

Scéalta 2

News & Information for St. Mochta's National School Community 5th September 2018

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 01-8210499.
- The new 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 their co-operation and patience with our new procedures. The children have adapted to the new routine already. 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. Please be mindful of how busy the Clonsilla Road can be at these times. All families should cross at the designated crossing areas under the guidance of our Traffic Wardens.

Health & Safety

- **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 8.30 in the morning. School personnel are available to supervise in the yards from 8.30 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 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	10.15am - 10.25am	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 6th 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 over 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 can 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.

The school would appreciate your co-operation with our drop-off and collection procedures for rainy days. In the interest of health and safety, we are operating a one-way traffic flow. **Due to the volume of traffic in the school on wet days, we request that parents refrain from staying with their child. We are asking parents to drop their child and exit the building immediately. Our school is fully supervised from 8.30am.**

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 and Senior Infants	Enter through Gate 1 proceed to the classrooms via the Pupil Entrance. Children will enter classrooms. Adults will exit via the PE Exit Door. Ms. McCarney's class will line up in the hall.	Enter through Pupil Entrance. Collect children from classroom door And exit through the corridor near the hall. Ms. McCarney's class will be outside Classroom 8 (new build).
1 st 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 PE External Door.	1 st & 2 nd Classes collected from the Hall. 3 rd to 6 th classes at a meeting point at the front of White School

Registration for the Sacraments

Children in 2nd Classes and 6th Classes will have 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 11th and Tuesday 12th September. If you have any queries, please contact the Pastoral Centre directly on 01-821-3218.

Hearing & Vision and MMR Vaccination Forms

Tomorrow, Junior Infants will be going 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 Monday 10th September 2018. Any queries should be directed to the HSE directly. You will be advised of the dates for testing and vaccinations in future newsletters.

Fundraising for our School

Towards the end of last year, a Fundraising Committee was established to help raise funds for our new school – a separate email will be sent tomorrow giving further details. One of the great ideas from this committee is to organise a '**Strictly Come Dancing**' event on Friday 16th November (keep this date free!). We are counting your support. Thanks to our organisers.

Appeal for dads who would like to participate, please contact us immediately – there is a shortage of males! Guaranteed fun and all for a good cause – providing play space for our children!

If you can help in any way, please contact the committee members by emailing: stmochtasfundraising@gmail.com

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 will be finalised by the end of this week and emailed 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 – photocopying, printing, computers and art & craft materials. We are fully dependent on the fee to provide the best possible education for your child.

Junior Infant Registration 2019

Information regarding applications for Junior Infants 2019 will be available in next week's newsletter.

Castleknock Community College

Castleknock Community College have advised that the closing date for applications to First Year 2019 is Friday 7th September 2018 at 4.00pm.