



Dear Parents/Carers,

28 August 2023

I hope you have all had a lovely Summer Break. I look forward to getting to know the children, parents, staff and wider school community over the coming weeks as the new Acting Principal of St Oliver's P.S.

I just wanted to update you on several important arrangements and information as the staff prepare for the children returning.

### Back to School

School Reopens on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September.



### After School Club

Due to a number of changes in staffing during the summer months, we are working hard to ensure our after-school club will be operating again from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September at a cost of £2.50 per day. Due to a significant decrease in school funding, we now require parents to book their days the week before, not on the day, to give us time to prepare activities and staffing. If you have a booked your child in for a certain day and they are absent, we will be unable to refund you as staff will have already been assigned. Further information will be sent to parents next week to confirm that they club is starting on the 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### Homework

Homework will begin for most classes on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Homework is an important part of the learning process, however, we understand how busy homes can be.

We recommend the following times for homework completion and would ask that children do not spend much longer completing their set tasks:

P1/2 children should spend around 15 minutes;

P3 children should spend around 20 minutes;

P4/5 children should spend around 30 minutes;

P6/7 children should spend around 45 minutes.



### School Holidays

Our school calendar is on the website. Please check the dates as there has been a slight amendment in Term 1. Parent/Teacher meetings are on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, therefore, school will be closed that day for pupils. After these meetings, the school will remain closed for a week-long Halloween break (30<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November).

### Dinner Money/Other Payments

In June, the school was unable to source the money envelopes with the school logo. Please send all money to school in any type of envelope, clearly labelled with your child's name, class and what the money is for on **Fridays only**. The dinner menu will be posted on the school website this week.



### **Free School Meals**

Please visit <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants> to apply for Free School Meals / check your eligibility.

### **Change of Details**

If you have moved house or changed your telephone number/email address, please contact the school office so we can update your details.

### **Allergies/Medical Needs**

It is crucial that your child's allergies/medical needs have been clearly communicated to the school. If there have been any changes over the summer months, please let the school know asap.

### **Extended Schools Funding**

I know the children enjoyed so many brilliant activities which focused on Music, Gardening and Literacy/Numeracy online programmes. The school was informed that some funding has been made available until March 2024, therefore, we hope to be able to offer most of these again and will be in touch when we have more information. Healthy Kidz will be starting in a few weeks' time.

### **Communication**

School is a busy place, so we ask that you contact the school via email in the first instance to leave a message for the relevant staff. No telephone calls will be put through to teachers during teaching time. Staff will also be unable to discuss children with parents during drop off or pick up times. Please also contact the school office before school begins the morning your child is sick to let us know.

### **Gaelic Dress Up Day**

We hope to have a non-uniform day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September where the children can wear a Gaelic jersey or a t-shirt with their favourite colour/s. We would appreciate if each family could bring in a £1 donation for Trócaire.

The staff and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September!

Yours faithfully,

Mr Caolán Byrne

(Acting Principal)

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