



TULLAMORE EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Scoil Náisiúnta Ag Foghlaim Le Chéile An Tulach Mhór



September 2020

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome all the children and staff back to school after our summer break. We would like to extend a special welcome to our new pupils in Junior Infants and the eight new pupils in the other classes. It is so hard to believe how our lives have changed since March of this year. At that time we were looking forward to Seachtain na Gaeilge, St. Patrick's day and Fairtrade Fortnight. Little did we think when we closed our doors on March 12<sup>th</sup> that we would not be back in our school building until almost six months later. It is strange to think that that things we once took for granted like playing in the yard, assemblies and even singing have to be risk assessed. Regardless, it is absolutely fantastic to be back. Overall the return to school has gone really well and apart from one or two amendments to procedures our well thought out plan is working. The children are very happy and safe and this is extremely important to us. They, too, are playing their part and doing a very good job.

The main focus of the country is to keep schools open and we will do our best to support this. The most important thing is that we all support each other whilst we are living through this difficult time. School is a different experience for us at the moment but it doesn't have to be a bad experience. There is no happier sound than your children playing on yard! We look forward to your continued support.

### Settling In

Any parent who has concerns regarding their child please feel free to make a phone appointment with the class teacher. All teachers are very willing to accommodate parents in this regard. The earlier concerns are dealt with the better for everyone involved. It is quite common to have teething problems and periods of adjustment at the beginning of the school year. The official Parent Teacher meetings usually take place in November. We will be in contact later this month in regard to how they will take place.

### Art and Craft Money

Each year we in early September we ask for an Art and Craft/Insurance fee for each child. As book rental was paid in late August as opposed to June we held off asking for the fee until now. The fee is €30 for one child ,€50 for two and €90 for three. Please send it to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. The insurance money covers school activities. Some parents have paid it already as they are of it from other years. Thank you for that!

### LTP

This year, as last year, in the Learn Together Programme we are going to place emphasis on the exploration of the Ethics and the Environment strand in particular.

### Healthy Lunches

Please ensure your child has a healthy lunch. One treat is permitted on a Friday. In the interests of keeping the school green we ask the children to bring home any wrappers or cartons they bring into school.

### Parental Involvement

Thanks to the parents who helped out this month: Stephen (technical) and Sharon (book rental)

### Assembly

We had our first monthly assembly of the year yesterday. It took place on Zoom. Another piece of history was made!

Congratulations to Leanna (Junior Infants), Ripley (Senior Infants), Zakari(1<sup>st</sup> Class), Dylan (2<sup>nd</sup> Class), Zofia (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Jasmine (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Darren (The Arc), Liam (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Julyana (6<sup>th</sup> Class) who were the September recipients of our handwriting awards. Well done to all!

### Educate Together Day

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> we have our usual Educate Together Dress Up day where we celebrate being an Educate Together school. This year costumes will have to be worn all day with no extra detachable bits and pieces. Please ensure they are comfortable to wear! Again we will have prizes for the best home made costumes.

### Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> next on Zoom. Anna de Siún, Chairperson, will chair the meeting and she has sent a link and password to all parents through Aladdin email. The PTA Constitution is available to read on the school website under the About Us tab. The 2019-2020 Committee Members are

- Chairperson: Anna de Siún
- Treasurer/PRO: Enda Molloy
- Secretary: Jacqueline Healy
- Teacher representative: Michelle Cleary
- Board of Management Parent Nominees: Sharon Lawrence and Jonathan D' Arcy as per  
*Ex-Officio Members* Section C of the Constitution
- Other elected members who form the committee are Emma Grice, David O'Brien, Sheila Stephens, Alicija Wrobel and SamerAl Hussein

Through the PTA five classes are going on a guided tour of Clara Bog over the next two weeks. Each class is going on a different date. It is important that the children going on the field trip wrap up really well and wear appropriate clothing. The individual classes will be informed of the dates and any other necessary details. There is a charge of €1 per child towards transport costs.

A fundraiser is being planned in conjunction with Kilbeggan Drive-In Movies which will take place over the mid-term break. There will be more information on this next week.

### Secondary School

It might be an idea for 6<sup>th</sup> Class parents to follow the social media pages of the secondary schools for information on enrolment.

### Housekeeping

There is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress. Your co-operation with maintaining high attendance and punctuality is greatly appreciated. However we realise this year that parents are being extremely cautious around head colds and other minor illnesses and we appreciate this.

The passing of invitations and cards must take place outside of school hours. This ensures that no child is excluded or hurt.

The children must wear appropriate footwear for P.E.