

23rd October, 2019.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Pupils are now settled into regular school routines and we look forward to co-operating with you as we endeavour to provide a positive and happy learning environment for all of our pupils.

Induction Meeting: The Induction meeting for parents/guardians of Junior Infant pupils, was held early in September and this was well attended. If any parent/guardian has a concern about their child please make an appointment to see the child's teacher.

HSE School Health Programme:

- HSE provides a free School Health Programme for pupils in Junior Infant classes. This includes vision and hearing screening as well as an Immunisation Programme. If you want your child to avail of this service you should complete and return the Information form immediately.
- **Dental Screening:** This year pupils in 2nd and 6th classes will be screened by Fergal Walsh, School dentist on Friday, 22nd November. Please return all consent forms to the school by Thursday, 14th November.

School Choir: St. Ita's School Choir has reconvened and will sing at school events during the coming school year. Welcome back to current members. New members are now welcome particularly from 3rd class.

School Band: The Band welcomed Bishop Michael Duignan on the day of his Ordination to St. Brendan's Cathedral. Well done to all band members and thank you to the teachers who supervised on the day.

Sporting Events: The following sporting activities which complement the existing P.E. Curriculum took place:

Activity	Classes	Status
Swimming classes	3 rd and 4 th	classes are completing an 8 week programme
Cross Country Running	5 th & 6 th	took part in the Manning Cross Country Event
Camogie	3 rd – 6 th	coaching on Fridays.Participated in Inter-schools Camogie Blitz.
Active School Flag	Junior Infants – 6 th Class	Monster Walk Halloween stations 25 th October 2019 Walktober (walking)

Credit Union Savings Scheme: Dónal from Naomh Breandáin Credit Union is here every Wednesday to take lodgements from pupils in 2nd – 6th classes.

Coffee Morning: The Coffee Morning organised by Ms. O'Brien in aid of the Galway Hospice raised a total of €831.14. Thank you to all who supported and thank you to the parents and volunteers who assisted on the morning.

Admissions Policy: Our current Policy is available to view on www.stitasloughrea.com is being reviewed. Your opinions and suggestions are very welcome. Let me know if you have any suggestion or input for this process.

Preparatory Mass: Well done to the pupils in 2nd Class who had their first preparatory Mass on Sunday, 20th October. Thank you to the teachers who prepared them so well and thank you to the choir and their teachers.

Some dates for your diary:

<i>First Holy Communion Preparatory Masses</i>	Sunday	20 th October	10.00 a.m.	St. Brendan's Cathedral
	Sunday	17 th November	10.00 a.m.	St. Brendan's Cathedral
	Sunday	2 nd February	10.00 a.m.	St. Brendan's Cathedral
	Sunday	1 st March	10.00 a.m.	St. Brendan's Cathedral
<i>First Confession</i>	Thursday	2 nd April	7.00 p.m.	St. Brendan's Cathedral
<i>First Holy Communion</i>	Sunday	17 th May	10.00a.m.	St. Brendan's Cathedral
<i>Confirmation</i>	Sunday	31 st May	10.00a.m.	St. Brendan's Cathedral

Literacy and Numeracy:

- Primary Language Curriculum - Lift off to Literacy: This term we are implementing this project in Ms. Mahony's Second Class.
- The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment have developed two information leaflets for parents/guardians regarding the Primary Language Curriculum. All of this information is available on www.curriculumonline.ie. and on www.helpmykidlearn.ie.
- Last Friday Pupils in Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd Classes took part in Practical Maths Workshops. Pupils used a wide range of "hands on" materials which cover several mathematical concepts. The workshops make maths relevant and enjoyable.
- The School Improvement Plans for Literacy and Numeracy are being implemented.
- Writing Workshops – pupils in 4th class attended a workshop in Loughrea Library. The workshop was facilitated by Caroline Beshar who is a children's writer

Parent-Teacher Meetings: Parent-Teacher Meetings will be held on Wednesday, 13th November and on Wednesday, 20th November after school hours. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you to arrange a time and date. The results of the Drumcondra Test will be available on request at the Parent-Teacher Meeting.

Baboró: Pupils in 5th and 6th classes attended a number of Workshops at the Baboró Festival in Galway last week. They visited Galway City Museum and Galway Arts Centre. The girls learned all about rainbows, how to investigate microscopes and attended an art exhibition

Attendance: Traditionally we have a very high rate of school attendance here in St. Ita's. Please ensure that your child attends school on a daily basis. If your child is absent you must notify your child's teacher.

Book Rental/Art & Craft/Photocopying: Please ensure that you have paid your contributions as outlined on the booklist to your child's teacher.

Pupil Personal Accident Scheme: This is available at price of €8 for 24 Hour Cover.

Healthy Eating Policy/Food Allergies: Our Healthy Eating Policy has been revised and updated and is on the school website. A number of pupils attending St. Ita's present with **serious food allergies**. The following foods **must not** be included in your child's lunch - egg, mustard, shellfish, kiwi and all nut products.

Halloween Art & Window Boxes: There is a wonderful selection of Halloween themed Art & Craft displays throughout the school. The school window boxes were re-planted by Ms. O'Donnell Burke and her pupils. Well done to all in both projects.

Cake Sale: Please continue to donate and support Friday's Cake Sale.

Halloween Break: We close on Friday 25th for our Halloween Break and re-open on Monday, 4th November. Wishing you all a happy and safe Halloween Break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. P. Coyle, Principal.