

SEPTEMBER '22

NEWSLETTER

New pupils

We welcome 28 new Junior Infant pupils this year. Many 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 & 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.

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 9th 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 issues you may have.



NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

WELCOME BACK

After a lovely long, sunny summer we are all looking forward to the new school year. We're all pleased to leave the past two pandemic years behind and we're looking forward to a return to normality with the school community being together properly this year (fingers crossed!) We plan for a full return to the usual school activities and extra-curricular programmes.

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





Class Meetings

During September the class teachers will hold meetings for the parents of the children in their class. These meetings are to introduce the work that will be covered, homework expectations and classroom routines. Parents are invited to have a tea/coffee in the school hall at 8.20 a.m. prior to the meeting taking place at 9 a.m in the classroom.

The dates for the meetings are:

- Rang 2 -Monday 12/9
- Senior Infants -Tuesday 13/9
- Rang 4 - Wednesday 14/9
- Rang 5 - Thursday 15/9
- Rang 3 - Monday 19/9
- Rang 6 - Tuesday 20/9
- Junior Infants - Wednesday 21/9
- Rang 1 - Thursday 22/9

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 teachers

This year we have changed the email addresses for teachers and school staff. This year the class emails will no longer be in use and parents should contact the teacher directly using their first name, dot, surname @rpns.ie e.g.

eoin.leonard@rpns.ie

linda.scannell@rpns.ie

tanya.correll@rpns.ie

debbie.murphy@rpns.ie

lorraine.loftus@rpns.ie

heather.oconnor@rpns.ie

deirdre.connolly@rpns.ie

suzanne.beardsley@rpns.ie

julie.hamilton@rpns.ie

laura.kenny@rpns.ie

louise.hendy@rpns.ie

zoe.smart@rpns.ie

alana.storey@rpns.ie

aoife.farrell@rpns.ie

amy.buttimer@rpns.ie

anne.lawlor@rpns.ie

tara.byrne@rpns.ie

laura.ready@rpns.ie

gretchen.dawson@rpns.ie

john.stapleton@rpns.ie

sandra.byrne@rpns.ie

Mrs. Perdue and Nikki Squire still have the same email addresses - 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.

If your child is absent from school, please email the teacher.



Allergies and Medicine

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 Covid-19

While the risk of serious illness from Covid-19 has abated somewhat, it hasn't gone away and we need to continue to ensure that children who are showing any symptoms of the disease should 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. Children should not come to school if they need Calpol or Ibuprofen.

Extra curricular activities

Hockey

We hope to start hockey for all pupils in 2nd - 6th classes on Monday 26th September. in 3Rock Hockey Club. In the past few years it has become increasingly difficult to find coaches so if you know anyone who would be interested in helping out, please let Mrs. Correll know.



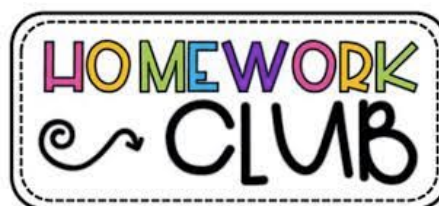
Swimming

Swimming will resume this term on Thursday afternoons in Templeogue swimming pool for children in 2nd-6th classes. The lessons represent very good value for money and the coaching is of a good standard.

Traditionally swimming has been organised by parents and we are looking for 2-3 volunteers to take this on this year. All parents should also remember that if your child attends swimming you have to take your turn in supervising the children or arrange for someone else to do this. Therefore it is important that your vetting has been completed if you want your child to swim.

Homework Club?

Some teachers have indicated that they would be willing to run an after school homework club until 3p.m. on three days in the school week (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) for pupils in 1st-6th classes. As this hasn't been tried before we would like to get an idea of the number of parents who would be interested in this. Children don't have to sign up for all three days if they are involved in other activities after school. Please email Nikki if you are interested, indicating which days would suit best.



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 this link and return it to the school office. <https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/garda-vetting/> Vetting forms are also available from the school office.



Cycling Safety

5th Class pupils will take part in a safe cycling programme over the coming weeks. This is subsidised by South Dublin County Council and has been a very valuable resource.

Playground Update

There were some disappointed children who came back to school expecting the senior playground to be completely refurbished! Unfortunately due to supply chain issues and lack of installers our new playground equipment wasn't installed over the summer holidays as we had hoped. However, the equipment is on order and as soon as it's available it will be installed (hopefully in a few weeks!) Once it's in place we will move on with recovering the old tarmac with a more child friendly surface. We're also planning on getting an outside covered area



Book Rental Scheme

The book rental payments are now on Aladdin and we request that parents pay this as soon as possible. The scheme has been a great success and represents great value to parents. It includes art materials, additional reading materials and photocopying. This year we have made a significant investment in a new scheme for teaching Gaeilge in line with our continued focus on the language as part of our School Self- Evaluation.

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.

