

Bishop O'Brien NS

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents

There are a number of items to bring to your attention

### **Retirement**

Caroline Lane has given notice of her retirement from Bishop O'Brien National School. Caroline will be greatly missed in the school community by staff, pupils and parents. Caroline began working in Bishop O'Brien National School in 1997. The majority of her teaching career in the school was spent in Special Education. Caroline always built a great rapport with the children she worked with and she was much loved by the children in the school. Her sense of humour, fun and wit made her a wonderful colleague to all the staff. The school is thankful to Caroline for her twenty three years of loyal service and we wish her health and happiness for her retirement.

### **Local History**

Local Historian, John Arnold, has been helping the school compile a number of resources for our local history curriculum. He has put together the most fantastic booklet for the children on local games and pastimes. This will be used in the school for many, many years to come. Thank you John, we are so lucky to have your vast knowledge at our disposal. Thank you for your time and dedication in preparing this resource for our school.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Please book your slot on Aladdin Connect as soon as possible. As the meetings are by phone this year, it is very important that we stick strictly to the allotted times, as not doing so may have knock on effects to scheduled appointments for other staff members and parents. If there are further discussions needed on anything urgent, this can be arranged at an alternative time.

### **Halloween Dress-up**

Many thanks to all who participated in the Halloween dress-up. 270 euro was raised for the Mercy Hospital. Well done to all.

### **Coats**

Please ensure your child wears a warm coat to school each day. We are trying to get out at break time as much as possible, so a coat and hat are essential, now that the weather has become much colder.

### **Parents' Association**

A huge Thank you to the Parents' Association who recently gave us money to purchase playground equipment for each class bubble. They have also given us money to add to our collection of novels and graded readers. This money is hugely appreciated as schools are very hard pressed to make ends meet with additional cleaning costs etc.

We would also like to Thank the Parent's Association and all the parents who supported the recent clothes collection. This was very well organised and we raised €660 in the process. We would hope to have another one in the New Year so watch this space and keep gathering your unwanted clothes.

### **Parent Survey on Covid Procedures**

A huge Thank you to all the parents who responded to our survey. This is a very useful way for us to identify and address your concerns. The following are some points arising out of the survey.

As a result of the survey we requested parents to wear masks at the school gate. It also came to our attention that some parents are unaware of the additional cleaning practices we have in place. Contract cleaners clean the school each day. All the children's desks are sanitised on a daily basis. The toilets, sinks and floors and touch points are thoroughly cleaned. Staff also clean touch points at regular intervals through the day. Children have wipes on their desks to sanitise their desks at certain times during the day. Some parents raised questions about staggered breaks. Our break times are not staggered as this would impact our teaching time. We are able to avoid staggered breaks because of our excellent yard space which we have divided into zones. The yard space is fully supervised and children remain, in their class bubble, inside their zone. We will repeat the survey at the end of November, however if you have any additional concerns before then, please email me at [principal@bartlemyns.ie](mailto:principal@bartlemyns.ie)

### **School Fees**

Reminder to parents to pay the school fee as soon as possible. This fee pays for art craft materials, photocopying, I.T. subscriptions for Seesaw and Dabbledoo music programme, contribution towards I.T. upkeep and investment and Pupil Personal accident insurance. Thanks to all the parents who have already paid.

### **Science Week and the Discovery Primary Science Award for 2020**

We recently received notification that the school achieved the Discovery Primary Science and Maths award for 2020. Thank you to Miss Savage who co-ordinated this project in the school and to all the staff who helped. Thank you to Nuala Barry who visited us for Science Week last year and who got a special mention in our feedback. The following were the comments we received

*It was a pleasure to assess your submission - the Log was clearly laid out with plenty of evidence of your STEM engagement and learning- all clearly and accurately labelled. What a pity you missed showcasing all this wonderful work but your photos indicate a high level of inter-peer sharing. Excellent that you realise how much you utilise maths across the curriculum. Weren't you lucky to have a secondary teacher who could give you access to resources? I'm sure in times to come I will see one at least of your learners joining the ranks of Edison, Ford, Jobs and Eiffel. Congratulations on all the work - you are worthy recipients of the Plaque. Maybe consider applying for Badge of Excellence next year.*

We will celebrate Science Week next week in the school.

### **Return to School Declaration.**

We are delighted to inform you that the **Return to School Declaration Form** can now be filled in via Aladdin Connect (App or browser). From today, should your son/daughter be marked absent from school, you will see that this form is available to fill out from the homepage via the "Attendance Notes" section.

Please complete this form anytime after 3pm on the day **before** your child is ready to return to school, or **before** they arrive to school on the day they are returning.

For more information please visit [https://www.aladdin.ie/connect\\_app\\_faqs.html](https://www.aladdin.ie/connect_app_faqs.html) and tap or click "Attendance Notes".

### **School Building**

Building works for our new classroom extension are making great progress. Roofing and plastering are now complete and windows and doors are fitted.

### **Healthy Lunches**

As you are aware, the school operates a Healthy Eating Policy in order to assist in enabling your child to develop good, healthy eating habits from a young age. Please continue to supply your child with a lunch free of crisps, sweets, bars and fizzy drinks. Try to include servings of fruit and vegetables. Milk and water are excellent choices for drinks. Yoghurt is another very healthy choice but try to avoid Frubes, especially with younger children, as they can be very messy. Nuts are not allowed due to the high incidence and severity of allergic reactions to them. Please ensure that your child can manage to open and close their lunch box and open any items in it. This is particularly important in present times.

Joanne O'Brien Kennelly