



Newsletter

September 2020

Welcome

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a lovely summer break. A special welcome to our new families. We welcome Myles Tindal, Emma Nnamani and Sienna Sloley to Junior Infants, Rachael Foulds, Xander Arletos, Chinelotam Nnamani and Abel Hay to 1st Class and Arthur Hay and Harry Devlin to 5th Class. We wish you many happy years at St. Multose N.S.

As a staff, we are excited about the 2020-2021 school year. We have dearly missed the face-to-face interactions with our pupils, parents and colleagues. While we have quite a challenging year ahead with Covid-19, we know that we have the support of the whole school community. The Board of Management and the Parents' Association have been outstanding in their support during the past six months.

Our priority now is to keep our school doors open and to welcome our wonderful pupils back to school. We will continue to provide a safe, and secure learning environment for each child enrolled in St. Multose National School.

Le meas,
Jill Horan.

Some gentle reminders...

The school day begins at 8.50 a.m. Please ensure your children are in school on time every morning. Please make sure that you are familiar with the new drop off and collection system. Please note that we will not be responsible for children arriving before 8:50 a.m.

Please ensure all clothing and other possessions are clearly labelled with indelible ink. With Covid-19, we will be unable to go around to all the classrooms with lost property. If there is no label, it will be donated to charity.

News and upcoming events will be posted on the website and/or sent by email. Please check your emails regularly to keep up-to-date with school events.

Please make sure that you watch the PowerPoint video emailed last Monday. It contains important information for you and your child before returning to school.

There is reserved parking outside the school for our school buses. Please do not park in these spaces at any time.

Change of Address/ Emergency Numbers/ Email Addresses

If you have changed any of these or your standby contacts, we would ask that you let the school secretary know immediately. This information is necessary for the safety and care of your child during school hours.

School Uniform

A sky-blue polo shirt and official school sweatshirt are compulsory for all children every day. These can be ordered from the school office.

Navy trousers, skirt, pinafore or tracksuits must be worn. These can be sourced from Dunnes Stores, Penneys or Tesco. Leggings and branded bottoms are not permitted. Navy tracksuit bottoms and runners must be worn on P.E days.

Milk

If you would like to order milk for your child for the school term, please let Sue in the office know. You will be charged through our online billing system.

Homework Diaries

Your child will be given a homework diary on Monday. This will be charged to you on the school bill next week.

Book Rental Scheme

Our school runs a book rental scheme. Your child will have access to a wide range of curricular school books throughout the school year. This scheme saves our parents money. This will be charged to you on the school bill next week.

Some changes due to Covid-19

Tomorrow, your child will need to bring all their books to school in their schoolbag. They will leave everything in school, including their school bag and pencil case. Please make sure that your child has a second pencil case to use at home.

There will be no homework until Monday. On Mondays, homework will be assigned for the week. Initially, there will only be learning and reading homework. All homework books will stay at home for the week and be returned to school on Fridays.

Every other day, your child will only need to bring in their lunch, a drink and their raincoat to school. We recommend getting a draw-string bag to bring these items to and from school (see below). It can easily be washed in the washing machine.



Having the children in pods means that they cannot move freely around the classroom as they would have done previously. It is important that your child brings their coat to and from school daily as we plan to bring our classes outdoors more often for movement breaks, additional Physical Education and singing! Coat hooks will not be used. Coats will be hung on the backs of chairs.

Each classroom has a set of ensuite bathrooms, so only children receiving support will need to have access to the school corridor.

Water Fountain will not be operating

Due to Covid-19, the water fountain will be out of use. Please ensure that your child brings adequate fluids with them to school daily.

Books on Loan

A lot of school books and readers were loaned to families during the school closure. After doing a book count, there are a lot of books missing. If you have any school books at home, please return them as soon as possible.

School packed lunch

Children must bring a healthy lunch to school – no fizzy drinks, no sweets, and no crisps please. We are a Plastic Free School so we expect re-usable lunch boxes and drink bottles. No plastic straws. Children should bring water to drink – no juice/smoothie cartons please. Milk is available to order daily through the school. Peanuts and products containing peanuts are completely banned in our school due to a peanut allergy.

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

Asthma

If your child has asthma and is prone to being wheezy, please let us know. As coughing is a symptom for Covid-19, it is going to be difficult to navigate this as we are not medical professionals. Having your support in this matter is important to us. Please seek further advice from your GP and ensure that your child's prescription is up-to-date.

Absences

Please contact the office in the morning if your child is unwell and unable to attend school. All absences require a dated and signed note explaining the exact reason for the absence. The school is required by law to report unexplained absences, frequent absences or late arrivals to school to the Education Welfare Office, who will investigate the report.

Travelling Abroad

If your child or a close contact to your child travels to a country not on the green list, we ask you to follow the Government's guidelines by restricting your movement and not to send your child to school for 14 days. Please let us know in advance and we can provide you with an outline of the classwork being

completed. Thank you for your cooperation in this. Again, this is to protect the whole school community.

School Bills

We use Aladdin office administration system for online payments of school bills. You will be sent a link to make payments for school uniform, book rental, milk, homework diaries etc.

Homework Club

Due to Covid-19, Homework Club will not run this term. We will review this regularly.

After School Club

Ali O'Riordan will lead the 'After School' Club. Please contact Ali directly to enrol your child/ren in either or both clubs. (083 416 3246 or oriordanali@gmail.com) After-School Club will start from 7th September.

Meetings

Of course, parents may wish to speak with their child's teacher at various times during the school year. This may be carried out through telephonic communications or video conferencing. With the new Covid-19 Department of Education Roadmap, parents are only physically allowed into the school building if they make an appointment. This is only for exceptional circumstances and this appointment can only be made through the school principal. If an appointment is made, parents must enter the school building via the Sick Bay emergency exit door. Once you enter the school building, you will be asked to fill in a 'contact log' form.

Formal Parent – Teacher meetings will provisionally take place during the week of the 12th of October via video conferencing but of course, parents may wish to speak to their child/ren's teachers at other times.

Extra-Curricular Activities

For the moment, we have decided to wait a little while before starting our regular extra-curricular after-school activities like (Hockey, Chess, Swimming, Table Tennis, Choir etc.). This is due to the fact that bubbles are normally mixed during these activities. This will be reviewed at the end of September. For now, our aim is to get our pupils safely back to school.

Update from the Parents' Association

We hope that everyone really enjoyed their summer holidays and that both you and your children will settle in happily to the new routines currently associated with school life. To all the new parents who have recently joined St. Multose N.S we want to extend a very warm welcome.

Just to update you, we recently voted in a new Secretary to the Committee – Sharon Gash who agreed to step into the role. We're delighted as Sharon has always been a hugely proactive member and is great fun to work with.

Our Committee is now as follows:

Ann Harte – Chairperson
Sharon O Mahoney – Secretary
Naomi Bendon – Treasurer
Ger Farrell- committee
Katherine Dorman - committee
Linda Gash – committee

Our next Committee Meeting will take place on 24th September and if you have any suggestions/ideas that you would like us to table on your behalf please contact your class rep. The Class reps will be in the touch with their classes for 2020 in the coming weeks.

Ann Harte
Chairperson of the PA

A final note...

The above are just some of the things we will have in place and there will be more information to follow. The school must put in place things prescribed by the DES and employment and Health and Safety legislation and regulations to provide a safe place of learning. I'm sure many of you will have further suggestions or questions- please let us know and we'll do our best. This year will be the most difficult year of school in modern history. Some things will inconvenience us. Most things will become routine very quickly. We are determined to make it work for our pupils and our staff. Your parental support since the lockdown last March has meant so much to us and I would ask that you continue to give us your support and understanding as we head into the new school term. We are also determined that Covid-19 will not be the sole focus of this school year. We want pupils to enjoy our school and the experiences we have here.

Warmest wishes,

Jill Horan

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 1st September – School reopens for autumn term.