

September/October Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. It is good to be back! At this stage, the children and teachers are well used to hand sanitising, cough etiquette and pods. Long may we remain Covid free. The staff would like to thank all parents/guardians for observing our new rules and keeping us safe.

### **New pupils**

We welcome our new Junior Infants to The Old Borough: Ava, Connie, Daciana, Daniel, Eli, Kayla, Lauren CO'T and Lauren R, Megan, Sadie, Sam and Zoe. We hope you will enjoy your first year in primary school. We also welcome Darija to 4th class and wish her every success.

### **Covid 19**

As new information becomes available I upload it onto the Parents section of the website. There is a useful [reference guide](#) for parents distinguishing the differing symptoms between an ordinary cold and Covid. There is also some [information](#) setting out what will happen should a positive case arise.

### **GSuite**

The Board of Management has updated the **Acceptable Use of the Internet** and this is now available on the [website](#). Each family will shortly receive a paper copy of this policy along with a **pledge** to sign. The staff take internet safety very seriously and we see it as part of the curriculum to teach children how to manage the internet in a safe way.

The policy and pledge will be accompanied by information regarding **Google Classroom** and a **permission slip** to sign. This gives consent for each pupil to have a Gmail address to use for their learning. To protect your child from outside influences, this Gmail address can only be used by pupils to communicate within the Old Borough School ie their teachers and classmates when working collaboratively.

Like whiteboards, the move towards blended learning is the latest innovation in education which will greatly enhance education into the

future. The new spelling programme for 3rd-6th classes is an example of blended learning with a combination of both online and written work.

### **Events**

The teachers are very keen to have as normal a school year as is possible and safe to do so. We had a **skipping workshop** to start our year and a lovely visit from **Dogs Trust** to talk about caring for a dog. We posted a few photos of these events on our [website](#).

### **Harvest**

For this year each class will hold a celebration of Harvest during the week of the 19th October with Rev. Neal in attendance. Unfortunately we cannot invite parents this year.

### **Halloween**

**Trick or Treat for Temple Street** will go ahead this year with children dressing up in their Halloween costume on Friday 23rd October, the day before the Halloween mid-term break. A €2 donation per child/€3 per family would be appreciated. The teachers will collect this money on the day.

### **Lunches**

Our [Healthy Eating Policy](#), available on our website, is clear that only one treat is allowed on Fridays only. This treat should be of a small size eg a small bun or bar.

Due to a child with a severe allergy in the Infant Room lunches with nuts or nut products such as Nutella are not permitted.

### **Calendar**

The [calendar](#) for the school year, listing the school holidays, is now on the website.

### **Your Mental Health**

The Archbishop has informed me that there is a free, government-sponsored, counselling service for those experiencing bereavement, separation, loss, addiction or anxiety during the Covid Crisis. Further details can be had from <https://mymind.org/covid-19-project>

Anne-Marie

Woods

