

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

5th September 2019

A Chairde (Friends),

Welcome back to the new school year at GBMDS. There has been such a lovely atmosphere in the school this week and it was lovely to see old friends meet up in the yard (both students and parents). A big welcome to our new Junior Infant families. The new Junior Infants have made a great start to school life and I hope to have everyone's name learned in no time. I would also like to extend a big welcome to the children who have joined classes across the school. You are all very welcome and I know you and your families will all be great additions to the school. A warm welcome to Sabina Carthy who joins us as 5th class teacher. We are really lucky to have Sabina join our staff and wish her well in her new role in GBMDS. A warm welcome back to Derek who returns to the school as Third Class teacher after a period of parental leave last year. Ruth and Claire are also back in the school full time after job sharing last year. September is a time of renewal in school as we plan out the year before us. I am really excited to work with you all again this year. Our school is 25 years in existence this year and we can be really proud of the footprint we have made in our community. Our pride in what we have achieved only makes me excited about the next chapter in the story of Griffith Barracks Multi-Denominational School.

Junior Infant finish time

From next Monday, the Junior Infants will finish school at the later time of 1.30pm. Kids Club will be available to Junior Infant children from then.

Kids Club

Kids Club have asked us to let you know that they will be sending home Insurance Forms in the bags this week. Please complete and return the form to Kids Club directly. Forms should be in a sealed envelope with payment and your child/ren's name on the front and placed in the black letterbox outside Kids Club door. Please note that if you wish to use Kids Club at any stage during the year, they must be added to the insurance, which is being renewed now. All queries for Kids Club should be directed to them on 085-1355080 (Deirdre).

Orientation Meetings

Morning Orientation meetings will take place in all classes in the school in the next few 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. There was great attendance and feedback on these meetings last year. We will send handouts to any parent who can't attend.

Tuesday 10th September – SI Ruth

Wednesday 11th September – SI Claire

Thursday 12th September – RI Anne Marie

Friday 13th September - R2 Jenny

Monday 16th September – R2 Anita

Tuesday 17th September – R3 Derek

Wednesday 18th September – R4 Eoin

Thursday 19th September – R5 Sabina

Friday 20th September – R6 Aisling

Monday 23rd September – JI Cathal

Tuesday 24th September – JI Cian

Enrolment notice

The school is now taking enrolments for Junior Infants starting in September 2020. The closing date for enrolments is 31st December 2019 and the school then holds a lottery to allocate places early in January 2020. Siblings are allocated places before the lottery. The Enrolment Policy can be accessed on the school website and a notice will be placed at the entrance to the school in the coming days. The school is also accepting enrolments for older classes for the 2020/2021 academic year. Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions about enrolment.

Internet Safety Day – save the date

We will have an internet safety day on Wednesday 9th 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

A permission list is a new feature in Aladdin Connect that allows us to gather permission from parents. We can now set up a permission list for any item we need to get permission for e.g. school trips, swimming etc. Then the permission is released to parents for them to give or refuse permission. Many thanks to all the parents who have already engaged with this function. It is really good way of gathering information. Just contact the office if you are having trouble accessing the permissions functions and Rene and I will talk you through everything. Junior Infants have already given all their permissions already through their registration forms. Could all parents make sure they have either accepted or refused permissions on the App as this makes it clear for the school.

Swimming

6th Class and 4th Class commence swimming lessons in Templeogue College pool on Friday. It is really important that parents click the permission on the app as students without permission will not be able to go on Friday. Eoin and Aisling are looking for some parent volunteers. If you can help you can contact them at aisling.egan@griffithbarracks.ie and eoin.rochford@griffithbarracks.ie.

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.

Around the School

There are lots of exciting happening across the school. A flavour of which you can see below.

Learning in action in Senior Infants Ruth

<https://griffithbarracks.ie/News/Playtime-Fun-in-Senior-Infants-Ruth/5650/Index.html>



Figure 1 Meet Seamus our School mascot. He welcomes everybody in the school and can be seen in the entrance lobby. We hope to do a mural of Seamus later in the year.



Figure 2 Some eye-popping art from 6th Class

Our lovely Poetry wall continues to develop. All the pieces have a lovely personal connection to the school and we will have a section for the children to write their own poetry as well. Many thanks for 5th class parent and Muralist Fintan Kennedy for all his work on this. If you have time at drop off or collection have a read. It is a really uplifting experience.



We had lovely footprints installed during the summer for children to line up after break and in the mornings. Many thanks to parents for walking around the lines as it really make drop off much easier in the morning.



Library

Exciting news: the GBMDS library in the old Guardhouse building is progressing well. Our custom-built shelving was installed over the summer and we are beginning the cataloguing of our extensive collection this month.

Sensory Room

Many of you will remember our great eighties night before the summer holidays. Money raised that night is now being used to build our sensory room in the guardhouse in the room that many of us will remember as the secretary's office. We are so lucky to have 3rd class parent and designer Przemek Drusewicz to lead this project and many thanks to first class parent Paula Mongey for her input as well. We will have some photos in the next few weeks with a big reveal – watch this space! We are also hoping to raise funds for a sensory garden in the court yard beside the library in the guardhouse this year.

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 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 or 0868031885 (Margaret Cashman). There is a small payment for the role. Junior Infants will have a programme of after school activities in Term 2.

Parent Reps

It is possible on the school app for parents to give share their contact details with other parents in the class. This helps class reps to set up groups as we cannot share details with them without permission. We would also like to update our list of class reps and ask all class reps to make contact with the office. A big thank you to Rachael Fionda for all her work as secretary of the PA. Rachael and family have moved out of the area and to a new school. We will be looking for a new Secretary of the Parents Association this term.

PA Meeting

The first PA meeting of the new term is this coming **Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm**. All parents are welcome.

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 are good fun with simple activities that the children really enjoy. They help build a strong foundation in numeracy and give a great boost to their confidence, setting them up for future learning. Activities and resources will be organised by the teachers. and parents will be working in small groups with 7 or 8 children. We will have a short introductory session to show you some of the materials and talk about the aims of the programme before we start.

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 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.

Your help and support is really appreciated.

Safety

A reminder to please dismount your bicycle and or/scooter when entering the gate and to make sure that the children do also. If adults leave their bikes to the left of the yard it avoids accidents. Everybody has been so respectful and courteous in the yard and there is a lovely atmosphere at drop off and collection.

Bug Busting Head Lice Treatment Method

Just a reminder below of the HSE recommended treatment for head lice which doesn't involve the use of any medicated products.

The wet-combing method involves removing the head lice by systematically combing the hair using a special fine-toothed comb with a spacing of less than 0.3mm. Your pharmacist can advise you on which combs are suitable.

No medicated products are necessary for wet combing. This can be beneficial because head lice are becoming more resistant to the insecticides that are commonly used to remove them.

However, the success of the wet-combing method depends on adopting a painstaking approach that involves regular and thorough combing.

The wet-combing method is described below.

- Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo and apply ample conditioner (do not rinse it out), before using a wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse detection comb. Make sure that the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with the bevel-edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.
- Draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke and check the comb for lice.
- Remove lice by wiping or rinsing the comb.
- Work methodically through the hair section by section so that the whole head of hair is combed through.
- Rinse out the conditioner and repeat the combing procedure in the wet hair.
- **N.B. Repeat the procedure on day five, nine and 13 in order to clear the young lice as they hatch, before they have time to reach maturity.**

The time that it will take to comb your child's hair will depend on the type of hair that they have and its length. For example, short, straight hair can be quickly prepared and can be fine-toothed combed in a few minutes, whereas longer, curlier hair will take longer to comb.

Students of the week



Well done to all our students of the week.
Beir Bua,
Eddie (Príomhoide)