



# St. Malachy's PS

## Newsletter

September 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

*We are ready to have a great year!*

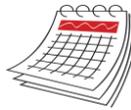


The staff and I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable Summer break and welcome all of our pupils and parents back to school for this our new term. We look forward to working with you to help your child grow and learn in a safe and happy environment. We value your support and will keep you up to date with all that happens within the school.

S. Burns

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

- 20<sup>th</sup> September P1 School Photographs
- 25<sup>th</sup> September P4 Mountsandel Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> September Teacher training day  
School closed



### SCHOOL WEBSITE

[www.stmalachysps.co.uk](http://www.stmalachysps.co.uk)

### SCHOOL TWITTER

@StMalsColeraine

### CHILD PROTECTION

As you know the safeguarding and protection of every child in our school is a huge priority. We have been reviewing our Child Protection Policy which we will be sending home with your child in the coming weeks. We would like to remind you of how you can raise a child protection concern about your child or another child in the school.

1. Talk to the **class teacher**
2. Talk to **Mr Mc Aleese** (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)
3. Talk to **Mrs Flynn** (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)
4. Talk to **Mrs Burns** (Principal & Chair of the safeguarding team)
5. Talk to **Mrs Mc Garry** (The chair of the Board of Governors)
6. Ring the Social Services **Gateway Team**  
**TEL: 03001234**
7. Ring the **PSNI: Tel 101**



## DINNER MONEY

Pupils from P3-P7 are encouraged to be responsible for their own dinner money and keep it in a wallet or purse. They pay the canteen themselves on a daily basis.

The class teachers in P1 and P2 will collect the dinner money from the pupils. To facilitate this, we would be grateful if parents could send the exact change in an envelope with the child's name and dinner choice marked clearly on the front. This may be done weekly or on a daily basis.

## THE SCHOOL DAY

School starts for pupils each day at 9.00am sharp. Teachers are in their rooms from 8.50am. From 8.30am we provide supervision in the assembly hall to enable parents to get to work on time.

Morning break: 10.45am-10.55am

Lunch: 12.10pm-12.55pm

Home time P1-P2: 1.55pm

Home time P3-P7: 3.00pm



## SHARED EDUCATION

This year we will continue our very successful Shared Education Projects with Millburn PS & Harpur's Hill PS. This year every class in the school will be involved. Each year group will work with pupils for the others schools on projects based on Play, ICT, Literacy, Numeracy, Science & Technology. More details of the projects will be provided in future newsletters.

## MANDARIN LESSONS

We are delighted that our Mandarin teacher, Joy will be returning next week to take each class for a 30-minute lesson each Tuesday. Last year many of the older pupils sat their Level One Certificate in mandarin and we look forward to hearing their results next week. Good luck everyone!

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## PARENT MEETINGS

Parent/Teacher meetings for this term will take place during the week beginning Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. School will close for all pupils at 1.00pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Class teachers will arrange interview times closer to the date and look forward to meeting you to discuss your child's progress so far this term.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you wish to meet with or speak with any member of our staff please let the teacher on duty know in the morning or afternoon, call to reception or phone to make an appointment.

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.”  
- Jane D. Hull

*“Preparing today's children for tomorrow's world”*

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

As a right's respecting school we value the opinions of our whole school community. The pupils have a voice to express their thoughts and ideas through our School Council and Eco-Council and to help make decisions that affect them in school.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September all classes from P3-P7 will be voting for their representative on the new school council.

Each child wishing to be considered for the council will give a short presentation to the class explaining why they would be a good representative for the class on the council. Please discuss this with your child if he /she wishes to be considered please help them to prepare.

Any pupil who has previously been on the council is exempt from consideration for election this year.

As each class is represented by only one boy and girl on the council we appreciate that this will lead to disappointment for those not elected. We would be very grateful for your assistance in helping those not elected to understand the process and be proud of the fact that they have put themselves forward for election. Standing in for of the class to speak about yourself is a tremendous success.

## **PUPIL ATTENDANCE**

Each year we set our school a target for pupil attendance and would greatly appreciate your support in helping us to achieve this. Please keep your child at school for the whole day as attendance is recorded for the afternoon session as well as the morning session.

Take all family holidays and/or visits home during school vacations. A copy of this year's holiday list is attached. Encourage your child to be at school unless they are very sick.

Inform us if your child is not attending school and fill in the necessary form on his/her return for our records.

School begins at 9.00am each day, late attendance will be recorded in the late attendance register. Please ensure that your child is in school for the 9.00am start *Thank you.*

## **PRIMARY 1**

A huge St. Malachy's welcome to our new P1 pupils and their parents. To mark this new start, the P1's will have their class photographs taken by the Chronicle and the Times in the coming weeks. These will then be displayed in both papers along with the P1 classes for other schools.

Tina Mullan will take school photographs of the P1 pupils on 20<sup>th</sup> September. All other pupils will have the opportunity to purchase a school photograph later in the school year.

## **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS**

Everyone is welcome to come along and join our Association. It is a great way to get involved and meet new friends.

Without the support of our wonderful Parents' Association we would be unable to purchase many of the much needed resources we use on a daily basis or run the fun events for the pupils. Please come along and get involved. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Last year the Association received funding form the 'Awards for All' Lottery scheme to develop a fixed outdoor play area for the pupils. This is currently being processed by the Education Authority for installation. We will keep you updated of the developments.

## HEALTHY BREAKS



As part of our healthy eating policy we encourage the boys and girls to make healthy choices in what they eat at break and lunch. Fruit, yogurts, crackers, cheese, carrot sticks etc are encouraged as healthier options than sweets or crisps. We would greatly appreciate your support in helping us to achieve our healthy eating targets. If your child is not having a healthy packed lunch the canteen offers healthy dinner options each day at a cost of £2.60, the choices for which can be seen on the menu your child received last week.

## SUSTRANS PROGRAMME

This year we will continue to team up with the country's leading sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, to encourage more journeys to school by foot or wheels. Active travel, such as cycling, walking and scooting to and from school, has a range of benefits including:

- improving health through physical activity
- promoting independence
- improving safety awareness
- benefiting the environment
- reducing the number of cars around the school gates, making our school safer for everyone

We will once again be working closely with Johnny McCrystal, our Sustrans Active Travel Officer, who will help us promote active travel throughout the year: We understand cycling or walking to school is not easy for every family, and there will be opportunities for all children to participate in some activities/the programme.

Parents can help by accompanying their children to and from school and ensuring children are wearing helmets and bright clothes to help them be seen by other road users. The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle, scoot or walk to and from school rests with the parents/carers. We look forward to seeing more children and parents/carers cycling, walking and scooting to school this year!

## ECO SCHOOL

Following the school's success in becoming a green Flag school in June we will continue to embed the ethos of the eco-school programme throughout the school. Our eco-council will once again lead the school in agreeing our targets for the coming year.

## LABELLING UNIFORM

Last year many items of uniform were lost by pupils and were never claimed as the pupils' names were not on the items. Please make sure that all of your child's belongings are clearly labelled with his/her name.

## DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

To maintain the safety of our pupils, when leaving or collecting your child/children from school please ensure that they are aware of your agreed collection point. If your child is being collected by someone other than those listed on the data collection form, please inform the school.

Please keep the bus area clear at 2.00pm and 3.00pm and keep the footpaths clear of cars as this has proven to be hazardous for pupils crossing the road.

The school car park is for staff parking only and should not be used for the drop off and collection of pupils as this makes our entrance and exit unsafe for pupils. Thank you.