

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

20th September 2018

A Chairde (Friends),

Orientation Meetings

This week we have had a number of orientation meetings, particularly in the older classes. There has been a great turnout and we were delighted for parents to spend some time in the classrooms the children work in every day. Parent teacher meetings will take place in November for Senior Infants to Sixth Class and in early February for Junior Infants to give them a little more time to settle in. It has been great to welcome all our new students (there are 5) up the school in the classes other than Junior Infants. Many thanks to all the children and parents who have had a friendly word for them etc.

Critical Incidents Policy

This week I have been updating our Critical Incidents Policy. A critical incident is any incident or sequence of events which overwhelms the normal coping mechanisms of the school and disrupts the running of the school (NEPS, 2003). This is planning so that the caring and supportive ethos of the school can come to the fore even in the most trying of times.

Cora away on Course

Cora will be away for the next four weeks as part of postgraduate study in Special Education that she is undertaking at DCU. This will be of great benefit to the school. Simon O'Moore Donohoe will cover for Cora while she is away. Best of luck Cora.

Apologies from Eddie

Last week I asked you to upload a photo of your child onto their Aladdin profile. We already have all of Junior Infants uploaded. When I tried to do it for an older class I was unable to. Apologies if you were grappling with this during the week. I will get a quick "how to" sheet together and mail it out.

Permissions form/Walking Home Alone

Final reminder about permission forms. We will upload the information provided in the next few weeks.

Voluntary Parental Contributions

As promised we will send a link to the voluntary parental contribution next week.

After School Activities

I want to say a heartfelt thanks to Anna and Margaret for all their work on the ASA's. They started talking, trialling and planning this new system when I arrived last December and it simply would not have happened without their hard work and that of other PA colleagues. The PA held their inaugural meeting of the year last night and I am really excited about working together with them in the year ahead.

They have asked me to thank everybody who submitted forms to the new ASA forum. Places have now been allocated - where activities were oversubscribed places were allocated by random selection online and overseen at the Parents Council meeting last evening. Notification and requests for payment will issue over the coming days.

Power Hour and Team Teaching

1st, 2nd and 3rd classes are involved in team teaching at the moment. We have mixed up the two first classes and the children are really enjoying spending time with their friends in the other class. Team teaching involves the class teacher being joined by another teacher(s) in the class to focus on specific objectives over a set period - usually four to six weeks.

5th & 6th Class Basketball Blitz

Well done to all the 5th and 6th class boys who represented us so well at the Basketball Blitz at Drimnagh Castle. Many thanks to Ben, Paddy and Jen (Parents) who accompanied the group.

Reminder from the Parents Association

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

Educate Together News

South City ETNS have settled in well and we love having them here. **Educate Together will apply for twelve new primary schools to open in 2019!**

These schools will open in

- [Boosterstown/Blackrock](#)
- [Donaghmede/Howth/Dublin 13](#)
- [Dublin 6/Clonskeagh/Dublin 6W](#)
- [Dunshaughlin](#)
- [Glasheen/Cork City/Pouladuff](#)
- [Goatstown/Stillorgan/Dun Laoghaire Rathdown](#)
- [Kilcoole/Newtownmountkennedy](#)
- [Killester/Raheny/Clontarf](#)
- [Leixlip](#)
- [Maynooth](#)
- [Swords - North and South](#)

We expect that the Department of Education and Skills will soon open a process during which families in each area will 'vote' for the patron they want to run their new school.

Students of the Week

<http://griffithbarracks.ie/News/Students-of-the-Week/3786/Index.html>

Well done to all our Students of the week.

Assembly

This week in Assembly we spoke about worries. At the Junior Assembly we read the story "A huge bag of worries" by Virginia Ironside. It is a great book to read if your child is worried about one or a number of things. At Senior Assembly we discussed the whole notion of equality and how being fair has to be the cornerstone of achieving real equality.



Second Class working on different landmarks around the city...





First Class Autobiographies in Anne Marie's Class are really interesting and give us a great insight into the lives of all the boys and girls in the class.



Wonderful 5th Class Art



Sixth Class have been working on South Africa.

Culture Night

Culture night takes place this Friday. When you look at the top ten activities for children and young adults for culture night so many of them are on our doorstep here in Dublin 8.

<https://www.dublincity.ie/10-culture-night-activities-for-kids/>

Bíodh deireadh seachtaine deas agaibh (Have a lovely weekend),

Beir Bua (Best wishes),

Eddie