



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to October – Autumn leaves, crisp air and spooky Halloween. **Our Halloween Break this year runs from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** is a normal full school day. However, it is also host to our traditional **Céilí na Samhna** where the children get to dress up in all their spookiest costumes and enjoy scaring the life out of each other! We always host Céilí na Samhna with the children in their costumes. Each class learns a different Céilí dance which they perform together for the whole school outside on the yard. There might be the odd treat in attendance on the day too☺ This is one of the children's favourite days in schools and one that they always remember. Looking forward to seeing all the spooktacular costumes!

**Fire Safety Week is 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October.** We will be engaging with materials online to educate the children about the dangers of playing with fireworks and also the damage that is done to our school pitch every Halloween with people stockpiling their rubbish for their bonfire on our private school grounds. Our school pitch is a wonderful amenity for the girls and we all need to protect it. The school incurs considerable cost every year removing the burned debris. Here's hoping we have our first bonfire-free Halloween this year.

#### SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO SOME OF OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. BECAUSE WE STILL CAN'T MIX CLASS BUBBLES THE FORMAT IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR BUT IT WILL STILL BE GREAT!

**BREAKFAST CLUB – JOINTLY FUNDED BY KELLOGGS COMMUNITY FUND AND SCHOOL COMPLETION**

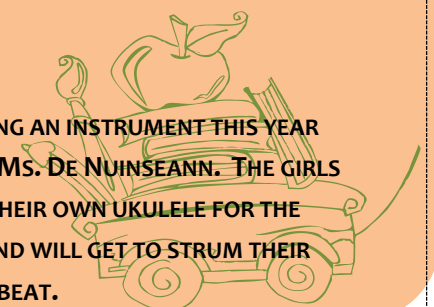
A "6<sup>TH</sup> CLASS ONLY" BREAKFAST CLUB IS STARTING ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER. THE CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO COME IN TO SCHOOL EARLY AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS BREAKFAST TO HELP THEM START THEIR DAY IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY. CHATS AND SOCIALISING ARE A LOVELY SIDE-EFFECT OF THE CLUB☺

#### COOKERY CLASSES

STAYING WITH THE VERY LUCKY GIRLS IN 6<sup>TH</sup> CLASS, MS. QUIGG WILL BE RUNNING TWO 10 WEEK BLOCKS OF COOKING LESSONS. ALL INGREDIENTS AND UTENSILS NEEDED FOR THE CLASS ARE PROVIDED AND THE CHILDREN WILL LEARN THE SKILLS TO COOK 10 DELICIOUS MEALS FROM SCRATCH – A WONDERFUL LIFE SKILL TO DEVELOP. THE CHILDREN WILL WORK TOGETHER IN PODS OF 3. WHEN THE COURSES ARE FINISHED, THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF A MONTH WHERE EACH POD WILL HAVE TIME TO FIND AND PRACTICE THEIR OWN SPECIAL RECIPE. THEY WILL COOK THIS IN THEIR PODS FOR THE **MASTERCHEF SJG CHALLENGE** IN MAY. THE WINNING POD FROM EACH GROUP WILL GO ON TO THE **MASTERCHEF FINAL** WHERE THE TWO BEST RECIPES WILL BATTLE IT OUT FOR THE TITLE **MASTERCHEF SJG 2022**. THE 10 RECIPES FROM THE COURSE ALONG WITH THE 6 RECIPES THE GIRLS CHOOSE THEMSELVES WILL BE COMPILED INTO A LOVELY COOKBOOK THAT THE GIRLS WILL HAVE FOREVER...

#### UKULELE CLASS

3<sup>RD</sup> CLASS WILL BE LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT THIS YEAR UNDER THE EXPERTISE OF MS. DE NUINSEANN. THE GIRLS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THEIR OWN UKULELE FOR THE DURATION OF THE YEAR AND WILL GET TO STRUM THEIR STRINGS TO THE MUSICAL BEAT.



### Marathon Kids and The Daily Mile

- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class are inspiring the whole school with their stamina. Every day for the next 8 weeks they are increasing their distance run. By the end of the Marathon Kids Challenge, when they add up their total distance, they will have run a marathon. Everyone who completes the challenge will receive a medal and we'll host the final mile here in school this year.
- In honour of this achievement, David Gillick, Marathon Kids ambassador will visit the school on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to talk to the children. David is the Irish Indoor and Outdoor 400m record holder, the European Indoor 400m Champion in 2007 and an Olympian at the Beijing Olympics 2008.
- Other classes are getting in on the running groove too and taking part in The Daily Mile. The children gradually build up their stamina and work themselves up to being able to run a mile each day. This is wonderful for their wellbeing and fitness and has been proven to aid concentration greatly. Go girls 😊

### Maths Week Ireland

We will be running Maths Week Ireland this year from 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October. We have some lovely, fun maths activities planned for each day of the week to bring maths into focus;

- Maths Trails linked to PE/Orienteering
- Maths based art activities
- Construction activities and mapping skills
- Number fun
- Board Games/Mangahigh/Dice Games

### Parent Teacher Meetings/Phonecalls

Every year, we hold parent teacher meetings in October to link in with parents and have a chat about how your child is getting on in school. We are unable to hold face to face meetings again this year, due to infection prevention measures still being place. Instead, your daughter's teacher will be giving you a call after school between **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October**. If you have any worries or questions about your child's progress, this is a great opportunity to discuss them with her teacher.



3<sup>rd</sup> class Communion Glamour

### Parnells GAA Club

We are delighted to recommence our partnership with Parnells GAA Club. Darren Wong will be coaching all the girls in Gaelic Football and Camogie once a fortnight. We have years of successful collaboration with Parnells and are really looking forward to getting back to basics with our skills development. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Darren.

### Play Therapy

Maebh Fitzpatrick is a play therapist who works with individual children once a week on a Wednesday during school time. The school funds the play therapy sessions. If you think your child could benefit from this wonderful service, please contact Ms. McNicholas and I will put your daughter on the list.

### Credit Union Savings Scheme Online

The School's Credit Union Savings Scheme is going online. I will be sending out more information on how to sign up to encourage your daughter to save regularly at an early age. This is a great scheme which has been long established in the school and I would encourage as many as possible to sign up.

Le Meas,  
Aoife McNicholas