

St Michael's Primary School Finnis

Newsletter September –October 2016



All the staff would like to welcome everyone back to school and wish all the boys and girls who are just starting their new school all the very best.

We would like to welcome into our Primary One class Annie Mc Kay, Ben Mc Kay, Cian Mc Kay, Cormac Mc Neill, Edward Carey- Mc Polin, Fiontan Mc Cann, Isabella Hirsch, Kaolan Mc Kay, Lily-Rose Benson, Malachy Mc Kay and Patrick Sloan. We would also like to welcome Adam Barostik to our Primary Five class. We hope you all have many happy days here at St Michael's.

It's great to see all the pupils turned out in their new uniforms, it gives a really good impression of the school for the children, parents, staff and any visitors to the school. We would ask parents to maintain this very high standard throughout the year as it does foster a sense of pride in our school.

The PE days for each of the classes are as follows:

Reception/Primary One- Mondays and Fridays
Primary Two/Three- Tuesdays and Fridays
Primary Four/Five- Wednesdays and Fridays
Primary Six/Seven- Wednesdays and Fridays

The PE uniform consists of the children's school jumper or cardigan, a white/grey polo shirt or a Dromara GAA jersey and dark tracksuit bottoms/ leggings. Again it is important for the image of the school that everyone maintains this uniform.

We are lucky again this year that we will have Ryan Mc Shane and Liam Hardy as our GAA coaches.

There will be many different after school activities during the year which will involve the children wearing sports clothes. If your child is taking part in an after school activity they must wear their school uniform during the day, they will be given an opportunity to change into their after school gear at the end of the school day.

The Early Bird Club is up and running and is available each morning from 8.30am at a charge of £1.00. This is a great service which is supervised by Marie that gives parents a bit of breathing space in the mornings and we would encourage people to make use of it.

We will be running the Mini-Club **everyday** this year so that parents can be sure that their children can be catered for between 1.50pm and 3.10pm. The Mini-Club will clash with other activities which will be happening throughout the year but we hope this gives parents options. We will review these arrangements at the end of the year.

The charge for the Mini-Club will remain at £1.50. Mini-Club commences Thursday 8th September.

On Mondays there will be a new children's fitness class, taken by Ursula Mc Kay, this will be for the Primary 1/2/3 classes between 2.00pm and 3.00pm and for the Primary 4/5/6/ classes between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. There is a charge of £1.50 per child and will start Monday 12th September.

The Literacy and Numeracy clubs will begin for the Primary Seven children Monday 5th September and will be on every Monday and Wednesday between 3.10pm and 4.00pm.

On Tuesdays the Irish Dancing will be on as per last year with the Primary 1/2/3 children on between 2.00pm and 3.00pm followed by the Primary 4/5/6 children between 3.10pm and 4.00pm. The classes will again be taken by Orla and will cost £2.50 per child. Lessons commence Tuesday 13th September.

On Thursdays there will be soccer coaching which will be for the Primary 1/2/3 children between 2.00pm and 3.00pm and for Primary 4/5/6/7 children between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. This coaching is run by EVO Soccer and there is a charge of £4.00 per child per week or £35.00 for a ten week block. Soccer commences Thursday 15th September.

Netball for the P4/5/6/7 girls will commence later in the term.

Swimming will start for P4/5/6 children this Friday 9th September at a charge of £4.00 per pupil.

Music lessons will continue on Mondays with a charge of £2.00 per child for those children in P5/6/7 who have already received instruments. If any other Primary 4/5/6/7 children would be interested in taking up the flute, clarinet or saxophone please let the school know.

The school has again purchased Mathletics and Reading Eggs for all the Primary 2/3/4/5/6/7 pupils. This is a great resource and we would encourage parents to use these programs at home with their children. The passwords from last year should still be valid but if anyone has a problem logging in just ask Mr Mc Caul for help. We will also be giving out weekly prizes for the 'Mathletics Magician' and 'Reading Eggs Roll of Honour' for each class at the assembly on Monday mornings.

We would like to remind parents about keeping the front entrance to school clear at drop off time in the mornings and pick up time in the afternoon. There are major health and safety issues when cars are parked out the front and the buses can't get parked properly. The chapel car park and Parish Hall car park are both free to use. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

This year the children will be lined up in the hall at home time and won't be allowed to leave the school until someone comes to the school door to collect them again we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

There is currently a part time supervisory post available in the school, more information is on the SELB website under non-teaching jobs, the closing date for applications is this Thursday 8th September.

All child protection policies are available in the school website, www.stmichaelspsfinnis.com or on request from the office.

Important Dates:

September 19th Staff Development Day, school closed for pupils.

October 31st Halloween, school closed.

Please find attached School Dinner menus for the year, x indicates today's dinner and menu will continue from that point throughout the year.

Yours Faithfully

D Mc Caul
Principal