**Update 30th September 2022**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

It is hard to believe we are at the end of our first month of this academic year. It has been a very busy few weeks but thankfully now, everyone is settling into the rhythm of the school year.

**School Development Plan**

As a staff, we have looked closely at the outcomes of our work last year and we have identified areas that have gone very well and those that we want to develop this year throughout the school. A new School Development Plan has been produced, detailing the targets and associated actions to achieve our goals.

We would like the opportunity to share this information with you. To this end, there will be an information evening for parents, in school, just before our mid-term break. I will be in touch with details in due course.

We also hope to arrange workshops for parents, linked to areas within the School Development Plan, to help you help your child(ren) at home. More details will follow.

**Curriculum Overview**

Teachers have sent home today, a copy of their class’s curriculum overview for this term. Please check your child’s schoolbag. This gives you an outline of the topics and concepts that your child will be meeting between now and Christmas. A curriculum overview for term 2 and term 3 will be sent out at the beginning of each new term. It is also available to view on our website, under the Home Learning tab in your child’s class.

**Parent /Teacher Meetings**

Parent/Teacher meetings for pupils in Nursery and P.2 – P.7 will take place in the week beginning 14th November. Our school will close on Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th at 1pm to facilitate these meetings. There will be no after school clubs on these days but arrangements will be made for the children who get the bus home.

Parent/Teacher meetings for pupils in P.1 will take place in February. This will allow more time for your child to settle in and time for your child’s teacher to get an accurate picture of how they are managing their school day. Please be assured, if your child’s teacher needs to communicate with you before that, this will be done promptly.

**Uniform**

The working group of parents who volunteered to help with the change in uniform, met recently. Discussions have begun and we will be in touch soon with an update.

We already have a selection of lost items of uniform in our ‘Lost and Found’ room. These items are not labelled and so cannot be returned easily to their owners. Please clearly label your child’s uniform.

**First Holy Communion**

P.4 pupils will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 29th April 2023 at 11am in St Malachy’s Chapel, Carrickcruppen. Further communications will follow.

**Confirmation**

P.7 pupils will be confirmed on Wednesday 26th April at 3.30pm by Father Dunne, in St Malachy’s Chapel, Carrickcruppen, venue to be confirmed and further communications will follow.

**Opening School Mass**

We hope to have our first Mass of the school year on Friday 28th October at 9.30am in St Malachy’s Chapel. This will be for pupils and staff only (P.2 – P.7). The date will be confirmed with Father Dunne on his return from holiday.

**Child Protection**

Our Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Gráinne Doran. Mrs Karen Magee is our Deputy Designated Teacher and I, Mrs Pauline McEvoy, am a member of the Safeguarding Team. This updated information is communicated to our pupils throughout the school year.

**Healthy Break**

Please remember our school has a healthy break policy. Your child should bring fruit or vegetables along with milk or water for their break. We are also a nut free school so please check the foods you are sending in with your child. We have several children with severe allergies.

**Cashless System**

We are continuing to move forward with our target of becoming a cashless school. We are meeting with a company, SchoolMoney, in October and it is hoped that the system will be up and running sometime in term two. We will keep you informed.

Thank you once again for your continued support of our school. It is deeply appreciated by every one of us.

Le meas,

Pauline McEvoy

Principal