

ROSEMOUNT PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



September 2018
NEWSLETTER

HELEN STREET
DERRY
BT48 9DD
028 71265605

Welcome back to all our pupils and parents! I hope you had a great summer. It is lovely to see all the familiar faces again and I'd like to extend a very special welcome to our Nursery pupils and P1s who have settled in so well. A warm welcome also to our newest member of staff, Mrs Bridgeen Scott who brings a wealth of experience to the school as well as expertise in a number of areas of the curriculum. I look forward to the year ahead and wish you and your child(ren) health and happiness for the year ahead.



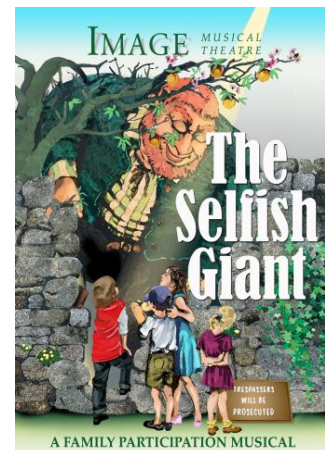
Dates for the Diary;

- **Fri 28th September 2018** – Image Musical Theatre perform “The Selfish Giant” in the school assembly Hall from 1:30-3:00pm. P1-7 are welcome to attend (please be aware of the late finish). **This performance will be free of charge thanks to the fundraising efforts of our hard working PTA. Thank you!!**

- **Mon 24th Sept** – School Closure (Staff Training Day)

- **Mon 24th Sept** – Meeting for parents of P4 First Communion pupils in St Joseph's at 7.00pm

- **Sun 30th Sept** – Enrolment mass at 11am for P4 'Do This In Memory Of Me' First Communion Programme



Fire and Security Upgrade/School Improvements



Over the summer we have:

- Installed new security system (state of the art)
- Upgraded fire safety system
- Painted all corridors/including the “old school”
- Yellow paint on all steps and protrusions
- Replaced noticeboards in the corridors
- The process of modernising our heating system to condensing boilers will start soon

ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL is now restricted in line with **Child Protection** guidelines that we have been given. Please follow them:

- Visitors should enter through the main entrance **ONLY**.
- Report to the office upon arrival.
- Only staff and authorised personnel should be in and around the school during school hours.
- At home time, P2-P5 will leave the building from the door beside the Nursery. It will take a little time for teachers to get to know parents/grandparents etc. so we appreciate your patience at “pick up” times. Again, we are following guidance provided to us with these new initiatives.

Parent Survey: Thank you to everyone who took part in our parent survey the results of which can be found on our school website. We use the information gleaned from this and other surveys we have carried out recently to inform our School Development Plan which will map out the direction and focus for our school over the next three years.

Time Keeping and Attendance; With our new security system, late comers have to be let in individually by office staff. This can be disruptive to the smooth running of the school as well as the classroom. In last year's newsletters we published acceptable levels of absenteeism from school. 85% and below is deemed unacceptable by the Education Authority and we are duty bound to follow up on this. Letters will be sent home to explain high levels of absence and the EWO for our school will also be involved. Research has shown that children with low attendance normally underperform at school and can lack motivation.....**MISS SCHOOL MISS OUT**



School Vision: As stated previously we are at the start of a new School Development Plan. This coupled with the fact that I, as principal, am still relatively new (feels like I've always been here...), I would like to revisit the Vision that we have for the future of our school and what is important to us. The vision outlined below has already been discussed at staff level. If you have an opinion on what should be a priority for the school and would like it included in our Vision please let us know.

“Rosemount Primary and Nursery School aims to develop each child to their fullest potential. High expectations and effective teaching and learning methods will empower all children to achieve and develop as life-long learners, fully prepared for an ever changing world. As a Catholic school we will promote values of respect and compassion for others while making a positive contribution to our community.”

Healthy Snacks: A quick survey of some of the children's snack and lunch boxes has indicated high levels of sugary foods. As a Health Promoting School we encourage healthy snacks such as fruit, sandwiches, plain biscuits, etc. Occasionally staff will give a sweet treat as a reward to pupils. Chocolate bars and sugary foods should not be eaten on a daily basis but can be a great incentive if used as a treat.



Healthy School

CLUBS: We will have the after school clubs up and running on Monday and will confirm this later by text. Due to the lack of adequate funding from the Department of Education, experienced by all schools, we are in the process of re-evaluating how we fund these clubs. This may involve a small charge. In the meantime, however, your child is free to attend these clubs as usual but we hope to have further information for you soon. We really appreciate the patience, support and encouragement we have received from parents and the community during these difficult financial times.

Homework; Please keep us informed if you feel there is an issue with regard to homeworks. If homeworks are taking too long or are proving difficult you can write a note in the homework book or call in and speak to the class teacher. We appreciate that homework can cause stress at home. The more informed we are, the better we are able to address any issues.