

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

13th September 2018

A Chairde (Friends),

Another Busy week

Another great week here at GBMDS. This week in assembly we concentrated on saying thank you and how much this means. I said thank you to all the boys and girls in the Junior assembly for all their hard work. Junior Infants are settling very well and are really enjoying their new School. At Senior Assembly we looked at how we deal with the emotion of disappointment when it comes our way. We looked at the story of Derek Redmond and the 1992 Olympics and how he dealt with the huge disappointment of getting injured. This work ties in with the Moral and spiritual strand of our Ethical curriculum. Our ethical curriculum permeates everything we do here in the school.

It has been great meeting all the parents attending the orientation meetings in the different classes. We've had four meetings this week. Check the calendar on the website for when the meeting is on in your class. We will send out the handout for anybody who can't attend.

Lost Property

There are three lost property boxes in the school this year. There is one for each yard, so we hope it will be easier for parents and children to find any lost items. Don't forget to label all clothing. It increases your chances of finding anything lost tenfold. The three yards and boxes are as follows:

- Infant Yard (at the back of the school)
- Senior Yard – 4th, 5th, 6th class (Basketball Courts)
- Junior Yard – 1st, 2nd, 3rd Class (Front of the Old Guard house).

I will try to bring the boxes out on Fridays every week so that the clothes don't build up.

We are currently looking for some spare clothes for the older classes in case a student gets wet on the way to school etc. If you have generic tracksuit bottoms, leggings etc could you contact your child's teacher. We would be really grateful.

A favour needed by Eddie

My mission which I have for this term is to learn most (all) of the names of every boy and girl in the school. I am well on the road, but I need some help! I would really appreciate it if you could go on your Aladdin school login and upload a picture of your child. The saying goes "it's great to put a face to a name" and it really helps when you have the two together. Junior Infant parents would be a great help especially. For one of the staff to do this would take about two weeks which would take away two weeks of learning from the children. This photo goes on the pupil's file and is not visible to anyone but the parent in question and the staff working with the child. Many thanks in advance for this.

Permissions form/Walking Home Alone

We have nearly all the permission forms. Any family who has not submitted theirs should please do so before the end of the week.

Voluntary Parental Contributions

Thank you to all those who have already made a payment for the Voluntary parental contribution. The money forms a vital part in paying for all our utilities, maintenance contracts and other day to day running expenses that are not covered by the grant we receive from the Department of Education and Skills. I sent an email explaining all the payments just before the start of the year and will send it again in the coming weeks for those who missed it.

After School Activities

We will send a separate email containing details of after school activities later today or tomorrow.

SEN Continuum of Support

The SEN team sent an email yesterday to all parents outlining our model of support for the coming year. Our programme is focused on supporting all the children in the school in a more targeted way

Don't Forget our new look website

Our website has lots of information about the school contained on it. We have no social media accounts attached to the school, so all our information comes from here and through our Aladdin app.

Notes the Parents Association

There will be a Parents Association meeting in the school next Wednesday at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Infant Yard Project

At the moment, we are working on a project to put artificial grass on the infant yard which will make it an excellent play space within the school. We will pay for this with some money already raised by the patron over the years and fundraise for a small shortfall. We also hope to get some planting done around the school. If you are interested in this and have green fingers I would love to get a sub-committee working on this – just get in touch.

Our Patron and Board

Our Patron and Board had their first meetings of the year this week. The Board of Management is working on ratifying our Health and Safety policy and our Data Protection and Records Retention Policy. Our Patron met on Thursday and are working on their plan for the year. We have four projects which we are working with the patron on. They are:

- Roof Terrace flooring
- Library
- Sensory Room
- Infant Yard Space

Volunteers on the Patron and Board give up their time for all of the school community and I would like to thank them for all their support.

Bíodh deireadh Seachtaine deas agaibh - Have a great weekend,

Beir Bua (Best Wishes),
Eddie