**School Newsletter October 8th 2021**

**Halloween Break**

School will close for half term for one week (25th – 29th October, reopening on Monday 1st November.

Children are allowed to dress up as usual on the last day of term ie Friday 22nd. This is voluntary and any child who does not want to dress up can have a non-uniform day.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent teacher meetings are currently being scheduled for the week of Monday 18th October, 2 – 5pm daily, however, in order to fit everyone in we may organize some for next week. Patricia will call parents to organize each slot.

Support Plans: any child who is getting any extra help either in class or from the Special Education Teachers (SETs) will have a Support Plan. If your child has a support plan the class teacher will discuss this with you. They will explain why there is a plan and what we intend to do.

There are different levels of support.

* Sometimes the class teacher has children on different levels of reading or maths for example or they might ask questions differently to help the child. This is called “differentiation” and it happens in every classroom because children have different levels of ability, understanding and maturity.
* Sometimes children get help from an SET (Mrs Boyle or Miss Brennan) either in the classroom or in the SET room. This might be in a group.
* Other children get help for several days a week on their own or in pairs depending on their needs.

In each case the class teacher draws up a support plan which will be discussed with the parent. Sometimes a support plan is needed for a short time and sometimes children have them for longer.

This year the Department of Education has is providing schools with extra support hours because of the effect of school closures on children’s learning. This means that we can bring in an extra teacher to help. The teacher is Miss Aine Treanor. We will be targeting literacy ie reading and spelling in particular and we will be focusing on children in the younger classes as we believe that they are the ones who have been affected most by school closures due to Covid.

**School Closure Thursday November 18th**

The school will be closed for staff training on Thursday November 18th. We will be having visits from our PDST advisors on the New Primary Language Curriculum and our Digital Schools Plan.

**Plans for new Classrooms**

Drawings of the proposed location of the two new classrooms and the temporary classroom can be seen below. The temporary classroom will be put in place while the design and build of the two new classrooms is underway. There will be a grant of 5000 for the classroom to fit it out with technology. Miss Keenan’s class will get the new temporary classroom and Mrs Boyle will then move into the vacant room which was previously the library.

**Creative Schools**

We have received funding of €5000 from the Department of Education for a Creative Schools project. Our facilitator will be visiting in the next week to help us develop our plan for this.

If any parents have creative skills and would like to be involved please contact us, skills in visual arts, crafts or gardening would be particularly useful.

**Opportunity for Gaeilge**

Muineachán le Gaeilge will restart their youth club **Óg-Ógras** soon.

The club will take place on Monday evenings and provides an opportunity for children in **4th, 5th and 6th class**to have fun in an all-Irish environment. If you’re interested in enrolling your child, please fill in the interest form below.

**Foirm Spéise / Interest Form:**

<https://forms.gle/ArEH8ijcpBaXRj6v7>