

**St. Declan's National School**  
WATER STREET,  
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**Scoil Dhéagláin Naofa,**  
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Roll No.: 16976M  
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10.9.19

Dear Parents,

September has come around again and by now I'm sure you has all settled into the school routine. I'd like to welcome you all back and wish you all well for the year ahead. As usual I'd like to give a special welcome to all our new entrants, but in particular to our new Junior Infants who have started with us this year.

As we look forward to what we hope will be another successful year I'd like to bring the following to your attention:

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

One of our primary goals for last year was to improve levels of attendance and in particular punctuality in school. This will continue to be an important objective for the year ahead. I appeal to all parents to make a determined effort now at the beginning of the year to be on time each day. Punctuality is very important and I ask you to be conscious of the impact and disruption caused by being regularly late.

### **Absence Notes**

Traditionally if your son has been absent from school, a written note of explanation has been required on his return. However from today a new feature has been added to Aladdin Connect which will allow you to report the reason for all absences directly onto our school administration system. All absences must be recorded on Aladdin Connect. We hope that this will be a lot more convenient for everyone.

### **Rainbows**

The Rainbows Programme will be provided again this year for the boys from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class. Rainbows is a listening service for children who have experienced bereavement and/or separation in their lives. However, it is not a counselling or therapy programme. More information on the Rainbows Programme will be provided on a separate note. If you feel your son could benefit from the Rainbows Programme please return the Expression of Interest form in a sealed envelope if you wish your son to avail of this valuable service.

### **Parents' Association**

The Annual General Meeting of the St. Declan's Parents' Association will be held in the school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m. all parents are encouraged to attend. Part of the meeting will be to elect 2 nominees from the parent body to sit on the school Board of Management. If anyone would like to assist the Parents' Association during the year but is unable to attend the meeting, please leave your name and a contact number with Sharon and a member of the Committee will be in touch at a later stage.

### **Parking**

Considering the amount of schools in the locality, parking can be a challenge at the busier times of the day. Elderly residents have reported that access to their own homes and/or cars have been restricted due to cars which have been double parked or parked up on footpaths. With this in mind you are asked to be particular conscious of the needs our elderly neighbours and to park appropriately and safely at all times.

### **School Book Rental**

Our School Book Rental Scheme continues again this year and represents a considerable saving to all parents. For most classes the books include, English, Religion and S.E.S.E. Please note that these books are school property and if necessary, parents will be asked to replace any damaged books.

### **Religion**

St. Declan's is a Catholic School that welcomes children of all faiths. As a school we often attend Mass and other Catholic ceremonies during the year. Boys who are non-Catholic often attend these ceremonies but do not participate. It is assumed that all pupils will attend Mass unless we are otherwise informed. **If you wish your son not to attend the church under any circumstances for the coming year you are asked to inform your son's teacher by letter immediately.** If we do not hear from you we will take it that you are happy for your son to attend Catholic ceremonies along with the rest of his class.

### **Health & Safety**

1. A reminder that all access to the school is now through the main front door only where a sign in/sign out process is in operation.
2. Please inform your son's class teacher immediately of he needs to bring/use an inhaler during the school day. It is important that he fully understands how to use and care for the inhaler independently and that his teacher is aware that he has it in his bag.

Likewise, with all other forms of medication, it is vitally important that the class teacher is always made aware of any form of medication (prescription or non-prescription) which is brought to school.

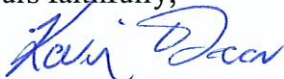
3. On very rare occasions sharp objects like broken glass, blades, pins, needles, nails etc. have been found on school property. Please reinforce the message all teachers have recently taught; that such items should never be touched and the school should be informed of the problem immediately.
4. Please note that access to the school through the school car park is **not** allowed.

### **School Calendar 2019/2020**

A copy of our school calendar for 2019/2020 is available on the school website.

Thank you for your on-going support that you give to the school and I look forward to meeting you all at the various school events again this year.

Yours faithfully,



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Mr. Kevin Doran.  
(Principal)