

St Michael's Primary School Finnis

Newsletter September –October 2017



All the staff at St Michael's 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 Ryan Wakefield, Lillie Burrows, Amy Brennan, Maisie Greeves, James McAteer, Mila Johnston, Declan Mc Kay, Ethan O'Hare, Kathleen Mc Kay, Phillip Mc Kenny, Alissa Milling and Lile Rois Rice. In Reception we have Ollie Foster and Shauna Mc Evoy. We would also like to welcome Joe Kearns 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- Wednesdays and Fridays
Primary Two/Three- Wednesdays and Fridays
Primary Four/Five- Thursdays and Fridays
Primary Six/Seven- Thursdays 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 until the end of October and Benny Coulter as our GAA coaches. Benny will be starting Thursday 14th September and Ryan on the 22nd September.

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.

The Mini-Club will be on every day so that parents can be sure that their P1/2/3 children can stay at school 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 Monday 4th September.

Unfortunately Ursula will not be able to take the fitness class this year but we are looking into other activities to fill the afterschool time on Mondays.

The Literacy and Numeracy clubs will begin for the Primary Seven children Monday 11th 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 12th September.

School Panto will be on Wednesday 6th December in Down Arts Centre, Downpatrick. Could parents notify Patricia if they are attending by next Monday.

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 14th 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 8th September at a charge of £4.00 per pupil.

Music lessons will be on Tuesdays this year 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 1/2/3/4/5/6/7 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.

Miss Stewart is now working full time in St Mary's PS Dechomet where we wish her the best of luck. This year Mr Bradley will be teaching Primary 6/7 on Wednesdays and Primary 4/5 on Thursdays and Fridays. Commencing week beginning 18th September.

All parents will be receiving copies of the School's Positive Behaviour Policy, we require that parents read the policy and sign the reply slip. This will hopefully mean that staff, parents and children are aware of the school's approach to behaviour. Parents will also be receiving a copy of the School's Child Protection Policy.

If parents would like to discuss anything with their class teacher or the principal about their child, we would ask that they make an appointment outside of class time as it is essential that all classes are being supervised at all times. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Patricia will be in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. The answer machine will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays and other members of staff will listen to messages left on the answer machine at lunch and break times.

Important Dates:

September 18th Staff Development Day, school closed for pupils.
October 30/ 31st and 1st November Halloween, school closed.

Please find attached School Dinner menus for the year. Thursday 7th September is marked in pink and the menu continues on from there for the rest of the year. School holiday list attached.

Milk money for September is £3.99

Yours Faithfully

D Mc Caul
Principal