

Dear Parents,

Our school year is well underway and it is great to see the children happy to be back among their friends.

Welcome

A warm welcome to our Junior Infants: Caleb, Charlotte, Forest, George, Hanvesh, Isaac, Iulia, Kate, Ludemis, Maksym, Mante, Oliver and Reis.

And a welcome to Catherine who joins us in 1st Class and Eidin who joins us in 4th Class. I hope you will be very happy at The Old Borough School, make lots of friends and learn plenty!

A warm welcome also to our new teacher Mr David Hall, and Ms Marie Therese Devins who is our part-time English Language teacher.

Ruth Chillingworth is our new Classroom Assistant replacing Teresa Kavanagh. We wish Ruth all the best.

Harvest

A celebration of Harvest will take place in St Columba's Church on Friday 13th October at 12:30. Parents, grandparents and the local community are most welcome to join the staff and pupils.

PTA

The Parent Teacher Association held their AGM in September. They organise lots of different activities for pupils and parents throughout the year.

PE Days

PE Days will usually be Mondays and Wednesdays but sometimes there is a need to change the day to accommodate coaches.

Seán from Fingallians Club is here on Thursdays coaching Gaelic football. Swords has two Gaelic clubs: [Fingallians](#) and [St Finians](#) in River Valley. More information can be found on their websites.

Nadine will be here after Halloween for hockey coaching for six sessions on Mondays. The local hockey club is located at ALSAA, beside Dublin Airport. Hockey coaching is on Friday evenings. For more information contact Ruth 087 9574240.

If any parent is involved in other sports please let me know. I can inform parents in my next Newsletter.

Covid Care

Covid has returned in earnest and we ask that you inform your child's teacher through Aladdin if he/she has Covid. This helps us inform those families with an elderly or vulnerable person in their household.

Substitute Teachers

The school is grateful for the availability of substitute teachers Carol Jackson, Fiona O'Hara and Noelle Timmons during teacher absences. Due to the cost and scarcity of suitable accommodation, there is a huge shortage of teachers in the system.

Technology

Due to the failure of the government to pay a grant to renew and replace technology schools are suffering to maintain equipment in good condition. We would be grateful if you would contact your local TD to emphasise how important computers, Chromebooks, and interactive flatscreens are in your child's learning.

Policies

Throughout the year, several policies are updated and posted on our [website](#). The following policies were recently reviewed:

- Child Safeguarding
- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Anti-cyberbullying Policy

School Calendar

The list of school closures for 2023-2024 is available to view on our [website](#)

Anne-Marie Woods
October 2023