



OUR LADY'S GIRLS' NATIONAL SCHOOL BALLINTEER

Newsletter: 21st October 2015

Important Dates:

Friday, 23 rd October:	Halloween Dress Up. School closes for Mid-Term Break at normal closing times.
Monday, 2 nd November:	School re-opens. Stay Safe week begins.
Wednesday, 18 th November:	Parent/Teacher meetings.
Thursday, 19 th November:	Parent/Teacher meetings.
Wednesday, 16 th December:	Nativity Concert at 12 noon in Church (provisional date).
Monday, 21 st December:	End-of-Term Mass.
Tuesday, 22 nd December:	Christmas Jumper Day (Charity Fundraiser).

School closes for Christmas Holidays at 12.30p.m.

Gaelic Team:

Congratulations to our school Gaelic Team on reaching the semi- finals of the Dublin Schools League. While they were narrowly defeated, every girl played extremely well. They represented our school so well and we are all very proud of them.

Fence Painting:

Work has now commenced on painting the railings around the school. They will be painted blue to match the school doors. Many thanks to Fran Carroll from the Board of Management for sourcing paint for us at cost. It is a special one coat metal paint and so is quite expensive. Thanks also to the Parents Association for fundraising to assist with the costs.

New Website:

Our new school website is currently in development and we plan to launch it shortly. We hope that it will prove useful and informative to the whole school community. When the website goes live, we plan to publish school newsletters online. A text will be sent to parents each time a new Newsletter is posted. To this end, a 'Test Text' will be sent to all parents on Tuesday, 3rd November. Please notify the school if you do not receive this text. Parents who do not currently have internet access will be provided with a hard copy of the Newsletters.

Update Forms:

Any parents who have not yet returned their Pupil Update Form should please do so as soon as possible.

Dropping children to school:

Parents are reminded to please park their car when bringing pupils to school and then walk younger children into school. Pupils from Infants to 2nd class should always be handed over to a responsible adult or senior pupil. If arriving late to school, they should never be allowed to go to their classroom alone, as the class and teacher may not always be in their classroom.

Health & Safety:

Pupils cycling to school should always wear a helmet for health and safety reasons. We would remind them that cycling through the school yard is not permitted. We recommend that bicycles are

locked to the bicycle rack as the yard is open and the school cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage to bicycles.

Pupils and younger siblings are not permitted to climb on rocks or grass banks.

All pupils and siblings should always be supervised by a parent/guardian/minder when waiting on school grounds to collect pupils.

Super Troopers:

In order to promote health and fitness, our school have signed up to the 'Super Troopers' programme. All pupils have been given a 'Super Troopers' journal with age appropriate exercise homework for each night. There is also a family exercise wallchart and a letter of explanation for parents. We would encourage all pupils and their families to participate in this programme.

Healthy Lunches:

We would remind all pupils of our healthy lunch policy.

We recommend: sandwich/roll/wrap/crackers with a healthy filling or Pasta.

Fresh or dried fruit and/or veg/salad.

Water or juice/smoothie.

Yoghurt (not in Infant classes).

We do not recommend:

Crisps, chocolate, sweets, popcorn, fizzy drinks.

In line with our Green Schools Policy, we ask that lunches and drinks are packed in re-usable containers and that use of tinfoil is avoided.

Green Schools:

Having being awarded our 6th Green Flag last year, we are now working towards our 7th Flag. For this, we return to the theme of Litter and Waste, covered in our 1st Flag, but this time taking a global perspective. A new Green Schools Committee has just been established and will begin working on this theme.

Halloween Dress Up:

All pupils (except 6th) are invited to dress up as a favourite book character on Friday. They should have/bring sensible shoes and a coat/jacket to wear in the yard. The 6th class girls only may dress up on Thursday as they will have a school trip on Friday.

Rainbows Programme:

Any pupils who wish to participate in the Rainbows Programme after Halloween should request an application form from the school secretary.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal:

Once again, our school will participate in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The box and lid should be covered separately and secured with an elastic band. Money to cover transport costs should be placed inside. Filled boxes should be labelled boy or girl and age category specified. They should be left into the school by Friday, 6th November.

School Orchestra:

Our new school orchestra class will be open to pupils from 4th to 6th class, who have already attended violin classes for 3 years, with places allocated by audition. Auditions will be held on Monday, 2nd November during school hours. Pupils may use school violins or bring in their own. We hope to keep costs similar to those of our School Music Programme, depending on numbers in the class. Classes will take place on Tuesdays from 2.30p.m. – 3p.m. for 10 weeks beginning in January, in line with our existing Music Programme.

Table Tennis:

We expect to have a replacement Table Tennis Coach after the Halloween break and hope to resume Table Tennis sessions on Friday, 6th November for 5th and 6th class pupils.

First Communion and First Penance:

Congratulations to all our pupils who enrolled for First Holy Communion and First Penance on Sunday 11th October. Well done to the large number of pupils who supported them in the choir.

Golf Champion:

Congratulations to Miss Heffernan on becoming the All Ireland PGA Ladies Golf Champion. We are all very proud of her.

Halloween Safety:

We would like to wish all pupils and their families a Happy Halloween and remind all to stay safe, particularly around bonfires and fireworks.