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**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016**

Welcome back to all our children and their families after the summer holidays. We hope that everyone is settling back into the routine of school life. We now have 387 children (and counting) on our roll as we enter our 9th year, and 50 staff members. Our new Junior Infants are settling in extremely well, as are the 17 children we have enrolled in older classes throughout the school from countries as far afield as Spain, France, Poland, Thailand, Indonesia and Croatia.

Welcome also to new staff – Gearóid, Mark, Natasha and Sinead (teachers), Louise, Nuredin, Mary-Anne and Melissa (SNAs), and Deborah who will be helping out in the office on Fridays. Claire, Orla and Pauline have rejoined us after their breaks and we offer huge congratulations to Senior Infant teacher Sandra Tavey on the birth of her second child, a little boy called Aidan. We are delighted to have opened a further two classes in our special needs unit, Coiscéim, which can now cater for up to 30 children on the autistic spectrum.

*We greatly appreciate your consideration and cooperation in the mornings during drop off time when traffic is very heavy and a large number of staff and children are arriving to school. Please be mindful that we have both parents and children with disabilities who cannot arrive safely without access to the disabled parking bay so please do not park in it. Thank you.*

**New Parents:**

We strongly encourage all new parents to keep up to date with school news through our website [www.astonvillageetns.com](http://www.astonvillageetns.com) and also our official Aston Village ETNS Facebook page, both of which are updated regularly. All newsletters are also posted on the website if you ever need to check any information that has been sent home. Important or urgent messages are communicated to parents via our textaparent service which is free to parents. ***If you have not received any communication from the school via text since the beginning of term then please check with Antonia that we have the correct mobile number on file for you.***

After school Catholic religion classes will commence on Wednesday 21st September with registration taking place this ***Friday 9th September* (tomorrow) in the main reception from 9am-9.30am**. The contact for religion queries is Antoinette Dorgan (085 7889389) from the Catholic Parents Group (not the office please). **Children who wish to make their Communion and Confirmation sacraments must attend classes from 1st class through to 6th class**. There will be no classes for infants this year.

Our exciting range of **after school activities** commences next week too. If you missed out on a copy of what is on offer you will find it on the school website or Facebook page. Please contact instructors directly to book your child’s place and please note that school staff are **not available** for supervision between school time and activities.

A copy of the **2016-17 school calendar** has been distributed to all parents. Please make note of any school closures and half days in the coming school year. Please also remember to back up your children’s absences with a note to the teacher if they are unable to attend school for any reason.

To support our implementation of the oral language strand of the new **Primary Language Curriculum** there will be a full-day school closure during the year for in-school whole staff CPD. This will be facilitated by the Professional Development Service for Teachers - as soon as we get details of this closure we will let you know (see information overleaf)

Open communication between parents and teachers is encouraged but we would like to remind you that if you need to speak to your child’s teacher *they are not available during class time and an appointment can be made with them through the office for before or after school*. Office hours are 8.30am-3.00pm daily. Please do not approach teachers in the morning unless it is urgent. Instead you can pass a message through the office. Parents can wait in line with children until the bell rings but should not enter the classrooms.

***Parent – Teacher meetings are scheduled for 28th November – 2nd December 2016.***

**2016/17 School Fees:**

School funding is extremely limited and we rely heavily on our annual family contribution to ensure that the school is adequately resourced. The fees for 2016/17 are set as follows (no change from previous 4 years):

1 child **= €80** 2 children **= €150** 3 children **= €210** 4 children **= €270**

These fees pay for :

* Educate Together subscriptions (€15 per child) ,
* Pupil personal insurance (€8 per child) which covers your child for any accident or injury incurred both in school and outside of school 24 hours a day and 365 days of the year
* First aid supplies
* Classroom resource such as arts and crafts materials
* Photocopying and testing materials
* General running of the school

Fees are due by ***Friday 2nd December 2016.*** Links to online payment will be sent out this week allowing you to pay in full, or in instalments that suit you. You may also pay off any amount you wish in the office on **Friday** **mornings** between now and December.

**PTA coffee morning:**

The Parent Teacher Association are arranging a **coffee morning** in the upstairs kitchen room from 9am on Friday 16th September. All parents are automatically members of the PTA and we strongly encourage all new and existing parents to come along for a cuppa and a chat and to learn about the role of the PTA in the school. The PTA are looking for new members and volunteers this year who may have an hour or two to spare each week but there is no obligation or pressure on anyone. You are welcome to just come along as a great opportunity to meet up with other mums and dads! If you have smaller children feel free to bring them along too.

The AGM (Annual General Meeting) will take place at the coffee morning. This includes a brief synopsis of all activities and achievements during the previous academic year, a treasurer’s report and an opportunity to nominate yourself or another person for the positions of Chairperson, Treasurer or Secretary.

Plans for this year include publishing a school cookbook, an International Food Day, a reading scheme where parents can volunteer to come in and help with children’s reading, and establishing a school garden so please speak Pauline (Deputy Principal) or Antonia (Office) if you feel you can contribute in any of these areas!

**Medical Conditions**

If your child has any medical conditions please indicate this on the form below ***even if you have previously submitted the information.*** This will enable us to ensure that your child’s medical information is 100% up to date.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Child’s Name: |  |
| Class: |  |
| Medical Conditions: |  |
| Allergies: |  |

If your child has to take any medications please give details (name of medication, dosage, how often it is administered, etc): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Upon receipt a more detailed form will be sent home for completion and then sanctioned by the Board of Management***