



Autumn Term Newsletter 2021

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

We have had a very positive start to our new school year, how lovely to see all the smiley faces and energy around the school. It is great to see restrictions continuing to be lifted and us returning to normal school life. Another positive step was to see parents back on site for homework meetings and to chat with you all at our PTA social coffee mornings and at our AGM. It is encouraging to know that we will be able to fill the calendar with more pre-arranged activities and social events this year.

As always, a huge thank you to all the staff, children and you the parents for your support and patience in helping us get through the last 18 months. It has been challenging but together as a school community, I feel we adapted and became more creative and hopefully made some fun memories for the children in the midst of everything.

Your continued support and understanding is much appreciated

Kind regards

Rachel Harper

News from Canon David Mungavin

Dear Parents

There is something very special about seeing you all drop and collect your children from school; the boundaries have been affected over the covid era but still it is a ritual that somehow glows with so much of what makes life special. At the beginning of the term I was tempted to take a photo of a happy, grinning child at play time who an hour earlier had to be gently peeled off his mother! I didn't as I knew it would be against up-to-date compliance etc.

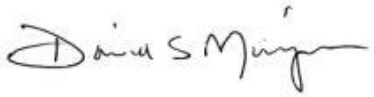
The writer Tobias Wolff says that in all the English language the most beautiful phrase is, "...and his father came running to meet him.." Of course, it is Biblical and of course mothers are often better at running to meet their children. In fact someone once said that a mother can divide her love amongst her children giving 100% to each while the best a father can do is 30% each or whatever the maths is in dividing equally between each child. It's good that more fathers have been able to enjoy the drop off routine in these times.

Whatever you make of this I'm sure we all agree that parents and teachers are all part of a very special routine, no higher calling in creation than the nurturing and education of our children.

I know that many of you have enjoyed the extra flexibility in the work environment; I believe our community and our lives have benefitted from this; I hope we can all hold onto some or all of these developments that offer simpler and better ways.

A huge thank you to Rachel and all the staff for delivering on every level over this challenging period and thank you to you, the parents, for your support and for sharing your little treasures with us.

With kindest wishes to you all,
God bless,



Student Council

This year, St Patrick's National School will establish a Student Council.

Two children per class from 2nd-6th class will be elected by their peers through a democratic process. The election process will take place annually, each September, through a secret ballot. This year, the election will take place in October. The children who wish to run for the council will need to make a presentation to their class explaining why they deserve their vote, prior to the election. The student council will meet once a month, outdoors. The meeting will be facilitated by Miss Bedell and Miss Flynn.

The student council will have the following role in our school:

- Provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life.
- Discuss issues relevant to our school and encourage and promote initiatives from the pupils.
- Act as a channel of communication within the school organisation between pupils and between home and school.
- Encourage pupils to organise events central to the life of the school.
- Provide an opportunity to raise funds for charities or for school funds.
- The student council may also be given the role of providing information and contributing to the School Newsletter. They could act as journalists and reporters, with the hope that by allowing the children to share their monthly news, the newsletter would be more engaging to the students in the school.



Our school is currently in the process of working towards an **Active School Flag**.

The aim of this flag is to enable schools to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. We implement movement breaks throughout the day, encourage all children to be active in the playground and hold an Active Week every year, among many other initiatives. It has been many years since we earned our first Active School Flag but we continue to move just as much every year as we did back then. We hope to get the opportunity to raise a new flag this year.

This year we are going to be working towards the **Green Schools flag**.

Our theme this year is Global Citizenship – Energy. The plan for this year is to re-establish our whole school committee when the children are able to meet safely. Our Green school committee has always been integral to our work in getting our flags. We will also be looking for some parent volunteers with a keen interest in environmental protection.



Yellow Flag Programme

Celebrating Diversity, Promoting Inclusion, Challenging Racism

The Yellow Flag is a programme that supports primary and secondary schools to become more inclusive of all cultures and ethnicities, celebrate diversity and challenge racism and discrimination. It is a national programme that aims to cultivate the spirit of togetherness in our school and community.

There are 8 steps in the programme and upon successful completion, the school will be awarded the Yellow Flag. This year our school will embark on this programme. We will share more information with you as we start working on this. We feel it is something that will really benefit us all.



Positive Behaviour Whole School Initiatives

As always, we are praising and encouraging positive behaviour where possible. Please see below our initiatives:

Stamp Books

Each child has an individual Stamp Book. They will receive a stamp each day for positive behaviour. When they complete a page with 20 stamps, their teacher will give them a reward which has been carefully decided between teachers to ensure these are age appropriate e.g. bring in a teddy or a night off homework etc.

Fuzzy Jars

Every class will start off the term with an empty jar. Each time a child in the class shows an act of kindness they will place a fuzzy ball in the jar. The important thing is that each member of the class must put a fuzzy ball in the jar before it is full – this is to promote teamwork. Once the jar is full, the teacher will give the children a whole class reward e.g. watch a movie or extra P.E.

St. Patrick's
National School
Greystones, Co. Wicklow



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR



RECORD CARD

Name: _____
Class: _____



Behaviour Reflection Sheets

Should your child get a Reflection Sheet, we ask that you would take this seriously with your child and go through the steps accordingly.

A Reflection Sheet is given out to a child following a prior warning given by a teacher when they have continued to act out with poor behaviour.

The Teacher will decide upon the consequence applicable to the child/incidence and make the Principal aware of the incident and the consequence. The child then must go to the Principal's Office to collect the reflection sheet, discuss the incident and the consequence. The child will then return to class and fill out the form and the teacher signs it. It then goes home to parents to be signed and discussed and must be returned to the Principal the following morning. The Class Teacher will always either email or ring the parents when the Reflection Sheet is being sent home. Severity of the Reflection Sheet consequences increases with the amount of Reflection Sheets that have already been sent home.

On Reflection Sheet no.3, parents will be called into the school for a meeting with the Class Teacher to discuss the child's behaviour.

ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Church Road,
Greystones,
Co Wicklow,
A63 EY42



Phone: 01 2875684
Email: admin@stpnsl.ie
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Roll: 12554M

Student Behaviour Reflection Form 1

Student name:	Class:
Time of Incident	Date:

School rule I chose not to follow:

What happened:

Did your behaviour affect others?: ☐ yes ☐ no
How:

What could I have done differently:	What can I do now:
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Pupil's signature: _____ Date: _____
Teacher's signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent(s) signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent(s) comments: _____

The whole reason behind the Reflection Sheet is a process of restorative practice, where the child is given the opportunity to discuss what went wrong, how it affected others, what they can do now and what they can do in the future to prevent this from happening again.

In order for this process to work effectively, please note that we need you as the parents to understand the importance and severity of the Reflection Sheets and the process of talking time to talk through them with your child and the consequence given by the class teacher.

Golden Book

This book is kept in the Principal's Office to highlight and celebrate the children's great work, kindness, achievements etc. When nominated by the teacher (or indeed any member of staff), the children are given the opportunity to come and share this important news in the Office and we write it into our book.

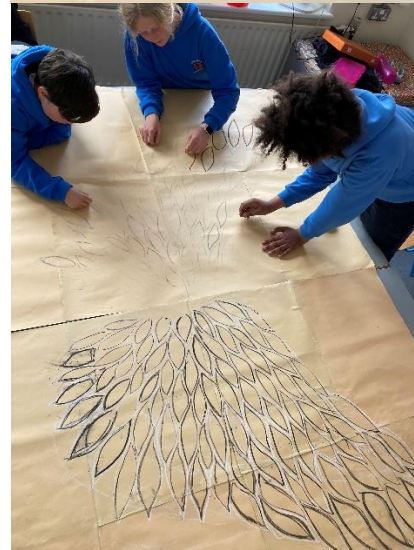
Pre-covid this was read out at our extra Friday Assembly which was introduced to share our good news and achievements with one another. This assembly is to further promote our school community ethos while build on the children's confidence and appreciation of themselves and others. We will be introducing this again once current restrictions are lifted.

Please check out Golden Book entrants on our website.



“If I had wings” – ceramic wall piece – being fired this weekend

Genevieve Harden is finishing a child led whole school art project which began last year which involves every child & staff member designing a clay feather. It is a ceramic wall piece called “If I had wings”. The set of wings allow the children to imagine a life of possibilities.....“if life was full of possibilities, what would they do...how would they be”.



Karate Lesson

The children had a fun and interactive karate/self defence lesson with Felicity Cullen and her daughter Faith.



News from around the classes:

Junior Infants Ash



Junior Infants Ash read the story 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell this month in school. It is a lovely story all about three baby owls called Sarah, Percy, Bill, and their owl mother. All of Junior infants Ash painted a picture of their very own beautiful owl baby using a pom-pom and a peg.



Junior Infants Oak

Junior Infants Oak have been very busy this September! We have been learning our nursery rhymes and have created some great pictures like this one of Incy Wincy. We have also been working on our fine motor skills by tearing and sticking small bits of paper to write our names. In Maths our focus has been on sorting and we have been practising sorting for colour with our table partner.



Senior Infants



This month Senior Infants have been enjoying our topic of 'Myself and My School'. They have been role playing school scenarios in Aistear, and with Ms Harden's help, they have made puppets of themselves. We have been discussing our appearances and uniqueness. We have also started literacy stations in English. The children are really enjoying the variety of activities. The children have also been bringing in lots of beautiful and interesting things for the nature basket.



1st Class Larch

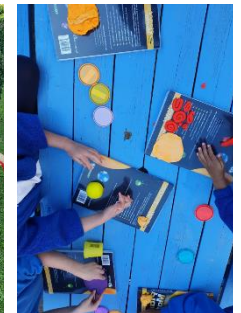


First Class Larch have been working on pointillism, na dathanna and positive affirmations.

We truly are a 'rainbow of possibilities.'

1st Class Elm

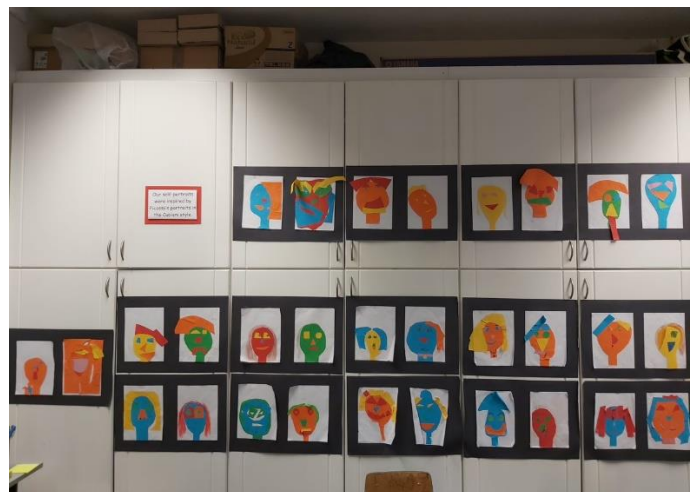
1st class Elm have been making the most of the good weather and doing classes outside where possible. This week, they did Aistear outside, which also gave us the excuse to check on our strawberries



2nd Class

On our first week back, Second Class showed off their artistic skills by creating self-portraits inspired by Picasso.

They examined Picasso's cubism-style portraits before cutting shapes from paper and sticking them down to make their portraits.



3rd Class – Hazel



Third class Hazel have been very busy this month settling back into school. We have done some fantastic Art projects and are really proud of what we have created. In this project we were exploring contour lines using images of cats.

3rd Class – Holly

3rd Class Holly have been busy learning all about the Stone Age.

They had lots of fun exploring Stone Age cave paintings and recreating their own using chalk pastels and paint.



4th Class – Birch & Willow



The two fourth classes walked to the South beach in Greystones to do a beach clean-up.

The classes worked with Junior Tidy Towns to conduct the clean-up and collected lots of litter to make our beach cleaner.



5th Class

Rang a cúig have been exploring the medium of clay in art. So far, we have made beautiful acrylic painted clay pots and are now moving on to creating volcanoes as we are currently learning about Pompeii.



6th Class

In 6th class we have been settling back into a busy schedule. This month in Science we were learning about how animals have physical and behavioural adaptations that allow them to survive and thrive in their habitats. Many animals have unique adaptations such as mimicry - which is where one animal/insect looks almost exactly like another that is poisonous, examples include the Monarch and Viceroy butterfly and the Black and False Widow spiders. We also learned why more and more elephants are being born without tusks...if you want to know why ask a 6th class student.



In-school Management Team (ISM)

Heather Jordan – Deputy Principal

My primary role as Deputy Principal is to support Ms Harper in the daily organisation and supervision of the school's activities in addition to specific administrative and pastoral responsibilities. I am the teacher nominee to the Board of Management and Deputy Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection and Welfare.



I co-ordinate Learning Support and Special Needs Education in our school. I have a long teaching career and have experience teaching as a class teacher at all levels from Infants to 6th Class. For the last 10 years, I have taught mainly in the area of Learning Support, earning a Graduate Diploma in Special Education in 2016. As head of Learning Support, I co-ordinate the caseloads of the Learning Support Team. We have 5 SET teachers, and we work closely with the class teachers in tailoring the support given to each class and to individuals. St Patrick's also have 5 SNAs who provide a vital support to the specific children under their care as well as to the whole school community.

In addition, I am part of a small Profession Support Team on the staff who work collaboratively to support and mentor the NQT (Newly Qualified Teachers) during their school-based induction. I have a particular interest in utilizing IT in our school. This year we were delighted to install 2 new Promethean Activ panels in the classrooms with the generous assistance of the PTA. This is part of our roll out of new interactive boards to the classrooms. All teachers have had training in the new technology and are finding the boards to be a tremendous resource in their classrooms. If any parent has an interest or expertise in IT and would like to be part of our team of advisors, I would be delighted if you would get in touch.



Sorcha Ryan – Assistant Principal 1 Post (Currently on Maternity Leave)

Lynne Cashell is covering this post.

My area of responsibility is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The main focus for my time in the role is to promote the areas of STEM learning in our school by encouraging and assisting the teachers to provide the children with a variety of opportunities to explore STEM.

As part of the promotion of STEM in the school we will be registering for the Discover Primary Science and Maths Awards where we will be recording our involvement in STEM activities and submitting our records at the end of the year for evaluation and hopefully be awarded a plaque recognising our efforts!

We have some great theme weeks coming up that will provide exciting resources and opportunities for the children in STEM. Next week sees the start of Space week (4th-10th Oct) followed by Maths week (16-24th Oct) and Science week will take place in November. Keep an eye on the school website for updates!

I am part of a small Profession Support Team on the staff who work collaboratively to support and mentor the NQT (Newly Qualified Teachers) during their school-based induction.



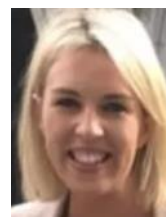
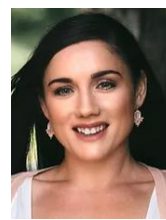
Sinéad Regan – Assistant Principal 2 Post

My AP2 post covers languages and I am also responsible for ensuring there is new content on the school website.

I am the teacher's representative on the Library Committee and help co-ordinate World Book Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge and other associated events.

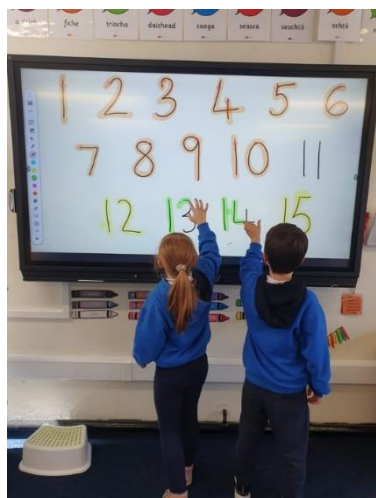
I also oversees the programmes in use in the teaching of languages within the school, updates the school plans where applicable and organises opportunities for the staff to develop their skills in languages. This can take the form of arranging CPD, giving presentations on various aspects of the language curriculum or creating social events like the Ciorcal Cómhra (a mini pop-up Gaeltacht for the teachers once a week after school) which it is hoped can get up and running, dependent on restrictions, after the mid-term break. Over the past few years the roll out of the new Primary Language Curriculum has been central to my roll and this work continues through guidance and resources from the PDST, representatives of whom will be working with us this year in support of adapting to this new curriculum.

I am part of a small Profession Support Team on the staff who work collaboratively to support and mentor the NQT (Newly Qualified Teachers) during their school-based induction.



Promethean Boards

As you know, The Board of Management and our PTA have been working together to upgrade the interactive boards in the classrooms. We are very grateful for them and as you can see below, they are of great benefit to teaching in the classroom.



Library Update

Developing a love of reading is a very important component of the primary curriculum and our library reflects how seriously this school regards the importance of encouraging children to read for pleasure.

St Patrick's Library has grown and developed over several years, thanks mainly to the efforts of parents past and present. Up until 18 months ago, the children had access to a wide range of books in a very attractive room, which, to be honest would be the envy of most other schools in the country.

You may recall that the library was open each morning from 8.25 for children to drop back, renew or exchange their books. There were also class visits scheduled on a two-weekly basis during which stories were read, new acquisitions and other book related topics discussed, relevant non-fiction located, etc. Children were invited to make suggestions regarding what to buy next. There were occasional competitions and seasonally themed activities. Even teddies were encouraged to read.

All was made possible by the library committee which consisted of a group of very dedicated parents who manned the desk, kept the shelves in order, made the room look attractive and organised book related events and activities. And, very importantly, they also fund-raised by running a Scholastic Book Fair each Autumn and a second-hand book sale each spring.

A number of those committee members now find that they are no longer able to commit themselves to this task, so, in order that we can proceed with a planned reopening sometime between Halloween and Christmas (probably on a limited basis), we will need to find some new people to fill their shoes. At the moment, 30 minutes a week of your time is basically what we need and there are a few "old timers" still in situ to provide help and guidance.

No less a person than Albert Einstein said once that "the only thing you absolutely have to know is the way to the library". We want every child in St Patrick's to know that way.



Parking



It is fantastic to see so many children walking, cycling & scootering to school in the morning. For those who drive, just a reminder that the official car park for the school is at St Patrick's Church (entrance at the junction of Church Road and Church Lane), where parking is available for all parents and visitors. Those who use this facility may cross Church Road with the Traffic Warden at the school entrance. For safety and logistical reasons, the small car park at the school is strictly limited to Staff and those who require disabled parking facilities. There is strictly no parking on footpath right of teacher's car park spaces as access is required at all times for emergency vehicles, deliveries etc. We are also asked to remind you to respect any requests by Centra Garage and the Health Centre with regards to their parking policies.



Reminder: Please label all hoodies & coats

We kindly ask you to check that all jumpers and coats are labelled with the name of the current child wearing it, so when found, it is returned to the right child.

Thank you!

Future Events

- ✚ Monday 4th Oct - Space week
- ✚ Thursday 7th Oct – Spar National Tree Day
- ✚ Friday 22nd Oct - Dress up Day
- ✚ Monday 18th Oct - Math's week
- ✚ Monday 8th Nov - Science week

- **Junior Infant Enrolments 2022** – details will be advertised on Website & emailed to the School Community before Midterm Break

Language Curriculum

We would love for the parents to encourage a “cúpla focal” (couple of words!) around the home and in daily life. Phrases such as:

- ✚ Dia Duit – *Hello (to one)*
- ✚ Dia daoibh (*Hello to more than one*)
- ✚ Dia's Muire duit/daoibh – *reply to hello*
- ✚ Conas atá tú – *how are you?*
- ✚ Tá mé go maith, go raibh maith agat, agus tú féin – *I am fine, thank you, and you?*
- ✚ An bhfuil nuacht agat – *any news?*
- ✚ Óíche mhaith – *good night*
- ✚ Tá an dinneár réidh – *dinner is ready*
- ✚ Slán – *goodbye*
- ✚ Bíodh lá maith agat – *Have a nice day (to one)*
- ✚ Bíodh lá maith agaibh – *Have a nice day (more than one)*

Afterschool Activities

Contact the event organiser directly – please note start dates!

Clearer image on website <https://www.stpns.ie/after-school-activities>

Day	Time	Activity	Class	Location	Term	Contact	Telephone	email address
Monday	1.05 - 2.05	Karate	Jnr/Snr Infants	Outdoor/Hall	Oct/Nov - Dec	Felicity Cullen	085 7331022	felicitycullenmolloy@hotmail.com
Monday	2.05 - 3.05	Karate	1st - 6th Class	Outdoor/Hall	Oct/Nov - Dec	Felicity Cullen	085 7331022	felicitycullenmolloy@hotmail.com
Monday	1.05 - 2.05	Soccer	Jnr/Snr Infants	Pitch	Oct - Dec	Declan Bollard	085 1081470	ecfootball@live.ie
Monday	2.05 - 3.05	Soccer	1st - 6th Class	Pitch	Oct - Dec	Declan Bollard	085 1081470	ecfootball@live.ie
Monday	2.05 - 3.05	Irish Dancing	1st - 4th Class	Portacabin	Nov - Dec	Deirdre Quincey	087 6547433	deirdrequinsey@hotmail.com
Monday	1.05 - 2.05	Creative Keyboards	Jnr/Snr Infants	Classroom	Nov - Dec	Krishna Phillips	087 2022505	krisha.mcphillips@gmail.com
Monday	2.05 - 3.05	Creative Keyboards	1st - 4th Class	Classroom	Nov - Dec	Krishna Phillips	087 2022505	krisha.mcphillips@gmail.com
Tuesday	1.05 - 2.05	Angels Gymnastics	Jnr/Snr Infants	Hall	Start Date to be confirmed	Piri	089 2039210	kereszttes.piros@gmail.com
Tuesday	2.05 - 3.05	Angels Gymnastics	1st - 6th Class	Hall	Start Date to be confirmed	Piri	089 2039210	kereszttes.piros@gmail.com
Tuesday	1.05 - 2.05	Mini Tennis	Jnr/Snr Infants	Pitch	start Date to be confirmed	Alan Russell	087 2225298	alanrussell3@gmail.com
Tuesday	2.05 - 3.05	Mini Tennis	1st - 6th Class	Pitch	start Date to be confirmed	Alan Russell	087 2225298	alanrussell3@gmail.com
Tuesday	1.05 - 2.05	Yoga	Jnr/Snr Infants	Classroom	Start Date to be confirmed	Jo Quinn	086 1759349	jo@joga.yoga
Tuesday	2.05 - 3.05	Yoga	1st - 6th Class	Classroom	Start Date to be confirmed	Jo Quinn	086 1759349	jo@joga.yoga
Wednesday	1.05 - 2.05	Basketball	Jnr/Snr Infants	Hall/Pitch	Oct - Dec	Carl deChenu	086 3259254	carl@playball.ie
Wednesday	2.05 - 3.05	Basketball	1st - 6th Class	Hall/Pitch	Oct - Dec	Carl deChenu	086 3259254	carl@playball.ie
Wednesday	2.05 - 3.05	Arts & Crafts	1st - 6th Class	Classroom	Nov - Dec	Genevive Harden	TBC	TBC
Wednesday	4.00 - 5.00	Hockey	1st - 4th Class	Temple Carrig	Oct - Dec	Stephen Stewart	083 4237805	stephenstewart@templecarrigsschool.ie
Wednesday	4.00 - 5.30	Hockey	5th - 6th Class	Temple Carrig	Oct - Dec	Stephen Stewart	083 4237805	stephenstewart@templecarrigsschool.ie
Wednesday	1.05 - 2.05	French beginners	Jnr/Snr Infants	Classroom	Nov - Dec	Sinead McKeever	086 8640322	sinead@littellingua.com
Wednesday	1.05 - 2.05	French beginners	1st - 6th Class	Classroom	Nov - Dec	Sinead McKeever	086 8640322	sinead@littellingua.com
Thursday	1.05 - 2.05	Science	Jnr/Snr Infants	Classroom	Nov - Dec	Christine Campbell	087 6749608	anyoneforscience@gmail.com
Thursday	2.05 - 3.05	Science	1st - 6th Class	Classroom	Nov - Dec	Christine Campbell	087 6749608	anyoneforscience@gmail.com
Thursday	1.05 - 2.05	Jnr Hockey	Jnr/Snr Infants	Pitch	Oct - Dec	Carl deChenu	086 3259254	carl@playball.ie
Thursday	2.05 - 3.05	Cricknet	3rd - 6th Class	Pitch	Oct - Dec	Jim Stewart	086 3835758	mjstewart@gmail.com
Thursday	1.05 - 2.05	Performing Arts	Jnr/Snr Infants	Portacabin	Nov - Dec	Kat Lyons	086 1604132	katlyonsdance@gmail.com
Thursday	2.05 - 3.05	Performing Arts	1st & 2nd Class	Portacabin	Nov - Dec	Kat Lyons	086 160 4132	katlyonsdance@gmail.com
Thursday	2.05 - 4.05	Performing Arts	3rd - 6th Class	Hall	Nov - Dec	Kat Lyons	086 160 4132	katlyonsdance@gmail.com
Friday	1.05 - 2.05	Playball	Jnr/Snr Infants	Hall/pitch	Oct - Dec	Carl deChenu	086 3259254	carl@playball.ie
Friday	2.05 - 3.05	Playball	1st - 6th Class	Hall/Pitch	Oct - Dec	Carl deChenu	086 325 9254	carl@playball.ie



School will close for the October
Midterm Break on Friday 22nd October
and re-open on Monday 1st November

