**October Newsletter**

**Good News Noticeboard**

Have you some good news to tell us? If your child has some GOOD NEWS to tell us, we would be delighted to place it on the wall near the main entrance. Perhaps your child has won a race, entered a competition or joined a new club. We would be delighted to share in your good news. Please encourage your child to share their news with the school community.

 **School Uniform**

Please ensure that your child is in their full school uniform. We do realise that, for various reasons from time to time, it is not possible to wear the school uniform. However, we ask everybody to simply try their best to be in full school uniform.

**Vetting**

All Vetting Application forms have been distributed to new parents at this stage. If you wish to help out in the school in any way it is essential that Vetting Applications are completed. If you have lost the form and require an additional form, please contact Mrs Maher.

**Policy Review**

Please find attached a draft copy of our School Tour Policy. This policy has been reviewed by staff and is still at the draft stage. If you have any queries or comments relating to the policy, please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Maher.

**School Parking**

We would ask that parents/guardians do not drive into the school grounds when dropping off or collecting children. Please also refrain from blocking the entrance to the school. Thank you.

 **Wellbeing Wednesdays**

Please see attached sheet for details of Wellbeing Wednesdays.

**Harvest Festival**

The Parish Harvest Festival will take place next Sunday. We are delighted that the boys and girls have been asked to decorate some of the church windows on Friday 4th October. All of the boys and girls are requested to bring in a harvest item, ie; a piece of fruit or vegetable, a sheaf of barley…etc on Friday. We look forward to seeing a wonderful display of the fruits of Harvest Time.

**Parent /Teacher Consultations**

Parent Teacher consultations will take place on Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd October. All families will receive a letter today with details of their child(ren)’smeetings.

**School Activities**

On Friday 4th October, Mrs Whiteford’s class will visit the Library to see a performance from the *Booster Cushion Theatre Company.*

On Wednesday 2nd October, some of the 3rd & 4th class boys will take part in a *FUTSAL Blitz.* Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to drive the boys to the Blitz.

 On Thursday 17th October, 5th and 6th class will visit the library for a presentation by well-known author, Mr Brian Gallagher.

On Thursday 17th October, we are delighted that 4th, 5th and 6th class will participate in a *Sculpting Workshop* in conjunction with Nenagh Arts Centre.

*Soccer* will continue for all pupils on the 2nd, 9th and 16th October. Please ensure children wear the correct footwear on these days.

 **School Closure**

The school will have an early closure on Wednesday 27th November at 12.30pm and school will be closed for pupils on Thursday 23rd January 2020. Staff will be engaging in Continuous Professional Development.

**Hallowe’en Dress Up**

 On Friday 25th October, all pupils are invited to come to school in fancy dress costumes. We would ask parents and guardians not to allow pupils to wear masks as they can be very frightening for younger children. Swords and guns are not allowed to be brought to school.

**Hallowe’en Midterm**

Please note that the school will be closed from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November (inclusive).



**Wellbeing Wednesdays**

As part of our Social, Personal and Health Education which places a special focus on Health & Wellbeing the following initiative; WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS are commencing.

Ongoing evidence has proven that a child’s physical, social, mental and emotional health is significantly improved by an action plan such as this.

One of the main aims of the initiative is the active involvement of all our school community, therefore families are asked to spend time together as a family unit.

**The last WEDNESDAY of each calendar month will be homework free!**

(or on the 2nd last Wednesday if we are not in school on the last Wednesday)

Families however will have other ‘homework’ to complete! Here are some suggestions:

* Enjoying a family meal **together**
* Doing a family activity **together**
* Reading **together**
* Playing a board game **together**

We request parents/guardians to email photos to our

* Email: stmarys2.ns@gmail.com
* Or send in a hard copy of your photos
* Or write/draw an account of what your family did together

These evidence based photographs/drawings will be your child’s homework and will be monitored by the class teachers. We would ask that this homework be submitted on the Thursday morning.

These photos/drawings will be placed on a central noticeboard in the school hall. We appreciate how busy families are but please use this homework free evening for the purpose it is intended.

We look forward to your creative submissions.