

September 2019

St. Brendan's NS

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Dear Parent,

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

A special welcome to our new pupils and their families: Ava, Emily, Mila, Noah, Shane and Tyler.

Note on Monday 23rd we will have School photos. Pupils will have individual, family and class photos. Any other combination e.g. cousins need to be accompanied by a note from parents specifically requesting this.

Yours sincerely,

Eilís Treacy

School Principal

Split the Pot

Unfortunately school funding continues to be an issue. Simply put, the Department of Education don't give the school enough money to keep the school running. Electricity, heating oil, cleaning, and school building insurance can barely be paid before we can consider teaching resources.

According to the latest OECD report the Irish Government's spend on pupils is the worst in Europe and primary pupils are funded worst of all.

To keep the bills paid and the school comfortable for our pupils we have come up with a new fundraising idea: Split the Pot.

From October, pupils can take envelopes from the office.

€2 per envelope with the name and phone number of the donator on it. On Thursdays the envelopes will be returned and counted. If 30 envelopes come back, that is €60. This is "split" with half (€30) going to the school and half (€30) to the raffle.

The empty envelopes are put into the pot and one selected to win the money. The raffle will take place each Thursday in front of all the children after 11am break.

We have just obtained a license from Loughrea district court to run the raffle for the year and envelopes will be available from Oct 1st.
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Upcoming Events

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

Fri 20th Sept

School Mass 10:30am

Mon 23rd Sept

School Photographs

Mon 30th Sept

Closed for Fair

Money collections:

Music

€20 for all music lessons to Christmas

(email office@eyrecourtns.ie for bank transfer details)

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.

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.

Cash for Clobber

Last year we turned our annual collection to a bi-annual collection to great success. With the two collections in November and June we made €1255. Last year's money was used to make the shortfall on buses for swimming and matches and we still have plenty left to purchase new PE equipment for the junior classes. We have our first collection this year on **Wednesday 20th November**. We are accepting donations straight away and storing them in the changing shed.

ALDI Tokens

Aldi are running a draw for schools with the possibility of winning up to €50,000. We did not participate last year as 300 tokens have to be collected and as a small school this seemed an impossible feat. However, pupils in the senior classroom reported that some of their families shop regularly in Aldi so we decided to try to enter. If you happen to shop in Aldi we will happily take any tokens you earn with your shop. Please do not feel any obligation to change your shopping habits; it's only if you already shop in Aldi.

Credit Union

The school Credit Union resumes on Tuesday 24th. 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 continues to train our teams on Wednesdays during school time.

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 four 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.