

SEPTEMBER '23

NEWSLETTER

New Pupils

We welcome 28 new Junior Infant pupils this year. Some already have siblings in the school and there are also many new families who are joining us. Please take the time to introduce yourself to new parents - a friendly face makes all the difference!

PTA and Class Reps

We have a supportive and energetic Parent Teacher Association here in RPNS. All parents are members and the committee is elected by the parents.

Each class also has a Class Rep who liaises with the PTA and keeps parents up to date on news and events.

The PTA plans to hold a Table Quiz on Friday 22nd September. This will be a lovely chance to get to know other parents in a fun and social setting!

More details to follow.

Come and Visit

Friday mornings are 'Come and Visit' days when parents are welcome to come into the classrooms when dropping the children to school. We will be starting these on Friday 8th September. Please remember, this is not the time to raise issues with the teacher - you should email the teacher or make an appointment to have a meeting to discuss any problems that may arise.



NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

WELCOME BACK

After the lovely, long summer holidays we are all looking forward to the new school year. Even though the weather was less than ideal, everyone is energised and ready to get back to a familiar routine. Here's to a great year!

School opens for all pupils at 8.20 a.m. Please note that children/parents should not be on the school grounds prior to 8.20 a.m.

School ends for Infants at 1.05 p.m. and 2.05 p.m. for all other classes.

Arriving late for school

All children need to be in school prior to 8.40 a.m. This is an important part of the school day when homework is checked, and the class prepares for the day ahead. It is embarrassing for children to arrive late when the school day has started as well as being disruptive to the class.

Children who are late need to be signed in at the office by parents.

Children who are being collected early need to be collected from the reception and signed out.





Class Meetings

During September the class teachers will hold meetings for the parents of the children in their classes. These meetings are to introduce the work that will be covered, homework expectations and classroom routines. Parents are invited to have tea/coffee in the school hall at 8.20 a.m. prior to the meeting taking place at 8.45a.m in the classroom.

The dates for the meetings are:

Junior Infants - Thursday 7/9

Rang 5 - Monday 11/9

Rang 4 - Tuesday 12/9

Rang 3- Wednesday 13/9

Rang 1 - Thursday 14/9

Rang 6- Monday 18/9

Senior Infants - Tuesday 19/9

Rang 2 - Thursday 21/9

We hope that you will find the meetings informative as well as having the opportunity to get to know the other parents in your child's class.

Contacting staff

Each staff member has an email address which is their first name, a dot and their surname as follows:

eoine.leonard@rpns.ie

linda.scannell@rpns.ie

tanya.correll@rpns.ie

debbie.murphy@rpns.ie

heather.oconnor@rpns.ie

deirdre.connolly@rpns.ie

suzanne.beardsley@rpns.ie

laura.kenny@rpns.ie

louise.hendy@rpns.ie

zoe.smart@rpns.ie

alana.storey@rpns.ie

aoife.farrell@rpns.ie



rob.duff@rpns.ie

melanie.kee@rpns.ie

anne.lawlor@rpns.ie

tara.byrne@rpns.ie

laura.ready@rpns.ie

gretchen.dawson@rpns.ie

john.stapleton@rpns.ie

Mrs. Perdue and Nikki Squire's email addresses are - principal@rpns.ie and secretary@rpns.ie

Please be aware that these email addresses are work emails and therefore school staff will not be monitoring or replying to emails after 5 p.m. If you need to send the teacher an email in the evening, please schedule it to be delivered in the morning or during the working day. Also please be mindful of the content of emails and remember to be kind!

If your child is absent from school, please contact the office through Aladdin Connect.

Hair and Head lice!

Unfortunately head lice is an ongoing reality amongst school children. We already have an outbreak in one class so we **all** need to be extra vigilant. Please check your child's hair regularly especially for nits (the lice eggs) which will go onto hatch into lice. Treat hair if you suspect the presence of these unwelcome visitors. *Children who have long hair (both boys and girls) **must** wear their hair tied back to help prevent the spread of head lice. We will be handing out hair bobbins to those who have their hair hanging loose!*

Allergies and Medication

Some children in our school have allergies, especially to nuts.

Therefore the school is a Nut Free School and we ask that parents are particularly careful not to give your child items that contain nuts in their lunch. This includes foods such as Nutella.

If your child has a medical condition or an allergy and needs to have medicine administered in school, you must fill in a Pupil Healthcare Plan and a Form of Indemnification.

These can be found in our Administration of Medicine and Allergen Policy which is available on our website www.rpns.ie

If your child needs medication of any

sort you need to make the teacher and school staff aware of this. All medication including epipens are to be given this to the teacher.

Children should not have epipens or any medication in their schoolbags.

Illness and school

While the risk of serious illness from Covid-19 has abated, it

hasn't gone away and we need to continue to ensure that children who are unwell do not come to school. Children who have been ill during the previous night should remain at home as they will be tired and unable to concentrate in school.

They should not come to school if they need Calpol or Ibuprophen.

Garda Vetting

We encourage parents to get involved in the life of the school in many ways. However, to do this parents need to be garda vetted. This is an easy and painless process and simply involves filling in a form. If you haven't been garda vetted through the school please fill in the form at the link below and return it to the school office. Vetting forms are also available from the school office.

<https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/NVB-1-Vetting-Invitation-1.pdf>



The Lunch Bag

The Lunch Bag will continue to deliver lunches daily to children in school. Parents who wish to avail of this service should do so via the app.



Cycling Safety

We encourage children where possible to cycle to school and there are bicycle racks available at the rear of the school.

5th Class pupils will take part in a safe cycling programme over the coming weeks. This programme is subsidised by South Dublin County Council and teaches children about the rules of the road and cycling safely.

'Say Yes to Languages'

We're delighted to have been accepted onto the 'Say Yes to Languages' primary sampler module this term. Children in Ranganna 3 & 4 will learn Spanish as part of this programme which will run from 25th September until the 8th of December. A huge thank you to Tara Byrne who has agreed to be the tutor for this module.



Grandparents' Day

Our very popular Grandparents' Day will take place on Friday 27th October in the school. More details will follow but we hope that many of the children's grandparents or older friends can join us on the day.

Other Dates for your Diary!

Book Fair - 4th-6th October

Dress up as a book character - 6th October

Amber Flag Wellbeing Day - 13th November

Parent Teacher meetings - 22nd, 23rd and 24th November

Christmas Fair - 8th December

Christmas Plays (Junior and Senior Infants and Ranganna 1 & 2) - 20th December

Christmas Service - 21st December

END OF TERM - 22nd December at 12 noon

After-school Activities

We hope to begin our after-school activities in the coming weeks once the arrangements have been finalised. More details to follow.

Tesco Community Fund

We're included in the current round of the Tesco Ireland Community Fund in Rathfarnham.

While we don't wish to promote any one supermarket, if you're shopping in this store over the next few weeks, we'd really appreciate if you'd vote for us using your blue token.



Please use your recyclable blue token to vote for us in the Tesco Community Fund.



Collecting Children

Parents should be aware that the school laneway is not school property and therefore children who are waiting for siblings should not play there. Also please do not allow children to climb on the gate, the ESB box or the mechanism for the gate.

Children are not permitted to play on the playground equipment while waiting to collect other children. Please make sure your child-minders or other adults collecting are aware of this rule.