



St. Malachy's Primary School

Bunscoil Naomh Maeleachlainn

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3 September 2015

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year. The staff has been preparing for this new school year during the last week of August. We are looking forward to an exciting and successful 2015/16.

Feedback from the parental survey was discussed during our 3 days of preparation in late August. As a result of your honesty and in an attempt to implement suggested change, we looked at many issues but in particular those of a pastoral concern.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, agreed a discipline policy and procedures. Our current discipline policy is on the website. There will be a zero tolerance approach to matters of disrespect and ill-discipline. We have agreed a time-tabling for supervised detention, Mondays from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm. Parents will be informed by letter of a proposed detention. After three periods of detention, suspension will automatically ensue. At the discretion of the Principal, suspension may be necessary without any periods of detention. Positive behaviour will be rewarded as set out in our discipline policy.

The parental survey also raised the issue of matters of health and safety at both morning drop off and afternoon pick-up times. We would respectfully ask parents to drop their children off in the morning and not to congregate in the corridors as there are issues of health and safety with congestion. Similarly parents are asked to remain outside in the yard at home time and not to congregate in the corridors. Teachers will bring their classes to the front door for collection by a parent or guardian.

Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly marked with your child's name. As a consequence to deliberations on the parental survey, we would like parents to co-operate with our uniform policy. Full school uniform is to be worn at all times except on designated P.E. days. Your child will be notified of the P.E. timetable. We wish to reiterate that the school uniform policy will be enforced and we thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

The charge for school dinner has increased to £2.30 per day or £11.50 per week. Milk is £5 per month.

Fruit snack is £2.50 per week or 50p per day. We would appreciate a weekly payment for fruit. We would like to remind parents that we are a Healthy Eating School. Copies of our Food in Schools Policy along with our Healthy Break Policy are currently on the website and are available in school. Posters have been displayed prominently throughout the school. We would also ask parents to adhere to our policies and give particular attention to snacks and lunches.

Breakfast Club has commenced on Tuesday 1st September . The cost is £1 per day. In the interests of safety any child dropped off at school before 8.30 am must go to the Breakfast Club. After Schools Clubs also commenced on Tuesday 1st September. Cost is £3 from 2 pm – 3 pm and £5 for 2/3 pm – 5.30 pm.

Forms are available in school for application for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance. We would encourage those entitled to these benefits to apply as our funding is directly affected by percentages on FSM.

We have been privileged to have had the services of music tuition provided by the Education Authority, Southern Region. We have never charged families for this service and are one of the very few schools to have this luxury. Music tuition commences in P5. We would therefore urge families from P5 onwards to encourage children to persevere with this tuition. It is our hope to have a school orchestra but if children drop out from the fantastic tuition provided this cannot happen.

We will be finalizing our extra-curricular activities within the next week and a full list will be issued. Again, as a result of our survey, we will be targeting particularly the lower classes.

This year we have been able to twin P6 with a primary school in Bonn, Germany. This will involve a cultural exchange as well as German language classes. We are obviously excited at the prospect of this venture.

Thanks once more for your co-operation, honesty and support in all matters. We try to listen and improve continually.

Yours sincerely

PAUL DUGGAN
Principal