**St Patrick’s Day Newsletter**

Our theme for the month is hope.

Calendar dates

Mothers Day 14 March. Wishing all the mammies a well-deserved rest on Sunday, after more months of juggling home-schooling, house, family and work duties. And not forgetting the grandmothers, stepmothers, aunties and godmothers….

Seachtain na Gaeilge: We are making an extra effort to keep our language alive by using cúpla focal in ordinary conversation gach lá. Prizes for the best Gaeilgeoiri in each class. Bígí linn!

Monday 15 March: Happy “Back to School” for all older brothers and sisters in Third to Sixth classes returning to school on Monday.

Tuesday 16 March Mini St Patrick’s Day. Parades. Marching. Music. Dance. Sadly we can’t invite parents this year but the teachers will send a video of the St Brigid’s Jerusalema flashmob through Class Dojo. Children can wear any WARM festive or party clothes. NO NEED to look for or buy anything.

Wednesday 17 March Public holiday. No school.

Thursday 18 March Fruit & veg goody bag for all children from Glanmore Foods (carrots, broccoli, satsumas, bananas)

Friday 26 March: Easter Egg Hunt. Children may dress up in spring colours. Half day for Easter holidays (no home learning).

Outdoor learning, fresh air and fun

All classes will spend time outside doing nature education, gardening, maths and science trails, PE and games. The children need to be dressed warmly for indoors and outdoors.

Communication

We have to keep our distance in the yard but parents can chat with teachers through Class Dojo. Teachers will check their Dojo every afternoon after the children have been collected. They won’t respond during the school day while they are teaching. Any urgent messages or calls about absence should be made to the office at 8348770.

Schools have to collect the “Parental Declaration Form” when children return after any absence. You can download from the website or collect one from a member of staff in the morning.

Please read the Acceptable Use Policy on our website which gives guidelines on safe and respectful use of social media by all members of the school community.

Remote teaching has now finished. We have left up all the teaching videos, stories, useful links and activities on the Class Dojo Story page. Parents may wish to refer back to these lessons if children have to stay at home due to illness or restricted movement. Senior Infant and First Class pupils have their virtual bookshelf of PM reading books to read any time.

If a whole class is advised by HSE to isolate due to a confirmed case, the remote teaching will start up again for that group. We hope we don’t have to go back there! Thanks for supporting us in our efforts to keep all our classes safe and open.

Please read the recent letter to parents from Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Ronan Glynn (on the website). Schools have been asked to remind parents NOT TO MINGLE on school grounds or gates and to reduce household mixing.

We are planning our Parent-Teacher meetings by phone call in April. Invitations will follow after Easter. We need up-to-date phone numbers for every child.

General Safety & Health Reminders

Children should go to the toilet last thing before leaving home.

Drop off and collection: Children stand on their markers (smileys or footprints).

Junior Infants 9.00 – 1.30. Parents wait until teacher collects class.

Senior Infants 9.10 – 1.40. Parents wait until teacher collects class.

First Class 9.05 – 1.45. Parents drop children to yard and may leave.

Early Start. 9.00- 11.20 Parents wait on the markers away from the door.

12.00-2.20

At hometime, children stay with teacher until handed over to adult.

Bikes and scooters must be wheeled on school grounds, to avoid accidents.

No dogs allowed on school grounds.

Thank you for keeping your distance from other family groups in the school grounds.

The first two weeks of reopening have gone well and we are hoping for a busy, fun-filled term for all the children.