

## **School Year 2017/18:**

We are now well into the final term of our school year. We had a beautiful confirmation ceremony on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the children from 6<sup>th</sup> class, we are all very proud of you! Thanks to everyone who helped to make this a very joyous and successful celebration. During this term we will be undertaking the Standardised Testing from 1<sup>st</sup> class to 6<sup>th</sup> class, usually mid-May. The school reports will be posted to parents before the end of June with book lists for next school year. The school tours all take place during the last 2 weeks of June and you will be given details and cost closer to the time. We hope to have our annual Sports Day on Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **First Communion:**

On Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> our 2<sup>nd</sup> class children will be receiving First Holy Communion at 11am Mass. We wish them well and hope the sun will shine. Children from Junior/Senior Infants as well as 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class make up the choir. The parents of 1<sup>st</sup> class help with the refreshments served in the school hall after the ceremony, as next year it will be the turn of their children. Sinéad 086-6048942 is co-ordinating this event, if anyone wishes to help out on the day.

### **Green Flag – Transport**

We have been awarded our 4<sup>th</sup> Green Flag for Transport. During this past year children are being made aware of the need to reduce use of cars etc and encourage walking, cycling, bus and car pooling. Congratulations to the co-ordinators and the green school committee.

### **Pupil Expenses**

There has been some discussion in the media recently about *voluntary contributions from parents*, to cover the running costs of schools. We would like to remind parents that Scoil Mháirtín does not ask parents for such a contribution. Parents of pupils in Scoil Mháirtín are only asked to pay for their child's expenses which cover a myriad of extras which benefit your child. For example:

- During this term, all children are in receipt of Athletics coaching. At the end of year Sports Day, the school hires in a lot of equipment, eg Bouncy Castle/Obstacle courses and extra sports staff.
- Last week a beekeeper with a "display hive" visited the school and 4 classes learned all about the fascinating life cycle of the honey bee.
- Next month some of the senior classes will participate in Engineering Workshops while during the first 2 terms, the children from the junior end of the school had dance classes with Derek and a term of "Keep Fit" classes.
- Parents from 4<sup>th</sup> class to 6<sup>th</sup> will have seen their children with a magazine called "Primary Planet", the cost of which is covered by the school.

- Other activities pupils from this school enjoy include: Pitch and Putt, spike ball, tin whistle classes, golf, Life Time Lab workshops and of course the purchase of various sports equipment as well as the entry fees to various sports competitions.
- This year, we invited a speaker, Mr Ger Brick, to talk to the senior classes on the safe use of the internet, while the Parents Association funded his talk to the parents.
- Your child's personal pupil insurance is paid out of this money as is the school journal and the texting service. All art and craft materials and photocopying are covered.

### **Parents Association:**

Scoil Mháirtín is very fortunate to have such a supportive Parents Association, who not alone run fundraisers but hold wonderful events throughout the year which our children enjoy. In the past the Parents Association have contributed to the running costs of the school by donating the cost of a fill of oil and they also subsidise the tour buses etc. The Parents Association are currently holding a draw for Ed Sheeran Tickets and would be grateful for your support. Monies currently being raised will be needed in the future to go towards the cost of developing the Astro Turf for the school and the development of the additional ground at the rear of the school. The Parents Association need the input of parents and your attendance at their meetings would be appreciated and will insure the continuation of their support of the school.

### **Collection and Drop off of children:**

Scoil Mháirtín opens each morning at 9.20am but to insure the orderly assembly of pupils, the gate is opened at 9.10am. Please note that children dropped off before this time are not supervised by the school and we would be grateful if parents did not send their children to school before 9.10am. Pupils should also be collected promptly at home time. Thanks must go to the volunteer traffic wardens from 5<sup>th</sup> class who are doing a marvellous job, sometimes in terrible weather conditions.

### **Absences:**

If your child is absent, please send in a note of explanation. All schools are obliged to inform the Education Welfare Board of absences of more than 20 days.

### **Change of address/phone:**

Please inform the school in writing of any changes to your contact details. It is very important that we are able to contact you in case of emergency.

### **Mid-Term Break:**

The school will be closed from Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (inclusive)

