class, increased time learning outdoors and activities to connect the pupils as a school community, such as our virtual Welcome Back assembly that P7's hosted live for the whole school through the Google Meet video function.

Please read through details of the newsletter and as always, contact the school if you have any queries.

Mrs Murray ☺

**STAFFING** Our school caretaker Mr Gerry Boyle will be starting his well-earned retirement on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 after 25 years of service to St. Tierney's. We would like to thank Gerry for his hard work, dedication and professionalism over the years, and most recently for all his extra effort over the summer months and since school restart, to ensure a safe and seamless return to school for staff and pupils. We wish him and Patricia a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Huge congratulations to Mrs McElroy and her husband Aidan on the birth of their baby boy Éanna Míchéal. We are all delighted to hear the lovely news.

This year we welcome Mrs Brenda Mohan and Amie Sreenan who have joined our team as classroom assistants.

### **PARENT SUPPORT GROUP RAFFLE**

We would like to relaunch our PSG fundraiser from Term 3 last year by giving all pupils a tube of Smarties after Halloween. In an effort to contribute to the extra cost of replacing the car the classrooms, all families are asked to try and fill their Smarties tube with 20p's and/or £1 coins. Pupils are encouraged to do small jobs around the house or for family members to thank them for donations. Any tubes received back will be entered in to a children's raffle.

The raffle will take place after the mid-term break. Tubes that were returned before lock down have been kept safe and will be entered in the draw. Huge thanks for your continued support.



### **AUTUMN ASSESSMENTS**

Now that pupils have settled back in to school we intend to carry out Standardised Assessments for pupils in Primary 4-7 over the next couple of weeks. These will be tests in Literacy, Numeracy and Cognition that pupils would have sat in May 2020. We do not want any pressure put on pupils over these tests. They will be used solely to allow us to gauge any progress or gaps in areas of learning that will inform teachers planners and to identify any pupils who may benefit from specific support or interventions. Results of assessments will be made know to parents before Parent Teacher Meetings.

**PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS** - Parent teacher meetings are due to take place the last week of November. The Dept of Education has recommended that face to face meetings are avoided and that they should take place online or over telephone where possible. It is likely that Phone meetings will take place from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Details will be issued beforehand.

**SUSTRANS NI - OCTOBER - WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH** Although we can't gather as normal for our walk and cycle to school mornings, we would like to highlight Walk to School Month throughout October. We encourage as many families as possible to try and walk, at least some part of the way, to school on any mornings that may suit through the month of October, while adhering to social distancing measures from other families who may be walking. Such a great, active start to the school day for any pupils that take part.

**FLU-JABS** The school nursing team will be here on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November to administer the flu-jab to those pupils who have had parental consent given. Pupils will not cross class bubbles and the school nursing team will adhere to strict hygiene protocols.

**ACCELERATED READER AND MATHLETICS** This year we will continue with Accelerated Reader and Mathletics programmes. These are very useful in supporting the Literacy and Numeracy curriculum and we encourage all pupils to make the most of these resources. P3 - 7 will take part in Accelerated Reader and P1-7 will take part in Mathletics. There will be £5 fee per pupil for Mathletics due in November 2020.

**MATHS WEEK** Each class will participate in Maths Week Ireland, running from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. As well as in school activities we encourage parents to support pupils practical maths at home by looking at ways to explore number, measure, shape, time, money and other aspects of maths and make it relevant to real life. There are lots of ideas and challenges online at [www.mathsweek.ie](http://www.mathsweek.ie)

**MUSIC** P3-7 pupils really enjoyed their first week back at tin whistle with Mr McCabe. We hope to be able to reintroduce other instruments before long. Music lessons remain £5 per month per pupil.

**WELCOME TO ST. TIERNEY'S PRIMARY 1 WE WANT TO MENTION A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE GIRLS AND BOYS IN P1 WHO HAVE SETTLED SO WELL IN TO SCHOOL LIFE.**



Madison, Darcie, Harry, Myla, Daniel, Annie, Odhran  
Adam, Jayden, Tiernan, Eoghan, Mary Grace, Coen, Maureen, Amelia, Ryan, Kate

## SCHOOL COUNCIL



Congratulations to all those chosen for the school council for this year:

**P4: Molly Reilly & James O'Rourke**

**P5: Edward Smyth & Jess Reilly**

**P6: Niamh Rooney & Seán-John McCusker**

**P7: Niamh Avis-Cassidy & Jack McMahon**

**We look forward to working on exciting projects and charity events that will further enhance the life of the school and the local community.**

## ECO COUNCIL



Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected on to the eco council:

**P4: Eoin Rooney and Shauna Connolly**

**P5: Olivia Cassidy and Orla Murphy**

**P6: Alannah Moane and Éire Rooney**

**P7: Aodhán O'Donnell and Roisin Rooney**

**We look forward to developing the fantastic work of last year's committee members whose fantastic efforts saw the school awarded our first ever Eco School Green Flag.**

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

It was a very special day for the boys, girls and their families when they got to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in September. A huge thank you to Fr Chester and all staff involved.



**Don't forget to check the school web-site & calendar for the latest news & photograph's.**

**Blended and Remote Learning** - All teachers have set up online platforms, Google Classroom or Seesaw for their classes. This will be the main method to communicate tasks from homework packs that have been sent home and to receive homework back for marking during the ongoing situation with Covid-19. It is important that all parents engage with these platforms as they will be the method use for blended or remote learning in the event of any school or class closures. If you are having problems with these please contact the school office or class teacher who will be happy to help. I would like to thank parents who completed our online surveys on this matter in June and acknowledge that the best way to move forward with any further class or school closures is a mix of home learning packs and online platforms. Please see reminder of online learning rules below.



**Google Classroom/Seesaw Rules and Home Learning Guidelines**



We want to connect with you and support you as you learn at home.

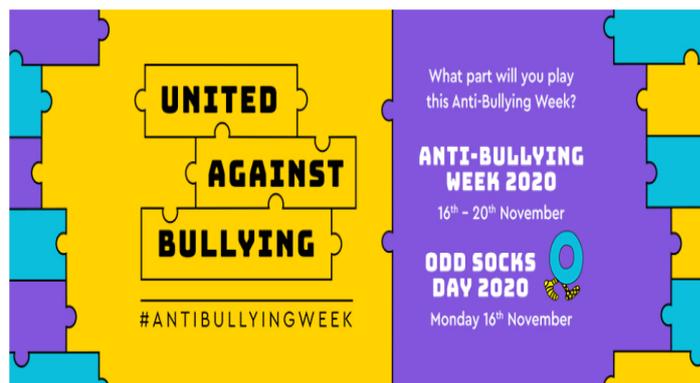
To do this we have set up google classroom and Seesaw but it is important that we all follow our internet safety rules and apply our school code of conduct when online.

So please remember these key points.

- Make sure your parents have given written permission to the school for you to use google classroom / seesaw
- Use google classroom / seesaw and online learning in a central place in your house – not in bedrooms!
- Normal school classroom teaching standards and rules will apply to the on line classroom environment. This includes use of language, standards of behaviour and dress codes (e.g. not pyjamas or sleep wear) when uploading work e.g. photographs etc. or attending online lessons.
- Parents and/or carers should monitor use and engage with pupils during online learning.
- Contact with teachers will be for short periods of time, for checking in and setting work.
- Any inappropriate language or content between pupils must be reported immediately. It will be dealt with by staff, parents informed and pupils may be banned from using google classroom. This system is for SCHOOL WORK ONLY.

## Anti-Bullying Week 2020: United Against Bullying

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2020 is: United Against Bullying. Anti-Bullying Week will happen from Monday 16th - Friday 20th November and will start with Odd Socks Day to mark the first day of Anti-Bullying Week.



### Before You Post THINK



- T - is it True?
- H - is it Helpful?
- I - is it Inspiring?
- N - is it Necessary?
- K - is it Kind?



## TERM 1 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Mid-Term Break - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October (Inclusive)

27<sup>th</sup> November - School Closed for Pupils

School closes at 12noon on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December for Christmas Holidays

## FANCY DRESS DAY FOR ALL CLASSES ON FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER.

NO FACE MASKS ALLOWED.

If pupils want to bring in any treats to Share with their class for Halloween Fun Day, they should bring them in on the Wednesday so that they can be set aside for agreed time before sharing.



If you need to alert the school to any developments in relation to Covid-19 during evenings, weekends or school closures, please email [emurray339@c2kni.net](mailto:emurray339@c2kni.net) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.