

ST AIDAN'S SENIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS

Newsletter

Gaelic Football Success.

Congratulations to our junior Boys GAA team. They went through the entire league winning every game. Well done to Mr Finn and Mr Mulligan. Mr Moloney's Senior boys lost their semi final but hope to go one better in the Peninsula Cup in Howth in the new year. The Girl's football team had a great season, losing narrowly in the semi final. They played brilliantly on the day and were very unlucky. Thanks to Ms. Leonard and Ms Hamilton.

Football

Mr. Rennick's senior soccer team has begun training every lunch time in preparation for the Tallaght league and cup competitions after Christmas. Mr Rennick has a very talented squad and is expecting big things this year. For the 1st time the school will be entering a girls team into Tallaght League, Ms Hamilton and Ms Leonard will begin training soon.

Hurling/Camogie

Mr. Moloney and Mr. Mc Suibhne, have begun training before and after school. The CNMB league will begin in February.

Basketball

Ms Somerville, Ms Commins and Ms O'Donovan have been training the basket ball team since September, new kits haven been ordered for their upcoming games in the new year. Unfortunately they lost by just 1 point in their final in the Basketball Arena. The children are excited to begin playing and training on our new basketball court.

COMMUNICATION

Contact between school and home has been made very accessible through our **School App**. One can receive notifications of school events, closings, get the latest news and Information from ST. AIDANS S.N.S directly to your Smartphone or Tablet. This can be downloaded from the web-site (www.staidanssns.ie) and the app store.

Items are passed on from time to time to the pupils through notes and their journal. Please check regularly with your child to ensure you have received all items. The failure of pupils to deliver letters can create unnecessary difficulties for their parents who are deprived of important and relevant information. It is a good idea to check the schoolbag on a daily basis.

It is essential that you keep your mobile phone number up to date so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency. We also use text messaging to pass on vital information so please, please let us know if you number has changed. You can ring ,send in a note or call to the office at any time to update your contact details.

SCHOOL BOOKS

It is vital that pupils have all their books for school at this stage of the year. If you have not paid for the books please do so immediately. Don't let you child get left behind. I would also request that you check every day to ensure that your child has the necessary pencils, pens, rulers etc coming to school.

Home School Community Liaison:

Our school parent association has been extremely busy organising events.

A parent “**potholes trip**” to Newry was organised for Christmas shopping. A great day was had by all. **Christmas crafts workshop** was held in the hall where beautiful Christmas centre pieces and wreaths were made. Parents also took part in a **Christmas cookery course**, organised the **Christmas quiz** and prizes for the Christmas assembly.

If any parent /guardian is interested in helping out or taking part in any future events, please contact Ms. Collins on 0863060410. Chairperson of parent association: Laura Cuerdale

Ms. Sheekey’s 4th class will take to the stage on Wednesday 19th December to present their musical nativity play, “A Midwife Crisis” – a nativity with a twist! 4th and 5th class members of Ms. Sheekey’s choir will also be taking part. The play will take place in the school hall and there will be two performances - one at 11:30am and one at 1:30pm. Parents/Guardians/Grandparents etc are invited to attend!

Yellow flag:

The annual 2018 Yellow Flag intercultural awards ceremony took place in November. Our diversity community members received our yellow flag in recognition of our schools hard work. The aim of the Yellow Flag programme is to learn about, respect and celebrate all languages, cultures, religions and people. We will continue to follow our diversity code daily

Student Council:

We set up our student council last year with the help of Ms O’Hanlon and Ms Dunleavy. We held elections and had representatives from 3rd to 6th class, some of the ways we have improved school life is by having better prizes for students in assembly and more games on yard.

Parent Teacher meetings:

Thank you to parent's who attended the parent teacher meetings on the 21.11.18/22.11.18.

I would also like to remind parents that if you feel your child is having problems in school or if you have a particular concern with his or her work please come and talk to us. Too often small problems become big problems because they are not dealt with quickly.

It is not possible to consult with Class Teachers without prior arrangement. (Interruptions mean less teaching time for all pupils and you cannot be sure of the teachers undivided attention).

Hurling Wall: Our hurling wall should be completed by January. It is a fantastic facility to have in our school, it is 25 meters wide and will be accompanied by a 3G synthetic surface. The children will be able to play hurling, hand ball and football.

Dublin Bus: We would like to extend our congratulations to our 6th class pupil, Ayse Guven, a Dublin Bus winner. At the Calendar Launch in The Hugh Lane gallery her picture was revealed on the side of the Dublin Community Bus, along with featuring in the 2019 calendar!

I would remind parents of the following school rules:

Please note hair must be of natural colour. Pupils may wear one ring and this must be small and flat.. The only other jewellery that may be worn is a stud earring in the ear lobe that should be no more than 4mm or a loop earring that you cannot fit your smallest finger through it. No large looped earrings ,dangly earrings or items of jewellery allowed that are ‘dangerous’ and risk causing themselves or others injury while playing .Wearing unsuitable jewellery will result in pupils being asked to remove it. The jewellery may be collected from the office by a parent or guardian. Long false nails of any description are also not allowed. Pupils should understand that the need for such request’s are purely on health and safety grounds and no offence is intended. Finally, make-up and high shoes/boots are not allowed to be worn in school.

Entrance Tests

Sixth class pupils will be taking their entrance tests for the various secondary schools in the area. There is a lot of pressure on the pupils at this time but they have been well prepared .

SCHOOL UNIFORM / TRACKSUIT

It is school policy that pupils should wear their school uniform / tracksuit everyday. I would be grateful if parents could ensure that pupils only come to school in a school uniform or school tracksuit. Parents of pupils not wearing uniforms will be contacted. Pupils wearing tracksuits must wear the school crested polo shirts underneath. At our recent assembly I was delighted to see every single pupil wearing the school uniform /tracksuit.

LOST PROPERTY

Please put a name or a mark on your child's uniform or tracksuit. Without an identifying mark it is impossible to say who owns them.

SPORT & RECREATION

In St Aidan's we actively encourage pupils to take part in all forms of sport & recreation. Teachers and SNA are very generous with their time during lunch time and before/after school.

The following are just some of the sport and recreational activities available at lunch time and after school at different times of the year and to differing age groups or class groups:

Gaelic Football- Boys	Hurling	Camogie
Gaelic Football—Girls	Soccer	Boxing
Dance	Chess	Athletics
Swimming	Choirs	Quiz teams
Gardening	Environmental group	Badminton
Knitting/reading	Tin Whistle	Yoga
Origami	Horse riding	

School Hours & Lollipop Lady

School commences at 8.50am and the gates open at 8.45am. School finishes at 2.30pm.

If your child is involved in after school activities you should be aware that in the morning our Lollipop Lady works 8.30am to 9.00am and after school from 2.25pm to 2.45pm.

SCHOOL CHOIRS

The Christmas Carol Service brought the spirit of Christmas to St Aidan's on Friday 14th of December.

I would like to thank everyone involved, Mr. Mac Suibhne, Ms Hamilton, Mr. Mulligan, Mr. McCarthy, Ms. McCague and Ms. Scullion who put a huge amount of work into the Carol service.

Peace Proms will be taking place in the RDS, February 2nd from 2pm. Rehearsals are well under way and feature songs from the charts and musicals.

Important Dates:

Christmas Holidays: closed at 12 :Friday 21.12.18

Reopens: Monday 7.1.19

Mid term break: Monday 18.2.19 & 22.2.19

Closed (St Patricks Day) Monday 18.3.19

Easter Holidays— 12.4.19 Closed at 12.

Reopens: Monday 29.4.19

Closed (May Bank Holiday): 6.5.19

School reopens 7.5.19

Confirmation Friday 31.5.19

Closed June: 4.6.19/5.6.19

Summer Holidays : 28.6.19 School closed at 12.

COATS

Parents, in this cold weather please ensure your child has a coat coming to school everyday. It is not acceptable that pupils come to school without a coat.

TRIPS & TOURS

Only pupils with excellent behaviour records will be brought on trips, tours or to school matches. All pupils have been made aware of this and I would ask you as parents to remind your children of this rule.

HEALTHY LUNCHES

I remind parents that it is school policy that pupils should eat a healthy lunch in school. When parents give sweets, crisps, or fizzy drinks to pupils it is very unfair on the majority of pupils who have a healthy lunch and it puts the staff in an awkward position. Every child in St Aidan's is supplied with an excellent lunch free of charge, therefore there is no need to send in extra items.

ACCIDENTS or ILLNESS

If your child should have an accident or illness in school and if we think it is serious we will contact you. As parents you will understand it is always difficult to decide whether to contact parents and to be sure how ill or sick a child really is. We will always do what is best for the child and err on the side of safety. Parents will be contacted regarding head injuries no matter how small. Please please make sure you let us know if you have changed your phone number

SECURITY & SAFETY ISSUES

Pupils are asked to assemble outside the school gates at 8.45am.

In order to maintain a good level of security within the school and in the interests of pupils' safety, we once again insist that all parents visiting the school report to the Secretary's Office. If you wish to take your child home early then he/she must be collected by an adult.

Children will not be allowed to walk home by themselves.

Appointments should be made to see the Principal.

Under no circumstances should parents approach a classroom without speaking to the school secretary.

It is not possible to consult with Class Teachers without prior arrangement. (Interruptions mean less teaching time for all pupils and you cannot be sure of the teachers undivided attention).

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please inform your child's teacher or the Principal, of any Medical Condition or Home Situation, that might impact on your child's welfare or education. All such information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The School Completion Programme is a funded programme by Tusla. SCP aims to have a positive impact on children's learning, social, emotional and academic ability. In St Aidan's SNS the SCP staff include Lee Anne Russell (Programme Coordinator), Fiona Dunleavy (Project Worker) and Debbie Hyland (Everyday Counts Programme & Homework Club leader). The School Completion Programme in St Aidan's SNS strives to help children to achieve the best possible outcomes along with the school staff to reinforce positive values such as self esteem, confidence building, social interactions through one to one supports, group work programmes, while working with families, school management, the Home School Liaison teacher, Support teacher and the Education Welfare Services.

Inside the school the SCP team provide a wide range of supports to children in the school. This can include morning, lunch and homework clubs. Small group work /one to one supports/ bereavement support and school holiday supports. If your child is identified as needing additional supports to ensure the best possible outcomes in education they may attend the school supports under the School Completion Programme for a period of time