



## **September/October Newsletter**

11<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

**Return to School:** Welcome back to all of our pupils and staff as we settle into the routines of another new school year. We hope that your child/children will have a very happy and a very positive experience in St. Ita's during this school year.

**School Policies:** Please see the school website on [www.stitaloughrea.com](http://www.stitaloughrea.com). Please note that the following policies have been recently reviewed and updated – School Code of Behaviour, Special Education Needs Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement (including the Written Assessment of Risk).

**Attendance and Punctuality:** The school day runs from 8.50 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. for Infant pupils and 8.50 a.m. - 2.30 p.m. for pupils in 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes. Doors open at 8.40 a.m. so please ensure that your child comes to school on time. If your child is absent you must inform your child's teacher by note or email as we are obliged to keep a record of your child's absences and reasons for same.

### **Parent-Teacher Meetings:**

- The Induction Meeting for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Junior Infants pupils was held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September.
- Formal Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held after school hours on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you regarding a time and date.
- Parents of pupils in Mrs. Glynn's second class will have their Parent/Teacher Meetings later in the school year. A letter with information on this will be forwarded to parents in second class.
- Informal Parent/Teacher Meetings during the course of the school year can be arranged by contacting your child's teacher and making an appointment. If during the course of the school year you have a concern or a matter to discuss regarding your child's progress, you should contact the school and make an appointment.

**Retirement of Mrs. Joan Glynn, Deputy Principal:** Mrs. Joan Glynn, Deputy Principal in St. Ita's N.S. is retiring at the Halloween Break. Mrs. Glynn has given sterling and unbroken service to primary education in St. Ita's N.S. for over 42 years.

**On Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October** we will have a **Retirement Mass at 1.15 p.m.** in the Cathedral. Parents are very welcome to attend on this special occasion.

As the Mass begins at 1.15 p.m. sharp, we request that **Infant pupils are collected at 12.50 p.m. sharp on this day.** We would really appreciate your co-operation in this matter. Infant parents are welcome to take their child to this Mass if they so wish.

**Parents of non-Catholic pupils** who do not wish their child to attend this Mass, **must collect their child at 12.50 p.m.** from the school.

### Sporting Events:

- **Swimming Classes:** Swimming Classes for Third and Fourth class pupils are underway on Wednesdays.
- **Camogie:** Camogie coaching for Fifth and Sixth Class pupils is available on Wednesday mornings. A team representing St. Ita's took part in the Kilchreest Camogie Tournament on 4th October.
- **Cross Country Running:** Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes received opportunities to do Cross Country Running during September and October. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class team and the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes teams as well as individual runners took part in the County Galway Cross Country Semi Finals and Finals. Well done to all of you and we wish good luck to the pupils going forward to the Connacht Finals.

**School Self-Evaluation (Science):** Thank you to the parents who returned completed questionnaires regarding science. We have included this information along with information received from the pupil focus group questionnaires and have drawn up a School Improvement Plan for Science 2023-2026.

**Literacy during First Term:** During this term the following Literacy related activities are in place.

- School Improvement Plan for Literacy is being implemented.
- Extra reading materials purchased.
- The Lift Off to Literacy project is taking place in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class for six weeks.
- Reading Recovery Programme – Ms. Murray.
- Visit to Loughrea Library – selection of Infants Classes and pupils in Second Class attended a Workshop with Fiona Dowling, Visiting Author.
- Co. Galway School Library Service visited the school in early September to facilitate a school library book exchange.

### Numeracy:

- School Improvement Plan for Numeracy is being implemented.
- Infant Maths Trails.
- 6 Bricks – is an initiative being introduced in Senior Infants 2 (Ms. Walsh's class). Through fun and short activities with sets of Duplo Bricks the children can practice their memory movement and creativity by using 6 bright coloured bricks. It is a hands-on engaging approach for learning through play with a focus on numeracy, literacy, motor skills and S.T.E.M.
- Plus Plus Bricks – S.T.E.M. subjects and Aistear programme in Infant Classes

**Walking School Bus Initiative:** This initiative organised by Naomh Bhreandáin Credit Union is up and running. Pupils depart from car park on Barrack Street at 8.30 a.m. each day.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October:** will be a **FUN HALLOWEEN PARTY** at school in St Ita's. All pupils are encouraged to dress up in their favourite Halloween costume. There will be a cake sale on the day. Parents are invited to bake and send in cakes/buns. There will be a chance to come and buy and have a coffee **between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** Children will need money to play games, enter competitions and buy bun/cakes. (An email with details will be sent out later in the week).

**Halloween Break:** We close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> for our Halloween Break and re-open on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November. Wishing you all a safe and peaceful Halloween.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. P. Coyle, Principal.