



18th October, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope that you are keeping safe and well as we near the Halloween Break.

Plan for the operation of St. Ita's N.S. 2021-2022: The plan which is published on the school website contains a range of practical measures and routines to provide safe schooling for all in our school community. We have made some minor adjustments to this plan already and we thank you for your co-operation to date. Please ensure that your child arrives into school for their allocated starting time as we cannot allow children into the school building on a wet morning.

Religious Ceremonies: Congratulations to the First Holy Communion Class of 2020 and to the Confirmation Class of 2021 who received their respective Sacraments during October. First Holy Communion for the 2021 class is scheduled for Saturday, 20th November at 12.30 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Meetings: This year we are holding Parent/Teacher Meetings in October. Your child's teacher has been in contact with you to arrange a time. Please avail of this opportunity to discuss your child's progress and any concerns that you may have regarding your child in primary school.

Food Dudes: All pupils received an opportunity to participate in this project during one week in early October. Portions of fruit and vegetables were available and pupils were encouraged to avail of these as part of our Healthy Eating Policy. The feedback from pupils and staff has been positive. Please continue to encourage your child to avail of healthy eating options.

Infant Vaccinations: Pupils in Junior Infant classes received a School Health Screening Consent Form during September. Please complete and return this to your child's teacher before Friday as the HSE will be in contact with us regarding vaccinations.

Parent Association: Thank you to the parents who responded by email. I will be in contact with you after mid-term and will arrange a meeting in November.

Information Technology: Five new Clever Touch Interactive Whiteboards were installed during October. All mainstream classrooms are now equipped with modern Clever Touch Interactive Whiteboards which support teaching and learning throughout the school.

Art & Craft Activities:

- Barna Waste Colouring Competition
- Design A-Card Christmas Template
- Halloween themed Art and Craft activities are taking part in all classes this week

Literacy and Numeracy:

- The School Improvement Plans for both Literacy and Numeracy are being reviewed during this term.
- The Lift Off to Literacy project is taking place in selected classrooms.
- AISTEAR Programme for Infant Classes.
- Maths Stations in selected classrooms.
- New resources have been purchased e.g. Starlight Oral Language Programme for Infant Classes.
- Maths Week runs from 16th – 24th October and pupils will participate in a wide range of activities – all geared towards making Maths more interesting and enjoyable for children.

Active School Flag: We will have an official raising of our First Active School Flag on Wednesday, 20th October. This flag is based on the range of physical education activities with a focus on the Dance Strand of the P.E. syllabus. This flag was awarded to the school for the various physical activities and fitness related initiatives. We hope to have a sporting celebrity available to raise the flag on Wednesday.

Halloween Costume Day: All pupils are encouraged to dress up in their favourite Halloween costume on Friday, 22nd October.

Halloween Break: We close on Friday 22nd for our Halloween Break and re-open on Tuesday, 2nd November.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful Halloween.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. P. Coyle, Principal.