



Aladdin Connect

Many thanks to all parents who have signed up to Aladdin Connect. We strongly encourage all families to do so in order to improve school-home communications. We will be providing an update next week with regard to the various functions that we can use together and from which we will benefit.



Safe Crossing for Children on Mountview Road and Shelerin Road

We ask all parents and the school community to observe the **KEEP CLEAR** sections of road at both the Mountview Road and Shelerin Road Pedestrian Crossings. It is very dangerous if cars are parked in this area as it inhibits motorists to fully see our Lollipop Ladies coordinating the road crossings for children, and equally it makes it extremely difficult for our Lollipop Ladies to see oncoming traffic. We appreciate your cooperation on this important matter.



Dogs Not Permitted on Campus

A reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school campus. This is clearly indicated on signage on the school gates. It is vital that all parents adhere by this rule to ensure the health and safety of all the children.



Frása na Seachtaine (Phrase of the Week)

Our Irish phrase for last week and this week is: **Oíche Shamhna Shona Duit!** [*Ee-ha How-na Hunna Ditch*] Happy Hallowe'en!

Well done to all classes who have been so dedicated in learning our weekly Irish phrase all term and sharing it in class and all around the school 😊



With every good wish for a Safe and Happy Hallowe'en! We look forward to seeing you all back to school on Monday 2nd of November at 08:50 a.m.

Jane O'Connell (Principal), Eimear Igoe (Deputy Principal) and all the staff at St. Philip the Apostle Junior National School 😊

St. Philip the Apostle Junior School



Autumn Newsletter 2020

Dear Children and Parents,

We hope you are keeping well and are enjoying a well-deserved break after a very busy half-term back at school.



Gratitude to Children and Parents

Sincere thanks to both children and parents for all your cooperation and support in implementing our school Covid-19 Response Plan which has enabled all of us to have a very fruitful and safe return to school this year. We look forward to your continued support next term.

Gratitude to the School Staff

We are very grateful to all the staff and Board of Management who have worked so hard not only to open the school safely, but to ensure that it remains a safe place for all of to work and learn.

High Rates of Covid-19 in our Community

Needless to say, we continue to be very alarmed at the high rates of Covid-19 infection and transmission in our wider community. The entire country has been placed into the highest level of alert, Level 5, and will remain at that level for the next six weeks at a minimum.

There is no doubt that we are facing into a very perilous time in our community. The rate of increase in the spread of Covid-19 must be brought right down, and this must happen now. If it continues to escalate at the current rate of transmission, it is surely only a matter of time before the continued safe operation of schools is called into question.

Need for Parental Vigilance during Mid-Term Break

As our children go home for the mid-term break, we are anxious to ensure that they continue to be safe. In order for this to happen, we are going to be asking parents to make very difficult decisions:

- To stick to public health advice
- Not to organise visits to other households
- Not to organise sleep-overs or play dates with other households
- Not to travel beyond a 5km radius from home
- Adults wearing face coverings, as required
- Continuing to encourage good hand hygiene and respiratory health among all members of the household

We need to have everyone on board!

These public health guidelines are there for the protection of **all of us**.

Yes, they are difficult and yes, they are challenging for all of us. But if we do not commit to following them- each and every one of us- it will mean giving in to the increased transmission of the virus, and allowing it to go un-checked throughout our community. We want to appeal to you all, as our partners in the education of our precious young people, to take every step possible to drive down the transmission of the virus. We want to re-discover the sense of solidarity that was there in the months of March and April when we were all in this together. Please, please adhere to the guidelines, keep your children safe during the Halloween period, and in doing this, help to ensure that our schools remain open and safe for everyone.



Outdoor Hallowe'en Disco Thursday 22nd of October!

Well done to all our classes who took part in our Annual Hallowe'en Disco last Thursday. This year it was an outdoor disco, and each class took part within their own class bubble. There was great fun and cheer to be had, as well as some excellent dancing. Once again, our children came to school in beautifully created costumes and face paints- many thanks to all parents for your support to make the day special. Sincere thanks too to all our staff who donned costumes which really adds to the fun of the occasion every year- especially this year! Many thanks also to Mrs. Rynne and Ms. Carroll for organising the Outdoor Disco Schedule for all the classes and to Mrs. O'Sullivan, for sourcing and setting up superb sound equipment for the outdoors.



2nd Class Hallowe'en Performances

Normally at this time of year, our Second Classes would host a School Assembly inspired by the theme of Hallowe'en. Unfortunately at this time, we cannot all assemble in the School Hall as a school nor invite Parents to such events. This did not deter our Second Classes from sharing recordings of Hallowe'en songs dance and poetry with their Parents via Seesaw and with other classes to ensure this tradition was celebrated. Well done to all the children involved and to our Second Class teachers Ms. Slattery, Mr. McGinty, Mrs. Molloy and Ms. Hynes for coordinating this virtual Hallowe'en event.



GAA at St. Philip's JNS with Coach Ms. Amanda Scallan, Games Promotion Officer at St. Peregrine's GAA Club

Warm thanks to Ms. Amanda Scallan, who has been coaching our Senior Infant Classes and Second Classes GAA football every Thursday September 10th-October 15th last term on the school pitch! It has been a wonderful initiative and we look forward to continuing after mid-term.



Musical Mondays

Musical Mondays resumed at the start of term. Our Music Coordinator Mrs. Grainne O'Sullivan selects and shares a music genre/piece with all teachers and teachers share this music with each class on Mondays. It's a bright start to the week! We also encourage our pupils to enjoy the Music on the Corridor as they go about their school.

In addition, our First Classes have been taking part in Ukulele since the end of September on Mondays with Visiting Ukulele Teacher Ms. Sheilagh Fox. The children have completed four classes already and will continue ukulele lessons after the mid-term break.



Ballet for Junior Infants!

We are thrilled to welcome back our visiting Ballet Teacher Ms. Claire Connolly who is teaching our Junior Infant Classes ballet every Wednesday morning since mid-October as part of our PE programme. The children have enjoyed two lessons so far and will continue after the mid-term break.

