

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: Andrew, Chloe, Dragos, Edwina, Ella, Filip, Freya, Hanvika, Ingrid, Isobel, Jack, Maya, Nika and Reese.

A warm welcome to Anastasiia, Kyrill, Mark, Margo, and Vlad who join us in Senior Infants, 2nd and 3rd classes. I hope you will be very happy at The Old Borough School, and make lots of friends!

Thank you for the welcome and support you have given Gillian, our new secretary. It has been a busy few weeks for her. We won't tell her about the rest of the year!

We welcome back Ms Gibbons from maternity leave.

### **PTA**

The Parent Teacher Association has held their Annual General Meeting.

### **PE Days**

From this week, PE Days will be Mondays and Thursdays. Aisling from St Finian's GAA Club, River Valley will be coaching all students for 30 minutes weekly.

### **Illness**

Should your child be absent from school, please inform their class teacher on Aladdin through the 'Attendance Section'.

If there is an outbreak of Covid in the household, please consult the [HSE website](#) for the latest information.

### **Substitute Teachers**

There are currently 600 teacher vacancies in the system. We are fortunate to have Ms Fiona O'Hara, Ms Carol Jackson and Ms Joy Smith who can cover occasional absences.

### **Chromebooks**

I remember when whiteboard replaced those dusty chalkboards many moons ago. Then

came interactive whiteboards which revolutionised teaching and learning. These were followed by interactive touch screen TVs which give a much sharper picture. Now we are introducing Chromebooks.

These are for use, initially by the senior pupils. These are mini-computers and can be used to access Google Classroom and the internet. They are linked to our school system so are very safe.

### **Yard**

Now that the yard is resurfaced, the next goal is to paint games on the yard. We will be doing so in thermoplastic to achieve longevity.

Now that all children are back together in the yard, we have re-instated the rule: play with your class, the class above and the class below. This ensures the children play with children of similar ages and promotes and maintains friendships. A chat at home about this rule would be appreciated.

### **School Calendar**

The list of school closures for 2022-2023 is available to view on our [website](#)

### **Upcoming Events**

Harvest Service Friday 7th October at 12.15pm: in St Columba's Church. Please come along. Grandparents and parishioners welcome.

Bag2School Thursday 13th October: bags of unwanted clothes can be left at the front door from Monday 10th.

School photographer Friday 14th October: If parents would like a photo to be taken of their child.

Trick or Treat for Temple Street: Friday 28th October in school. Children may wear their Halloween costumes to school that day. There will be some fun games organised by their teachers. A donation to Temple Street Children's Hospital can be paid through Way2Pay. More about this later.

Anne-Marie Woods  
October 2022