

Welcome back after the mid-term break. I hope everyone feels well rested and refreshed. During the break, we received the very exciting news of the arrival of baby Bonnie! We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Horan and her husband Wesley, on the birth of their baby daughter.

I would like to convey our thanks to the Parents' Association for organising a wonderful barbecue and giving of their time on Friday 22nd. Following the barbecue, everyone was treated to a tasty Hallowe'en themed cupcake kindly provided by Ali Ammar (@alisbakeryireland). Look at the detail and creativity in the photo below; almost too good to eat but we managed it!



The array of 'animals' present on the school grounds on Friday 22nd was quite a spectacle! As well as dressing up, there were some fantastic dance moves to be seen on the playground during the day, all of which linked in with our Active Flag reapplication. Check out the website and Twitter for some photos. #FeelGoodFridays aims to support international research which proves that being physically active improves mental health, self-esteem and cognitive health. All particularly important during Covid-times.

#### **Enrolment**

We are currently enrolling children for September 2022, and if you know of any families looking for school placement, please let them know.

#### **School Uniform**

A sky-blue polo shirt and official school jumper/sweatshirt are compulsory for all children every day.

Black footwear must be worn (black runners are permitted). Navy school trousers, skirt or pinafore must be worn. Leggings and branded bottoms are not permitted. Navy tracksuit bottoms and runners must be worn on P.E days.

We need to keep the windows and doors open to keep air circulating in the classrooms during the day. Please ensure that your child wears plenty of layers under their school jumper and polo shirt and brings a coat to school every day. It should be waterproof and have a hood. Pupils must have coats, as it allows classes to enjoy a break outside on damp days.

#### **Absences**

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, please fill in the 'Absence Form' on the homepage of the school website (see the green box). The school is required by law to report unexplained absences, frequent absences or late arrivals to school to the Education Welfare Officer, who will investigate the report.

If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, please keep them at home and contact your GP for further advice.

#### **Before returning to school**

If your child has been absent from school, please ensure that you have completed the 'Return to school declaration form' before their return. You can access this on the homepage

of the school website (see green box). This form needs to be filled in every time your child is absent from school or if your child is sent home early from school if feeling unwell but is well enough to then return the following day.

### **Book Fair**

The book fair cases will arrive to our school this week. Each of the children will have an opportunity to view the books and create a short 'wish list' which they will take home with them. You can view, select and then pay for the books of your choice online using the following link

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.ie/pay/1181782>.

Select the following option: 'I am paying for books from a wish list.' Once complete, you will receive a reference number. Please make a note of this number on the form and return it to the school. Your child will then be given their books to take home and enjoy! As always, running the book fair is a great opportunity for our school to receive rewards in free books. Please support if you can. This is an excellent opportunity to shop for Christmas presents!

### **MS Readathon**

This year, in November, our school will participate in the MS Readathon. This is an opportunity to promote reading with your child and to raise funds to support vital services for people living with Multiple Sclerosis.

Each child needs to be registered online by a parent. Please see the details below. This is an initiative that will primarily happen at home. All the fundraising is done online, and this is entirely up to you and your child. On your child's fundraising page, they can log the names of the books they have read and if they wish, they can write a review. Have fun with it!

In school, we will be encouraging reading as we normally do, through D.E.A.R. time (drop everything and read), setting reading as part of homework and spending time reading as a whole class, in small groups and individually.

How to register:

- <https://www.msreadathon.ie/register/2020/child>
- School roll number 14726 C

### **Green Schools and our polytunnel**

The plan for November is to formally begin our compost journey. We are going to use pallets to build a two-bay composting silo at the back of our tunnel. We will put in layers of farmyard manure, cardboard, classroom compostable waste, grass clippings and seaweed. We know the worms are going to find this pile and start having a field day! Every few months, we will fork this mixture to allow air into it. If you happen to be at the beach over the next while, please collect some seaweed and bring it to school. We will also gladly accept vegetable peels.

### **BLAST: Arts in Education**

Over the mid-term, we received confirmation that our school has been awarded funding for a residency for this academic year. This scheme aims to give pupils in schools all over the country the opportunity to work with a professional artist on unique projects. We hope that this will be a project which Ms. Nixon's class will take part in during term two. Keep an eye on the website for updates.

### **Donations - Síológa**

Many thanks to those of you who have donated items to our new classroom, Síológa. All donations are very much appreciated. If you think you have something which may be a valuable addition, please send an email to the school for the attention of Ms Nestor.

### **After-school club**

We would hope to be in a position to resume our after-school club in the coming months, subject to ongoing restrictions and guidelines. The after-school club was previously available from 1:30 pm until about 5 pm. While we are actively researching this, we would like to decipher the interest among parents so we can make projections around numbers. Please email the office if this is something you would be interested in. A minimum number of children will be required in order to make the post viable.

### **Healthy lunch-box policy**

Children must bring a healthy lunch to school – no fizzy drinks, no sweets, and no crisps, please. Children should bring water to drink – no juice/smoothie cartons, please. A small treat is permitted on Fridays. We would appreciate

your cooperation with implementing all of the above in helping to maintain a healthy environment within the school.

### **Update from the Parents' Association**

We hope that both you and your children have settled in and are enjoying the new school term. To all the new parents who have recently joined St. Multose N.S. we want to extend a very warm welcome.

Our committee members and class reps are as follows:

Helen Kenny – Chairperson (4<sup>th</sup> class)  
Sharon O'Mahony – Secretary (6<sup>th</sup> class)  
Linda Gash – Treasurer (5<sup>th</sup> class)  
Alexa Du Plessis - Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> class)  
Mark Collins - Committee (1<sup>st</sup> class)  
Holly Tindal - Committee (Senior Infants)  
Jean-Matthieu Schaffhauser (Junior Infants)  
Síológa class - To be announced

We hold committee meetings every few weeks and if you have any suggestions/ideas that you would like us to table on your behalf, please contact your class rep (who recently set up WhatsApp groups per class). The school/class reps will be in touch shortly with the date/time for our Parent Association AGM which will be held via Zoom in November. I look forward to meeting you virtually then!

Thanks & Kind Regards,

Helen Kenny  
Chairperson of the PA

### **Dates for your diary:**

1st to 30th November - MS Readathon  
19th November - The school shall cease accepting applications for admission to the mainstream Junior Infant class for September 2022  
PA AGM November: details to follow  
22nd December - Christmas Holidays