



# September Notes



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope your child has settled well and enjoyed the first week of school this year. As we begin a new School Year, we ask for God's Blessings on us all. May our School Community be a place; of faith, of hope, and of love. We welcome all our new pupils and staff and trust they will enjoy being part of the St. Dymphna's family.

## Theme of the Month

During September our chosen theme will be '**Responsibility**'. We will work with the children to encourage and develop their sense of responsibility for the people around them, their environment, for looking after their belongings and the property of the school. We will talk to the children about the importance of being responsible for their actions and words and taking responsibility for the decisions they make and the consequence of those decisions. We will discuss the responsibility to make good choices that have a positive impact on those around us and our environment. We will consider how we have a responsibility towards those around us and how we speak to them and treat them in our every day lives.

We ask parents to promote this theme at home during September and encourage children to take responsibility for their actions, words and belongings.

## Food Allergies and Healthy Breaks

If your child has a food allergy / intolerance of certain foods, please make sure and notify the school immediately so our records can be updated accordingly.

Please remember we are a **NUT FREE School**, as we have a number of pupils with severe allergies. Consequently, we can **no** longer facilitate pupils bringing in party food items or birthday cakes etc. to be shared out in school. We appreciate your understanding and support with this.

As a health promoting school, pupils are encouraged to bring fruit, yogurt or crackers for their break-time snack. All pupils should bring a refillable water bottle to school each day and will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day.

## Extended Curriculum

Next week will see the return of football coaching, Tin Whistle, Relax Kids and Irish. Different classes will be availing of the activities above. Please make sure all children



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have their PE gear in school on Monday and this will be returned on Friday for washing.

Please remember to ensure you have your child's name is on all items of School Uniform, Lunch boxes, water bottles etc, to ensure your child does not lose any items throughout the year.

Pupils in Y4-7 will need a Tin Whistle for Thursday. Pupils in Y4 will receive a Tin Whistle from the School, free of charge. Any pupil who requires a replacement Tin Whistle can purchase one from the school office at a cost of £5.

## Homework Arrangements

Homework for all classes will resume on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September. This will alternate each night between Literacy and Numeracy. Class teachers will communicate homework arrangements with pupils and the quantity and duration will vary from each year group. It is important all aspects of homework, including reading and spellings are completed daily.

Pupils in Y3 upwards can access our online maths programme Freckle and further details regarding pupil login details will be distributed by class teachers in the coming weeks.

It is vitally important all pupils read daily. Pupils from Y4 - Y7 should be aiming for at least 25minutes of reading each day. This will help develop reading fluency and understanding, improving pupil's ability to comprehend and consequently progress on our Accelerated Reading Programme.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding homework, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher at any stage.

## Breakfast Club & After-Schools

Breakfast Club is available for all pupils (Y1-Y7) from 8.15am – 8.45am. Pupils can bring in money and purchase toast / hot chocolate, should they wish to avail of it. Please note, if pupils are in school before 8.45am, they are required to go to the school hall to be supervised for health and safety reasons.

After-School club for Y1 & 2 pupils continues each day from 2-3pm at £2 per day or £8 per week (5 days). Please ensure payment is made each week. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



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Our extended Curriculum After-Schools (from 3-4pm) will resume in the coming weeks, further information relating to these will be issued shortly.

## General reminders

For health and safety reasons, we have a one-way system in operation in relation to home-time collections. Please make all childminders and family members collecting pupils, aware of the one-way system. This will ensure the safety for all our children and families.

The Education Authority have implemented an online financial system for money received in school. We are therefore required to lodge all takings at the end of the week. To help us with this, we ask that all dinner and after-school club monies are paid for, at the start or end of the current week. This will support us with ensuring the amounts of money received and lodged, are matched correctly each week. We ask you to use the envelopes provided by the school. If this is not possible due to circumstances, please contact the school and speak to Mrs Meenagh.

## Home-School Communication

Finally, we pride ourselves at St. Dymphna's as being a child-centred school. If you have any concerns, worries, or require clarification throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself at any time. Working in partnership between home and school ensures your child is safe and happy as they learn and grow in our school.

Please remember to keep in touch with life at St. Dymphna's PS through visiting our school website; <https://www.stdympnaspsdromore.com>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Orla Meenagh

PRINCIPAL