

# GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

12<sup>th</sup> September 2019

A Chairde (Friends),

It has been lovely meeting all the parents at our orientation meetings and we have been bowled over by the attendance so far. The children have been working on all manner of interesting things in the classroom this week and it has been great to see the children and parents embody our ethos of "Learning to live together".

This Friday we celebrate Friendship Day. Every child will meet a new friend in the school. We will buddy up

Rang 6 Aisling – Junior Infants Cathal

Rang 5 Sabina – Junior Infants Cian

Rang 4 Eoin – Senior Infants Ruth

Rang 3 Derek – Senior Infants Clare

Rang 1 and Rang 2 will do their own getting to know you mixer with their classes. It is a great way for classes who don't normally see each other to get to know each other and especially for our infant classes to get to know their older friends across the school.

## Orientation Meetings

Morning Orientation meetings will continue over the next couple of weeks. Each meeting takes place at 8.50am on the dates below. These meetings take approximately 15 – 20 minutes and it is a chance for the teacher to talk parents through the programme for the year, see your child's classroom and make sure everybody is on the same page from the start of the year. We will send handouts to any parent who can't attend so don't worry if life gets in the way - it happens to us all.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September - R2 Jenny**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September – R2 Anita**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September – R3 Derek**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September – R4 Eoin**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September – R5 Sabina**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – R6 Aisling**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – JI Cathal**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – JI Cian**

## Board of Management Report

This week, the Board of Management met for the first meeting of the year. The board looked at the following:

1. We looked at the budget for the year. Our budgeting really illustrates how much we depend on money raised through our voluntary contribution and fundraising. Less than half our budget comes from funds from the Department of Education and Skills.
2. The Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed, and a copy sent to the Parents Association and our Patron body. The statement of review was published this week. A copy can be found on the website, along with a copy of the Notification of Review at <https://griffithbarracks.ie/News/Notification-of-BOM-Review-of-Child-Safeguarding-Statement/3863/Index.html>
3. We reviewed our Health and Safety Statement.
4. The Board is conducting its annual review of the school's enrolment policy. As we no longer use waiting lists, we already comply with new enrolment legislation which precludes schools from keeping waiting lists outside the year proceeding enrolment.

The Board will disband, and a new Board will be formed in December. The Board of Management is the management body for the school. It is made up of the following representatives:

- Two members representative of the patron body. One of these members acts as chairperson.
- The principal and a member representative of the teaching staff
- Two members representative of the parents. This comprises of a male and a female parent.
- Two members representative of the wider community where the school is situated.

If any parent has any questions or is interested in being part of the new Board, you can contact:

- Eddie at [eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie) – Principal
- Aaron Tay, Patron Chairperson at [patron@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:patron@griffithbarracks.ie)
- James Parkin, Parent's Association Chairperson at [pa@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:pa@griffithbarracks.ie)

### *Parent's Association*

The Parent's Association (PA) kicked off their year on Tuesday night. It was lovely to see some new members. Congratulations to Junior Infant and second class parent Ann Marie Dunne who is the new PA secretary. The PA will meet next month to elect parents to the new Board of Management.

### *Internet Safety Day – save the date*

We will have an **internet safety day on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October**. There will be workshops for children, a session for staff after school and then a parent information evening. For more information on the company leading the sessions check out <https://zeeko.ie/>.

### *Permissions on Aladdin*

Please make sure you've filled out your permissions through the Aladdin App.

### *Permission for Choir*

Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class were sent a Permission Form for choir via the Aladdin "Permissions" section, along with a separate email on Aladdin. If your child wishes to take part in Choir this year, please discuss with them what the commitment entails.

### *Payments to the School*

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.

Unlike other payments made to the school, if you make a voluntary contribution, the payment notification will stay on your Aladdin desktop. This is because there is no set amount due, although we do give a guideline figure.

The school can claim back tax relief for contributions of €250 or more.

### *A message from the Ethx group*

VOTING NOW OPEN

Parents can now #VoteEducateTogether for the new secondary school to open in 2020 on the former Harold's Cross Greyhound Stadium site.

Voting is open to anyone living in Dublin 6, 6W and Clonskeagh, with children starting second level in years 2020-2024.

If you do not qualify to vote, you can support the campaign by sharing with friends and family.

Read more here: <http://bit.ly/VoteETHaroldsCross>

# VOTING NOW OPEN

Families in Dublin 6, Dublin 6W and Clonskeagh can now

#VoteEducateTogether for a new secondary school opening 2020

[WWW.EDUCATETOGETHER.IE](http://WWW.EDUCATETOGETHER.IE)



### *Ready Set Go Maths Volunteers needed*

We are looking for some volunteers to help implement our **Ready, Set, Go maths programme** in the infant classes this year. The programme is a hands-on initiative which focuses on the use of concrete materials which enables us to make maths come alive for the children. We need adults who are free to help out for 40 minutes, one morning a week over the coming academic year.

These sessions will take place Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.50 – 9.30 with different groups and different volunteers. Huge thanks if you have volunteered in the past. It would be great if you could give us some time again, or indeed if you would like to sign up for the first time. Please contact Clare at [clare.dunne@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:clare.dunne@griffithbarracks.ie) and let her know what day you would be available to help. One volunteer last year called it her "favourite time of the week".

Please note that we have a policy of not placing parents in their children's classes. All new volunteers will need to be Garda vetted. This is something that is organised through the school.

**We are still short some volunteers so would be really grateful if more parents would step forward be part of what is a great initiative for the children.**

### *Students of the week*

Well done to all our students of the week.



## Chess at GBMDS

The children in second class started to learn to play chess today. They will have a ten week block and we hope that every second class will get to learn in the years ahead.

## Be an upstander

Fun Friends', 'Friends for Life' and 'My Friends Youth' are school-based anxiety prevention and resilience building programmes developed by Dr. Paula Barrett in Australia. The World Health Organisation cites 'Friends for Life' as the only evidence-based programme for anxiety in children that is effective at all levels of intervention (WHO, 2004). Friends

programmes helps students to develop resilience by teaching them effective strategies to cope with, problem solve and manage all kinds of emotional distress, including worry, stress, change and anxiety. Skills learned throughout the programme help students both now and in later life. The programme can be run by teachers as a whole class programme, or as a small group intervention. FRIENDS is an acronym for

the skills taught throughout the programme:

- Feelings.
- Remember to Relax. Have quiet time.
- I can do it! I can try (Inner helpful thoughts)
- Explore Solutions and Coping Step Plans.
- Now reward yourself! You've done your best!
- Don't forget to practice.
- Smile! Stay calm, Stay Strong and talk to your support networks!



help with this we are calling out for help. We require one parent to be at the school each day that the activities run to facilitate smooth running of activities. This would mean a 2 hour presence at the school from 1:30 -3:30 on days of activities. If any parent would like to help with this supervisor role, please contact the PA ASAP by emailing [gbmdsafterschool@gmail.com](mailto:gbmdsafterschool@gmail.com) or 086-8031885 (Margaret Cashman). There is a small payment for the role. Junior Infants will have a programme of after school activities in Term 2.

## Free Meditation Workshop for 8 – 15 Year Olds

A parent in the school has asked us to let you know about a free Anapana meditation workshop for 8 - 15 year olds that will take place from 9.30am to 4pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 at Rathmichael Parish National School, Shankill, Co. Dublin. It is a day of meditation, indoor and outdoor activities, making friends and vegetarian food. More info and videos here from UK website: <https://www.uk.dhamma.org/children-young-people/>

If you would like to see an example of the schedule of the 1 Day children's course please follow this link <https://www.ie.dhamma.org/file>

[admin/europe/ie/content/Childrens\\_Courses/One\\_Day\\_Course\\_Timetable.pdf](https://www.ie.dhamma.org/file/admin/europe/ie/content/Childrens_Courses/One_Day_Course_Timetable.pdf)

**N.B. applications for the upcoming course in Ireland are not made via this website, they need to be made by downloading and completing an application form via the link below and sending it to [childrenscourses@ie.dhamma.org](mailto:childrenscourses@ie.dhamma.org)**

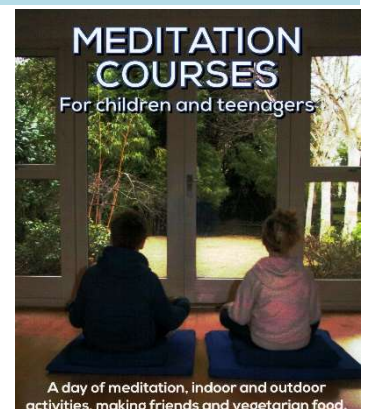
[https://www.ie.dhamma.org/file admin/europe/ie/content/Childrens\\_Courses/course\\_application\\_form.pdf](https://www.ie.dhamma.org/file/admin/europe/ie/content/Childrens_Courses/course_application_form.pdf)



## Notes from the Parents Association

### After School Activities

After School Activities at the school will resume on 23rd Sept and the Parents Association are looking forward to organising a small but fun group of activities for Senior Infants classes upwards. To



### St. John's Ambulance are Recruiting Cadets

St. John's Ambulance are holding an open evening at their offices at 29 Upper Leeson Street on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 7pm to 8pm to talk to potential new recruits between the ages of 11 and 17 years and their parents. Attached is a brief summary about the work they do if any children from 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Class are interested in getting involved.

### Short-term Childminder Needed

A Junior Infant parent is looking for a childminder for her 1 year old and her Junior Infant child for the months of October and November. If any parent is interested or knows anybody who might be, please contact us so we can pass on your information.

Beir Bua,

Eddie (Príomhoide)



Figure 1 Van Gogh inspired paintings in Senior Infants Ruth



Figure 3 Figure 2 WOW work is work to be proud of in Rang 1 Anne Marie



Figure 2 Figure 4 Art makes its way into all subjects



Figure 4 Whole body listening helps us to be great listeners





Figure 5 We draw up our class rules together at GBMDS

