

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back!

The B.O.M. and staff of St. Molua's N.S. would like to welcome all pupils and parents back to school for the 2017/2018 year. We would especially like to welcome our new Junior Infants Charlie, Dan, Darragh, Evan, Lincoln, Kyle, Leah, Lia, Sean, Yasmin and Yuri. We look forward to a very busy and enjoyable school year.

Reminder

School begins each morning at 9.20 a.m. Children will be supervised from 9.00 a.m. only. Please do not drop children to the school before 9.00 a.m. We appreciate your co-operation with this matter.

New Teacher

Everybody in the school would like to welcome Mr. Brendan Hayes to the teaching staff of the school. Mr. Hayes will be teaching 1st & 2nd class for the 2017/2018 school year. He is from Ballysteen and has a keen interest in all sports. Welcome Brendan and we hope you enjoy your time in St. Molua's N.S.

Art & Craft

A reminder that art & craft money of €20 is now due. Thank you to all the parents who have already contributed. The money is used to finance photocopying in the school as well as the purchase of art and craft supplies.

School Clothing

Please ensure that all clothes likely to be removed i.e. coats, hats, scarves, jumpers etc. are **clearly labelled** in bold writing with your child's name on it. If the names become faded during the year we ask you to replace these labels. As many children possess similar items of clothes this would reduce the loss of items. There are a number of items of clothes in the school at present. Please check if your child has lost any item. These will be donated to the clothes collection later in the year if not claimed.

Insurance

Allianz run a Personal Pupil Insurance Scheme for all pupils in primary schools in Ireland. A letter regarding this scheme was distributed to all parents last week. We would encourage all parents to sign their children up for this scheme.

Parent's Association

The Parent's Association will hold their A.G.M. at the end of September. The association is on the look out for new members and all interested parents should attend the A.G.M. The association are a great help to the school and their contribution is really appreciated. The school would like to acknowledge all its members from last year and look forward to welcoming them back for the new school year.

Traffic Management

The Board of Management would appreciate if parents dropping and collecting children to and from the school would move away from the school gates as soon as possible in the mornings and evenings. This is to facilitate other parents and members of staff who need to park outside the school in the mornings. If a parents needs to come into the school the Board asks that they park their car away from the school gate. The B.O.M. appreciates your co-operation in this regard.

Attendance

The school is in the process of drafting an attendance strategy. This strategy will be available before the mid-term break. The school will be rewarding pupils with excellent attendance at the end of each term and at the end of the school year.

The school is using the Aladdin school management system at present. This system automatically texts parents when your child misses 15 days. The school is obliged to report to TUSLA (Child & Family Agency) when a pupil misses 20 days in a school year. If you wish to discuss your child's attendance please make an appointment through the school office.

When your child does miss a school day please send a note to the class teacher when he/she returns. This note will be stored in your child's file. The school requires a short note. A phone call explaining an absence is not necessary.

School Calendar

Mid-term break

School closes Friday 27th of October @ 3 p.m.

School re-opens Monday 6th November @ 9.20 a.m.

Christmas Holidays

School closes 22nd December @ 12 p.m.

School re-opens 8th January @ 9.20 p.m.

Mid-Term Break Two

School closes 15th & 16th of February

Closed 19th of March

Easter Holidays

School closes 23rd March @ 12 p.m.

School re-opens 9th April @ 9.20 a.m.

School closed on Monday 7th May

School closed on Monday 4th June

Summer Holidays

Friday 22nd June @ 12 p.m.

Work over the Summer

A number of projects were completed over the summer in the school. Mr. Kelleher's 5th&6th classroom got a complete makeover with new blinds, painting and shelves. It is planned to decorate other classroom on a phased basis in the near future. The entrances and hallways in the prefabs were decorated during the summer as well as the staffroom. The prefabs were also painted. All this work makes a big difference to the school and we will continue to maintain the school over the coming months.

Guided Reading

Our Literacy Lift Off initiative will begin again with 1st/2nd class after the mid-term break. Our initial year last year was a great success and we will look forward to your support and co-operation with this initiative this year. The school purchased books to use in guided reading for 3rd- 6th class over the summer. These books will be used to support and improve pupils reading in these classes over the coming months.

School Website / Twitter

The school established the website before the summer holidays and it can be found at stmoluasns.ie. We will be updating our site regularly with new information, policies, and pictures of daily life in St.Molua's N.S.

The school also operates a Twitter account under the handle @st_ns and we regularly update this with pictures of the pupil's work and events at St. Molua's N.S.

School Events

The school will once again enter Discover Primary Science Awards this year. We have been fortunate enough to receive an award over the last two years due to our hard work in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths.

The school will also register with Limerick County Council in order to work towards a Green Flag. Green Flags are awarded to environmentally friendly schools. The first flag is based on litter management and we hope to be up and running with this initiative over the coming weeks.

Maths week will take place in October and the children will take part in many fun Maths activities such as trails, treasure hunts, and maths games.

Music lessons will begin again for pupils on Thursday 21st of September from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. The children will perform for parents in the lead up to Christmas at a date to be decided closer to the time.

Policies

The school staff are busy reviewing our Geography, Music, Critical Incident and Attendance policies at the minute. These policies will be available for viewing over the coming months.

Handwriting / Presentation of Work

All classes will be putting a big emphasis on handwriting and presentation of work over the coming weeks. Children from second class up will be expected to rule the page and title their work with a red pen. All classes will be practising their writing regularly during the week with a renewed focus on cursive (joined) writing.

Healthy Eating

Pupils are expected to bring healthy lunches to school at all times. A treat is allowed on a Friday. Crisps, chewing gum, and fizzy drinks are not allowed at any time. The school appreciates your co-operation with this policy.