

Scéalta 17

News & Information for St. Mochta's National School Community 8th January 2020

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a very enjoyable time over the Christmas holidays and would like to wish all our families a very 'Happy New Year'.

St. Vincent de Paul Fundraiser

Huge thanks to everyone for supporting our fundraiser before Christmas. A total of €875.21 was raised and will be forwarded to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you.

Attendance at School

We wish to remind you that by law, St. Mochta's National School is not allowed to support any child being withdrawn from school for a family holiday. We would like you to consider this when booking holidays for 2020. We have to report the name of any child who misses 20 days or more during a school year to TUSLA. Twenty days or more is considered Low Attendance. Remember '**Every Day At School Counts**'!

In the meantime, children in the school have been suffering with various ailments including winter vomiting bug and colds. School plays a critical role in protecting the health of their students, staff and the community from contagious coughs, colds and tummy bugs. **Please do not send your child to school if he/she presents such illness.** On your child's return to school, please send in a note to your class teacher explaining the absence – this is sufficient for our Túsła Returns. There is no need to provide a letter from your doctor.

Following Túsła's '*Every Day Counts Campaign*', outlined below are the attendance statistics for the month of December for our school:

Total	Girls	Boys
92.1%	92.4%	91.8%

Garda Vetted Parents

From time to time, we need help from parents to ensure that we can organise activities outside of the school e.g. walking children to/from the church, school tours, etc. We invite parents to become Garda Vetted through the school. Please call into reception for the relevant forms. Garda Vetting can take up to 2 months to process.

Dates for your Diary

13 th January 2020	Confirmation Candidates - - 2 nd Parent Meeting at St. Mochta's Church at 7.30pm
15 th January 2020	The school photographer will be coming to visit the school on this day. Children should wear their full school uniform on this day. Please see attached leaflet from County Photos.
20 th January 2020	First Holy Communion Candidates – 2 nd Parent Meeting at St. Mochta's Church at 7.30pm

General Reminders

- Kindly note that school starts at 8.50am. The school facilitates early entry to the school grounds from 8.30am. Some days – particularly, if the weather is very wet or frosty - there may be a delay in opening the gates. This is to ensure that the school is safe for the arrival of all our girls and boys. On these rare occasions, gates may be opened later. When this happens, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to stay with their children until they are collected by a staff member and escorted to class.

- If your child arrives shortly after the start time of 8.50am, you must wait with your child in Reception. Once all classes have arrived safely to their class, we will have staff escort your child to class.
- A reminder that no photographs are to be taken on the school grounds without prior permission.
- The Staff Car Park is for staff only! All parents/guardians are welcome to use the drop-off area on the Porterstown Road. In the interest of health and safety, we ask parents/guardians to please use the pedestrian gates and not to walk through the entry/exit area for cars at the Staff Car Park. Thank you for your full co-operation.
- No smoking/vaping on any part of the school property.
- No animals allowed on any part of the school property.
- Should you need to collect your child for an appointment, please avoid yard times. Should you arrive during yard times, you will have to wait until children are back in the classroom. The morning yard time for all children is from 10.30am to 10.40am. Children from 3rd to 6th classes are on the yard from 12.00 noon to 12.30pm and children from Junior Infants to 2nd classes are on the yard from 12.35pm to 1.05pm.
- There appears to be an increase in the general area of children using bikes, scooters, etc. We ask parents/guardians to please explain the rules of the road to their children, please respect the guidance of our Traffic Wardens and be extra vigilant when crossing the roads.
- Kindly note that St. Mochta's National School is also a place of work and meetings continue after 2.30pm. We ask that once you've collected your child, please leave the school premises as soon as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.

After School Activities

- Homework Club will resume on 13th January on Mondays and Wednesdays in Ms. Fitzgerald's room. The last day of the term is Wednesday 12th February. For further details, please contact Ms. Hegarty or Ms. Fitzgerald by emailing stmochtashwc@gmail.com.
- Chess Club will resume on 13th January on Mondays and Thursdays in Mr. Kenny's room. The last day of the term is Thursday 13th February. For further details, please contact Mr. Brennan or Mr. Kenny by emailing chessclub1854@gmail.com.

Community News

- Tigers Afterschool have a number of places available. Should you need further information, please contact Amanda at 086-1704001.
- OH YES WE ARE!!!!: Our Parish Panto ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES will take place in the Parish Centre on Thurs. 23rd Jan, Friday 24th Jan, and Sat. 25th Jan. at 7.30pm. We will have two matinees, Sat. 25th Jan and Sunday, 26th at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from the Sacristy after any mass or from the Parish Office.
- Children's Soccer Academy for Boys & Girls age 4-7 years, resumes in New Year for Castleknock Celtic. Learn the football basics in fun/friendly environment and make friends. Saturday mornings at 10am beside Clubhouse in Porterstown Park. Information at www.castleknockceltic.com and 083-4111721
- **Free 'Couch to 5k Programme' starts Tuesday, 14th January 2020.** The Porterstown Panthers' hugely successful 'couch to 5K' training programme is back for 2020. Our running plan is for absolute beginners. We will help you work up to running 5k in six weeks. The plan involves 3 runs a week, with a day of rest between. Training takes place each Tuesday and Thursday evening at 7.10pm, meeting at The Carpenter pub car park. On Saturdays we head to Porterstown parkrun in Porterstown Park at 9.30am. Find out more on www.facebook.com/PorterstownPanthers
- Anyone 4 Science is delighted to announce our annual 1-day February Midterm camps on 20th 21st February 2020. Booking is now open at <https://anyone4science.com/feb-midterm-camps-2020>. Investigate the science of zoology, characterize animals, observe live creatures, explore camouflage, design and create your own insect, glide like a draco and much more...The camps are suitable for all primary school children.