



# Presentation P.S. Newsletter

September  
2017

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1

Dear parents, I hope you and your family had a great summer break and on behalf of the staff I would like to welcome everyone back for, what we hope, will be another great year. It has been a busy September so far but everything seems to be beginning to settle back. I would like to thank all those who supported our book scheme, it was really appreciated and any first year glitches will be ironed out for next year. Our students and staff are delighted with the new books bought by the Parents Council for the book rental scheme and our new school journals have turned out really well also. After a summer spent constructing our new outdoor facilities it was all made worthwhile when we see our pupils playing on the physical activity playground and running on our track. To our new infants and their families, you are all very welcome to our school community and to those returning, it is great to have you back! Slán

*Cathal Ruane*

## Attendance

As always, we are doing our very best to promote attendance in the school and challenge our pupils to come to school every day when they are fit and healthy. If your child is absent please fill the slip at the back of the new journal or write a note for infants, this is really important as 20 unaccounted days can cause problems with the NEWB (National Educational Welfare Board).

## Aistear & Guided Reading

We are delighted to have Aistear and guided reading initiatives started with our junior and senior infants respectively and they look to be very beneficial for our pupils. Thanks especially to our SET Team for all their hard work in getting them up and running!

## New Staff

**Over the summer we were very fortunate to employ some great new staff to the school. Ms. Cushen and Ms. Walsh have joined our junior infant team. Ms. Byrne is teaching in senior infants and Ms. O'Connor in 1<sup>st</sup> class. Mr. Maguire is in 4<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Booth in 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Donoher has joined our learning support team and finally Ms. Kelly and Ms. Molloy have joined our support staff. Already they have all made a great impression on our pupils and staff.**



## New Physical Activity Facilities

What can we say other than the new facilities are absolutely fantastic! It is a huge credit to our Board of Management for putting these facilities in place and also our local Portarlinton Credit Union for financing 50% of the 80k cost. We will have the final figure of how much was raised through the book scheme next week but it should be several thousand hopefully. Our sponsorship drive is going really well so please spread the word, to date our sponsors have been very kind so a huge thank you to St. Michael's AC, EMS Copiers, Portarlinton Credit Union, McCann's Coaches, Powell Recruitment, Brian Walsh Car Sales, Walsh Draughting Services, Margaret Walsh & Family, Eamonn Murphy Tyres, Chem Tec, Mochua Print and hopefully many more to come. We look forward to recognizing our sponsors at the official opening, local media and on the sponsorship board that will be installed.

**School Sports** It does not take long for school sports to get started here in the Presentation. We had teams from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> already participate in the Laois Cross Country finals on September 13<sup>th</sup> and our teams did fantastically well.

Our football teams are also back playing and we are lucky to have two girls' teams competing. Our Division 1 team have played two matches against Emo and Killeshin and won both games so hopefully they will continue their winning streak. Our second team beat Timahoe in their first game and played extremely well, their second game is on tomorrow against the The Rock and hopefully they will play another great game.

Thanks to all the teachers who volunteer their time for school sports.



**School Insurance** – We are collecting school insurance for students right up to the end of the month, the cost is €9 per child and this covers your child for accidents for the full calendar year. The full €9 is paid to Allianz.

**Parking** – Unfortunately this is a big issue here every year due to the size of our school. We ask that you please not park in the Dr. Whites across the road for emergency reasons. There are currently **FREE hi-viz waistcoats available** in Fiona's Office for those who could walk or cycle to school.

**Internet safety** – We are currently trying to have our pupils who use social media sites such as Snapchat to do so responsibly. Our students are all very young and venerable so we do ask parents to keep an eye on the child's phone or device.

**Payments** – We try our very best to keep costs for parents down but please for those who have not paid the €40 fee please do so as soon as possible as it is a life line to keep the school running. Your support as always is really appreciated.

Please find everything you want to know about our school on our website

[www.presprimary.ie](http://www.presprimary.ie)



Our great Parents Council have been active already this year by organising a coffee morning for the parents of our new junior infants which was held on Friday September 1<sup>st</sup>, the occasion was enjoyed by all.

The Council through their book rental scheme has provided the children with over €12,000 worth of new books this year to use which is amazing and I know the children and teachers are all delighted with them. It is great to be so well resourced.

The first meeting will take place on Tuesday Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8.00pm to plan another busy year!

## Choral Programme



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> classes will again this year take part in the Laois Music Generation Choral Programme as it went so well last year. We are again lucky to have Lorna McLoughlin teaching the girls weekly. All the teaching and practise will culminate in two concerts later in the year. The 3<sup>rd</sup> class choir will also perform for their school mates at assemblies during the year.