



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

St. Conleth's National School, Derrinturn.

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Welcome back to the 2023 – 2024 school year.

We welcome everyone back and extend a special welcome to our new pupils and staff. Everyone has settled back well and in true St. Conleth's National School style, all our newcomers have been made to feel part of our school community straight away.

One of our first priorities at school is to create a safe and stimulating learning environment, in which all have opportunities to fully develop skills and talents. We hope that you find St. Conleth's National School a friendly, happy and secure place, where your children feel that they belong and where they will be minded.

Now that the hustle & bustle of the first few weeks are over we issue our first newsletter of the year. We aim to give you a picture of school activities and the way in which the school operates. Our monthly newsletters will contain lots of information. We look forward to working in partnership with you now and in the future. We look forward to a fun-filled year ahead!

NEWS & highlights

- The HSE will visit the school over the coming weeks and months. There will be vision and hearing screening and the immunisation team will also visit in due course. Consent forms must be completed before these services engage with your children.
- Confirmation will be held on 22nd February 2024 at 11am. First Holy Communion is scheduled for Second Classes on May 17th at 11am.
- Parent Teacher Meetings will be held in November – Details will follow soon.
- World Mental Health Day is on October 10th. We will have a Kindness Day at school to celebrate.
- Sixth Class will hold a Bring and Buy on October 27th. All other classes will be dressing up in Halloween costumes on the day.
- The Peace Proms Choir will perform in Dublin early in February. Information about tickets will be issued to parents, but please book early to avoid disappointment.
- Pupil Personal Insurance forms will soon issue. The cost of insurance cover is €9 per child. This can be paid on Aladdin.

Parental Involvement



We encourage all parents to participate in the life of the school. Our Home School Community Liaison Teacher, Mrs. Brenda Byrne regularly organises home visits and in-school activities for parents. Already this year, the gardening group and the walking group have been taking advantage of the weather. We were delighted to see so many parents at our online safety talk with Ger Brick recently. We will soon host an information evening to introduce our new KiVa Anti-Bullying Programme.

We have a very active and dedicated Parents Association in our school. Meetings are held monthly. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend these meetings, whether you are a member of the committee or not. The Parents Association are responsible for an incredible amount of fund-raising at the school. We cannot thank them enough for their support over the years. Plans are already in place for this year's activities. Please support the Parents Association in any way you can.

We recommend involvement in school activities. You will meet like-minded people, people who care about our children and our school, people that live in the same area as you and whose children socialise and play with your children.

During the course of the year invitations to meetings will be sent to you all and Mrs. Byrne will inform all parents of upcoming chances to become involved in the life of our school. We look forward to meeting you regularly at school.



Attendance



As you are all aware, school attendance is very important for all children. Good attendance at school supports children to achieve their full potential. Our school has a fantastic attendance record. We hope that this trend continues. If your child is absent, you can enter the reason on the Aladdin Connect App.

In circumstances where a child has to leave school during the day the parent/guardian must report to the school office, where the date and time the child leaves the school will be noted. If the child returns during the day, we will also record the date and time of the child's return to school.

Children who are absent for more than 20 days at school must be reported to the Educational Welfare Office of Tusla and this is done periodically. The school is obliged by law to submit a School Absence Report.

However, if the school has serious concerns about a child's attendance at school, the school must make an individual referral, requesting school and family support. You may receive a text if your child has been absent for 15 days. This message is auto-generated by the Aladdin system to remind you of the 20 day limit. Do not be alarmed by this text. The system does not assess the reasons for absence that have been submitted by parents. Please ensure that you make the school aware of absences promptly so that the correct information is recorded.



Our Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Co-ordinator, Brenda Byrne, is a teacher who works in partnership with parents, teachers and local community organisations to support positive educational outcomes for children. This is Brenda's second year in the post and we congratulate her on a very successful year last year.

As HSCL Coordinator, Brenda also works closely with the other two strands of Tusla Educational Support Services, Educational Welfare Officers (EWO) and personnel from the School Completion Programme (SCP). As part of her work, the HSCL Coordinator regularly meets parents during home visits, at courses for parents in the school and at other school activities and events. Please feel free to contact Brenda on 089 416 4168 for advice, information or support.

Brenda has organised a Winter Coat Drive. Drop in any coats that have gone too small. If you need a coat for your child, feel free to come and pick up a coat free of charge. You don't need to bring one to take one.

Classes with Music Generation teacher, Luke have resumed in third and fourth classes. A nominal fee is charged for these lessons, but it is a wonderful opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument.

The gardening group have been busy with Brenda on Friday mornings. This is a lovely chance to contribute to school life and to chat with other parents that enjoy gardening. The walking group wander on Wednesdays. Everyone involved in these groups enjoys taking part. Please let Brenda know if you are interested. The more the merrier!

We launched the new KiVa Anti-Bullying Programme at Assembly and teachers from 1st to 6th Classes will soon be commencing lessons. We will invite parents to an information session very soon and we look forward to seeing you there.

We hope that you will find time to work with us throughout the school year. Our thanks to Brenda for ensuring that all these activities take place. She will be in touch regularly to invite you all to become involved.



Our Green Schools Committee have started meeting again. We hope to apply for another Green Schools Flag this year. Our theme is Global Citizenship – Marine. We want to raise awareness on how looking after our local environment, ocean and seas aids people all over the world. We will discuss the main sources of marine litter and raise awareness of the impact of litter on the oceans. Climate change also impacts the marine environment and we hope to learn about reducing our contribution to marine waste.

Walk to School Week is currently underway. (2nd to 6th October) National WOW Day (Walk on Wednesday is on October 4th). Please help your children to participate by walking with them or organising a park and stride. The children are very keen to be part of this initiative.

We compliment the children that cycle or scoot to school, but we advise that helmets be worn. The safety of the children is paramount at all times.

School Calendar 2023 - 2024



School will be **closed** as follows:

August: Friday 1st – School re-opens after the Summer Holidays.

October: Monday, 30th - Hallowe'en Break.

Tuesday, 31st – Hallowe'en Break.

November: Wednesday, 1st – Hallowe'en Break.

Thursday, 2nd – Hallowe'en Break.

Friday, 3rd – Hallowe'en Break.

Monday, 6th - School re-opens after Halloween Break

December: Friday, 22nd – Closing for Christmas Holidays.

January: Monday, 8th – School re-opens after Christmas Holidays.

February: Monday 5th – Bank Holiday

Thursday, 15th – Mid-term Break.

Friday, 16th – Mid-term Break.

March: Monday, 18th – St. Patrick's Weekend.

Friday, 22nd – Closing for Easter Holidays.

April: Monday, 8th – School re-opens after Easter Holidays.

May: Friday, 3rd – Bank Holiday Weekend.

Monday, 6th – Bank Holiday.

June: Monday, 3rd – Bank Holiday Weekend.

Tuesday, 25th – Closing for Summer Holidays.

*Have
a
great
year
ahead!*

THANK YOU



for your continued support!