WELCOME BACK

We now have one full month of this school year complete and everyone is settling back well into their new classes and for some, new classrooms. We have lots of exciting things planned again for this year and we look forward to seeing each and every child progress over the course of the next academic year.

NEW JUNIOR INFANTS



A big welcome to all the new Junior Infant students. The girls and boys have successfully settled into their new school routines and they are thriving in a very positive learning environment.

Thank you to Ms. Swinburne and the Senior Infant boys and girls for their work in helping them transition into Junior Infants during the month of September.

GENERAL STAFFING UPDATE 2023/2024

Attached is a list of our staff in the school for the year ahead. Contact emails have been shared with you for your child's class teacher. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any concerns or information you wish to pass on. As always, I would ask everyone to keep all communications polite and respectful. We are very lucky to have a hard working and dedicated staff in our school and I am confident that we all have your children's best interests at heart.

I'd also like to welcome Ms Lenihan who will be teaching in our school in a shared capacity with Duleek Girls School.

Junior&Senior Infants	Ms Martina Swinburne
1st and 2nd Class	Ms Gillian O'Mara
3 rd and 4 th Class	Mrs Elaine Light
5 th and 6 th Class	Ms Michelle Breen
SET & Principal	Mr Aidan Mc Loughlin
SET	Ms Katie Lenihan
SET/ Principal	Mr Marcus Maloney
Release Days	
SNA	Ms Bernie Dillon
SNA	Ms Sinéad Pentony
Secretary	Ms Miriam Callan
Caretaker/Cleaner	Mr Jason Fanthorpe

Reminder: School office open Mon - Fri (9a.m. - 12p.m.)

CELEBRATING ST. THÉRÉSE OF LISIEUX



Saturday 1st of October is the feast day of St. Thérése of Lisieux, the patron saint of our school. The children have been learning all about St Therese and we had a special celebration in school and a school mass on Friday in honour of her. Each child received a petal from Fr. Mark to remember her by.



ENROLMENT FOR JUNIOR INFANTS SEPTEMBER 2024

Please see our website for updates on enrolment for Junior Infants Sept 2024 which will open in October.

Enrolment: 9th Oct 2023 - 6th Nov 2023

Applications can be made via the online form on the school website. If there is any difficulty with this, please contact the school office directly.

SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS

Our school football team have played a number of matches representing the school over the past few weeks. There have been great displays of skill, team work and comradery on the pitch.

Thanks to David, the GPO who visited the school in early September to complete a few sessions with all classes in the school. David has since moved to Australia and we wish him well in his big move.

Currently we do not have any trainer for the team. If any parent or member of the community were interested in training the team for 1 hour per week, either during school time, or after school (or a combination of both) please get in touch as we would love to have you onboard.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

We were delighted over the course of the last school year to have new tarmacadam laid, new line markings drawn, a new sculpture installed and our garden officially finished and opened. We are constantly watching out for ways to improve our school for the children to enjoy and open to any suggestions.

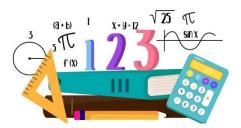
We hope for this year that we can work on enhancing our IT equipment in the school including some new Interactive Panels and iPads.

We also hope to explore the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. We will have more updates on this soon with a new project coming up.



NEW PRIMARY MATHS CURRICULUM

The new Primary Maths Curriculum has been launched and will be formally introduced to schools from next September 2024. During this school year, the staff will have training sessions which will involve some full day school closures. We will endeavor to give plenty of notice of these days as soon as we know when they will occur.



VIOLIN LESSONS

We were delighted to be accepted onto the Music Generation Meath programme this year, along with other local schools, Mount Hanover and Ardcath. Our violin teacher, Michelle Foy will visit the school every Friday throughout the year to teach our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class children violin. This is heavily subsidised with all instruments provided on loan to the school from Music Generation. It's a fantastic opportunity for most of the children

to try something new and try an instrument they might never have played before. We look forward to hearing them perform later in the school year.



SWIMMING

Following on from the success of last year's swimming lessons and lots of positive feedback we have managed to secure a 6 week slot for swimming again this year for children from 1st - 4th class. Again, these will take place on Friday afternoons at the beginning of term 2 (Jan-Feb) meaning that on their return to school, the children will only have a short period of time spent indoors in school before they go home. More details on an activity for the Infants and 5th/6th classes at this time of year coming soon.



PARENTS COUNCIL

We are currently looking for new members to join our Parents Council. It is a great way to get involved with the school and to make a difference to the education of your children.

Thank you to Anna Marie, Bridget, Colleen, Deirbhile and Joey for all your hard work over the last two years. There have been great improvements implemented due to huge fundraising and initiatives by the Parents Council and we look forward to many more great ideas in the future.

To join or to get more information, please message Parents Council on Facebook or email parentscouncil@bellewstownns.com

PASSPORTS

Just to note, that if you require signatures for passport forms, school staff may complete these, but both parents must be present at the signing. The passport office have become very strict on this recently and in line with Child Protection Guidelines we can only sign the witness section for parents who are present at the time.

WELLNESS

Part of our focus for our School Self Evaluation is in the area of wellness. This year we will be continuing our initiatives to look after student and staff wellbeing. We will also be issuing questionnaires to pupils, parents and staff to see where we stand in this area and to identify areas for improvements.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- GOAL jersey day: 13th October 2023
- Halloween Dress-Up Day: Friday, 27th October 2023
- Mid-term Break: 30th October 3rd November 2023
- Junior Infant Vaccinations: Tuesday, 7th November 2023
- Parent / Teacher Meetings: 13th 17th November 2023 (S.I. - 6th)

Thanks for reading!

Mr Aidan Mc Loughlin



Junior and Senior Infants 2023



3rd & 4th Class 2023



1st & 2nd Class 2023



5th & 6th Class 2023

Scoil Naomh Treasa Bellewstown NS Fundraiser Lotto

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