

September 2018

St. Brendan's NS

The Square, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

eyrecourtns@eircom.net T: 090 9675362 www.eyrecourtns.ie



Dear Parent,

Welcome back to a new school year in St. Brendan's NS.

A special welcome to our new pupils and their families: Chloe, Luke, Cillian, Harry, Ryan Lynch, Ryan Kenny, Seán Gilligan and Seán Hoban.

If you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter printed out every month, please send a note into the secretary.

Yours sincerely,

Eilís Treacy

School Principal

National Principals Forum

As you are all well aware, I am a teaching principal. This means I teach and run the administrative duties of the school. While our school may be small, the same paperwork has to be completed as a large school. (If a school has more than 7 class teachers, the principal no longer teaches) I am expected to keep all my teaching notes, plans and classroom work to the same standard as the other teachers in the school and I am entitled to 17 office days in the school year. On this day a substitute teacher is paid by the Department to teach my class while I catch up on paperwork and overseeing the teaching and learning in the whole school.

The National Principals Forum came together last year with the main aim to campaign for one office day per week for teaching principals. For me this could mean I could have my office day on the same day every week, with the same substitute teacher. 5 local schools could come together to set up a full time job for one teacher. The class would have the same teacher every week and teaching would continue seamlessly.

I have sent home the information sheet with the pupils today and would be very grateful if you would sign and return the petition to the school. I will post all the petitions off together to the Minister of Education.

For now we are very grateful to have the school accounts in a healthy

Upcoming Events

See calendar on www.eyrecourtns.ie for full year of school holidays and important dates

Fri 21st Sept

School Mass 10:30am

Mon 1st Oct

Closed for Fair

Fri 26th Oct

Closed for Presidential Election

Money collections:

Music

€20 for all music lessons to Christmas

School books

Thank you to all parents for setting up your children so well for year. All pupils are now well equipped for their learning. Special word of thanks to Patricia for all her work coordinating deliveries and money collection.

Milk

€15 for term

Secretary:

Patricia is in the school office
Mon-Thurs 9am-11am

Some back to school pointers:

9.20am: School begins; children line up on yard and wait for their teacher.

Absence: Absences must be explained by a note from the back of the homework journal (infants-by a note in their homework folder). The school is under obligation to report to TUSLA any pupil who misses more than 20 days.

Behaviour: All children should behave appropriately at all times

Homework: Please check your child's homework each night

Hygiene: Please help your child to realise the importance of healthy habits

Uniform: Children are asked to wear the school uniform. School tracksuit is worn on PE day. On PE day children should wear runners/trainers that they can run and exercise in.

Labels: All your children's belongings should be labeled to avoid confusion. School jumpers in particular are easily confused. If you write their name on the label, refresh it from time to time as it does fade in the wash. Stitching their names on or buying the iron-on labels seem to be the most permanent solutions.

Lunches: The children benefit from the healthy lunch policy and we would like to see this observed by all (no crisps, sweets, bars, biscuits, chocolate spreads or fizzy drinks).

Packaging: Please keep packaging in lunches to a minimum for us to maintain our Green School status. This year we ask the children to take their rubbish back home with them. This is to encourage less packaging and also for parents to see how much lunch their child is actually eating.

Drinks Bottles: We were delighted to see so many lovely reusable bottles this September, they are much better than single use plastics. However there have been a lot of spills and wet bags. Make sure the bottles are properly sealed and your child can use them properly.

Money: All money being sent to the school should be placed in a sealed envelope with your child's name and the amount enclosed clearly written on the outside.

Milk

We have always had a milk delivery service, however no pupils availed of it for the past three years. Pupils can order milk for a full term (10 weeks) for **€15**. If you would like to avail of this service please send the €15 into the office with the child's name by **Thursday**. Milk delivery will begin next Monday 24th Sept until the week before the Christmas holidays.

Cash for Clobber

We have our annual Cash for Clobber collection on **Wednesday 21st November**. This year we are accepting donations straight away, we are storing them in the changing shed. If you send in any bags of unwanted clothes, one of the 6th class pupils will carry in the bags for you to the shed.

Credit Union

The school Credit Union resumes on Tuesday 25th. This is an opportunity for your child to learn to save. The account is in Ballinasloe Credit Union. Ask Patricia for further details.

Hurling/Camogie Training

Thanks to the support of Meelick/Eyrecourt GAA Club, Joan Poland will continue to train our teams.

Tuesday Lunch: Infants & 1st

Tuesday 3-4pm: All pupils who can stay, 2nd-6th

As we are a small school, every single pupil is an important member of our teams. Encourage your child to train, it's a great chance for them to participate and enjoy the sport before the real competitiveness takes over in later years.

Text-a-parent

A text is sent to one parent of each family for important notices, emergencies or when a newsletter is sent home/online. You should have received two texts at this point. If you haven't received any text yet please send a note to your class teacher with phone number, contact name and pupils name.