

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: Ben, Bryson, Doireann, Elliott, Ewan, Junior, Karen, Karl, Maksim, Sara and Zoe.

And a welcome to Una, Samuel and Kayla who join us in Senior Infants, 4th and 5th classes. I hope you will be very happy at The Old Borough School, make lots of friends and learn plenty!

A warm welcome too to Ms Teresa Duffy who will be our Special Education Teacher while Ms Gibbons is on maternity leave.

### **PTA**

The School has a lively Parent Teacher Association who hope to return to organising some extra activities. It is great to hear swimming lessons have resumed at ALSAA.

The PTA will hold its annual meeting today, **Tuesday 28th September, at 8.30 pm**. To join just click on this [link](#). This would be a good time to get to know the work done behind the scenes on behalf of all pupils.

### **PE Days**

From last 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.

### **Covid Care**

The HSE has updated the symptoms of Covid as follows:

- a temperature above 38\*;
- shortness of breath;
- loss of taste or smell;
- runny or blocked nose;
- nausea/vomiting/diarrhoea;
- a new cough;
- aches/pains/tiredness;
- and/or a sore throat.

If your child has any of these symptoms, keep them at home to see if they worsen and send an email directly to your child's teacher:

[amwoods@oldboroughschool.ie](mailto:amwoods@oldboroughschool.ie);  
[amcmahon@oldboroughschool.ie](mailto:amcmahon@oldboroughschool.ie)  
[jmoffett@oldboroughschool.ie](mailto:jmoffett@oldboroughschool.ie)

[mmccarthy@oldboroughschool.ie](mailto:mmccarthy@oldboroughschool.ie)

If you are in any way concerned about your child, please contact your GP. Teachers are not in a position to give medical advice.

In school we keep the children in groups or pods to reduce the spread of infection; each class has a separate space to play and the younger children play at a different time to the older pupils. Sanitisers are used each time a child or teacher enters the building and before eating. Carbon dioxide monitors have been installed in the senior classrooms to monitor air quality.

### **Substitute Teachers**

We have Ms Joy Smith, Ms Carol Jackson, Ms Laura McGarry and Ms Amy O'Sullivan on call in the event of teacher absences. There is a nationwide shortage of teachers so in the event none of the above are available, I will try to source a teacher on the national system. Otherwise, I will need to put Ms Duffy in the classroom. This is unfair on the pupils under her specific care but I have little choice at present.

### **After school care**

Thank you for completing the survey. There is sufficient demand for this service. The Board of Governors, the School's Landlords, will now be asked by the Board of Management to facilitate the provision of this service in the Hall. Then an application will be made to Tusla for recognition of the venue. All going well bookings will begin in November for a proposed February start.

### **New Computers**

Computers have been ordered to replace some old, slower models in the Computer Room. We have not date yet for delivery due to the shortage worldwide of computer chips.

### **Yard Resurfacing**

The Board of Management is still hopeful that the yard will be resurfaced before the end of 2021. You will be notified of any news.

### **School Calendar**

The list of school closures for 2021-2022 is available to view on our [website](#)

Anne-Marie Woods  
September 2021

