



PRESENTATION PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

September
2020

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Dear parents, it is hard to believe we are over five weeks back in school. I think we can all agree that September has been as safe a month as we could have hoped for in school and long may that continue. There has been a great team effort by everyone, pupils, staff and parents to follow the procedures and do the best we can, so thanks to all for that! The children all seem happy to be back which is the most important thing and hopefully you are seeing that from home. Today, as you may know, will be my last day in the school. I have had a fantastic few years here in Portarlinton, the people are what make this school special and I hope you child has benefited and enjoyed their school experience during me time here. I want to wish my colleague Mairéad Terry my best wishes as she starts her role as Principal on Monday, she will be a brilliant school leader and no doubt it will be a great year. Lastly thank you all for the support shown to me during my time here, I will look back with great fondness and pride on my years here. My best wishes to you and all your family, kind regards,

Cathal Ruane

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Digital Learning

This time four years ago we started a journey to improve digital learning within the school. This has been extremely successful, we have updated all wifi, installed interactive boards in all rooms and children regularly use iPads to enhance their learning in classrooms. Ms. Monaghan leads the IT development and this week we have purchased a further 15 iPads and a third trolley. Thanks to our Board of Management we will have three trollies and 80 iPads available to the teachers which is fantastic. 3rd and 4th class are using 'Spellings For Me' online individualised spelling programme this year. Last year Ms. Monaghan created our own app programme for all class levels so no doubt your child will update you during the year at some stage.

New Staff

Over the summer we were very fortunate to employ some great new staff to the school. Ms. McEvoy is in senior infants teaching the children in Room 5. Ms. O'Connor is in learning support with 2nd class and Ms. Phelan is currently in the Nano Nagle but soon to join the special education team in 3rd class. Already they have all made a great impression on our pupils and staff.



Curriculum Development

It has been a pleasure working with all the teachers in this school with the dedication shown to how we teach the children. We have implemented a large number of interventions such as Aistear, guided reading, Ready Set Maths, TSI and power hour. Last year Ms. O'Connell, Ms. Monaghan and Mr. Browne were out of class focusing on developing PE, IT, Gaelige and problem solving. This was a brilliant opportunity for the children and teachers alike to learn from their lessons and we all found it so beneficial. This year we are fortunate to have Ms. Killeen, Ms. Curtin, Ms. Byrne and Ms. O'Shea again working on this project. The ladies will be teaching lessons in PE, Music, Maths and STEM respectively. Your child will benefit from being involved in their lessons/programmes, as I am sure some have already heard. It is a fabulous opportunity which we hope will benefit your child.



The children got to watch mass live from Carlow with Bishop Denis Nulty to bless the start of the school year.

6th Class Girls

Over the last number of years we have had a tradition of honouring the 6th class girls on their final year in the school. This year will be no different! Our school Parents Council are again funding 75% of the cost of these fabulous tops for each of the 84 children. The girls picked from a range of colours and purple won by a huge vote! The tops should be with the children all going well before the Halloween break.



Parent Information

Online Assemblies – We have a great tradition of weekly assemblies here in the school and Covid has not stopped us!! Assemblies and Star of the Week now takes place via video each Friday.

Parking – Many thanks for not parking in the drop off areas in the morning as we need to keep a steady flows for cars. Again Dr. Whites carpark and Station Court residents have asked us to share with you to respect their private property and refrain from parking there.

Internet safety – We are again asking parents to be vigilant of their child's use of online apps whether is be on a laptop or phone. Unfortunately each year we have a number of online incidents where children are mean to one another.

Payments –A reminder to those who have not paid the start of year €50 contribution we would really appreciate it. We have less numbers this year again so every penny counts to give your child the best possible education and facilities.

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

www.presprimary.ie



Our Parents Council have kindly stayed on for this school year as it was not possible to have an AGM. Council will not be allowed to meet in school this year with the restrictions in place.

That has not stopped them planning and the plans are already underway for Christmas this year!

The Council, led by Nicola Donagher have always been an incredible support to me in school so my sincere thanks to all the volunteers over the last number of years.



ClassDojo

We hope as many parents as possible have downloaded the app and are using it to communicate with teachers. The app is an important feature for the school going forward as we need to be prepared for every eventuality. Any messages can be sent by you to teachers and you in turn will get updates from time to time from teachers on what is happening in school. We hope you find this helps!