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**ASTON VILLAGE ETNS**

***Celebrating 10 Years***

**🙢 2008-2018 🙠**

**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018**

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. In particular we welcome our 46 new Junior Infants and over 20 older children who have joined us from all over Ireland and as far afield as the USA, the UK, Romania, Lithuania and France.

We welcome our new teachers Bronagh, Aine and Padraig, and we offer huge congratulations to teachers Síle who gave birth to baby boy, Eoin in August and Grace who gave birth to baby boy, Harry in July, and a special welcome back to 6th class teacher Paula who celebrated her wedding in August too. We wish them all the very best!

**TRAFFIC & SAFETY:** With such a large volume of traffic in the school in the mornings we would like to bring your attention to the following:

* 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**.
* The area outside the Coiscéim entrance is for set down only and priority must **always** be given to the buses that are dropping off children with special needs.
* Please respect directions from our caretaker Frank if given. His job is to monitor the traffic situation in the mornings to help ensure the safety of the children arriving to school.
* Do not make 3 point turns at the school gates – this is extremely dangerous with such a large volume of children entering, many of whom are very small and not always visible.
* We highly recommend that children who are walking or cycling to school wear Hi-Viz jackets so that they are visible, especially as the mornings are already becoming darker.
* Please respect the Dunlin Street residents. Do not use their driveways for turning your vehicle and never block an entrance.
* The Dunlin Street silver gate will be open for morning drop offs only. In the afternoons collections should be made via the main school gates with access to the yard through reception or along the side of the building past the Clever Clogs crèche entrance. Please wait in yard for your children to be brought to you and not in the corridors.

**We hope that you all appreciate that the safety of our children is paramount and that we can all work together to make the area as safe as possible during drop off and collection times.**

**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.*** ***If you have changed address or telephone number it is your responsibility to inform the school office so that we can keep your records updated. Forms are attached for your completion.***

A copy of the **2018-19 school calendar** has been distributed to all parents and is also available online. 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.

Open communication between parents and teachers is welcome and 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 always pass a message through the office. Parents can wait in line with children until the bell rings but should not enter the classrooms.

**CATHOLIC CLASSES:**  After school Catholic religion classes will commence on **Wednesday 26th September** from 2.30-3.30pm. These classes are run outside school hours by parent volunteers known as the Catholic Parents Group (CPG). The contact for religion queries is **Antoinette Dorgan** (not the school office please). She has a Facebook page you can join – Aston Village Ed Together CPG – where all updates are posted. If you do not have Facebook her number is available from the office upon request. This year’s teachers will be Lisa (1st), Maria (2nd – Communion), Brian (3rd &4th), Sinead (5th) and James (6th – Confirmation)

Please note: *Children who wish to make their* ***Communion*** *and* ***Confirmation*** *sacraments must be baptised into the Roman Catholic church and must attend the after school religion classes from 1st class through to 6th class in order to meet Diocesan requirements.*

**ISLAMIC CLASSES**: Classes in Islamic Instruction for Muslim children will commence in Aston Village in September also. For more details or to enrol your child please contact coordinator Nour Gawwad at the Nurul Huda Quranic School, Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland, telephone 087 210 6748 or email n.gawwad@islamireland.ie.

**AFTER SCHOOL SERVICE:** We are delighted to host **Clever Clogs Montessori** upstairs in the school, who provide an after school service for children from 1.30pm – 6.30pm each day with fully qualified and vetted childcare staff. The service is available on a daily or a weekly basis and includes a “link hour” option for Junior and Senior Infants who wish to remain in school to travel home with older siblings, or who take the school bus. If you are interested in the service please call Kerrie Rothwell on 086 038 3903 or 086 130 0502 as their spaces are filling up very quickly.

**2018/19 FAMILY CONTRIBUTION:** School grant funding is extremely limited and we rely heavily on our annual family contribution to ensure that the school is adequately resourced. The requested contributions for 2018/19 are set as follows:

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

These fees have not increased since 2011 and include:

* Annual Educate Together subscriptions (€15 per child) which help to support the national office in promoting the Educate Together model and starting up new schools throughout Ireland at both primary and second level.
* Pupil personal insurance 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. This policy has been extremely beneficial to several parents saving them thousands of euros on medical and dental expenses, even if the accident did not happen at school.
* First aid supplies for prompt and immediate treatment of minor injuries that do occur in school.
* Additional classroom resource such as arts and crafts materials for projects and competitions.
* Subsidies towards school sports programmes (such as swimming, GAA, etc) educational workshops and school visits (e.g storytellers, historians, scientists, etc) and transport to award ceremonies, external sporting events and educational class trips.
* Security monitoring and surveillance to ensure a safe and secure environment for parents, children and staff members.
* Photocopying, essential office supplies and testing materials.
* General running costs of the school such as utilities (heat and light), cleaning supplies, public liability insurance, etc.

Funding is provided by the Department of Education towards some of these expenses but unfortunately it does not cover the full amounts needed so we greatly appreciate the support of our parents in helping to ensure that the school continues to run efficiently and provides the best possible educational environment for your children. Links to online payment will be sent out this week allowing you to pay either in full, or in installments that suit you via Aladdin e.g €10 a week. We are very conscious that some parents are experiencing financial difficulties and ask those affected let us know so that we can make arrangements for you in the strictest of confidence. We strongly encourage parents to use Aladdin to make any payments in order to limit the cashflow through the office. There are no additional fees to parents to use the Aladdin payment system.

**PTA COFFEE MORNING AND AGM:** The Parent Teacher Association are arranging a **coffee morning** in the upstairs kitchen room from **9am on Tuesday 18th 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 several new members and volunteers this year who may have a few hours to spare each month 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 and an opportunity to join the PTA and discuss plans for the coming year.

**HEADLICE:** Headlice are unfortunately common at this time of year and have already been reported more than once in our first week back. Headlice have a tendency to spread extremely quickly and need to be treated immediately. The most common sign is an itchy scalp and we request that parents get into a routine of checking their child’s hair regularly, particularly if they are scratching their head. It is standard procedure for the school to inform parents if headlice has been reported in your child’s class. Treatments are readily available from any pharmacy and although not very pleasant it is essential that you do treat your child immediately if necessary to limit the risk of spreading.

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:** A list of after school clubs is attached for Term 1. Please note that here has been a very significant change in the administration of after school clubs as per new financial guidelines for primary schools. **Unfortunately the office will no longer be able to accept cash payments for clubs or set up a payment facility for clubs on Aladdin.** When you register your child for a club, full payment must be made directly to the instructor. If you cannot attend registration you may send the money in an envelope with your child on the day of registration only. Details of this year’s **Homework Club** will be sent home to relevant families later in the month and will commence in October.