

St. Mary's Primary School

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Newsletter

14th October 2021

Dear parents, carers, staff and friends,

European Language Label Winner!

We are delighted to share with you that our school has been awarded the European Language Label by Léargas this year.

This is a huge honour for our school and recognises the many ways we promote children's home languages and support their language development at school. The project we submitted for the award includes our Young Interpreters programme, our Language Explorers programme, our use of dual-language books and our encouragement of children using their languages in the classroom, at home and at school.

We are so proud of our multilingual learners and our wonderful staff team who support them so well. We look forward to celebrating at the award ceremony in November.

Next Monday, we welcome two videographers to the school to film and showcase the work that we do. This video will be available online for other schools and members of the public to view. We will be filming in classes all around the school and children should wear their full school uniform for the day please. If you do not wish your child to be included in the filming, please let their class teacher know before Monday. Thank you.

Language Explorers

We have welcomed several facilitators from MotherTongues Ireland to our school over the last few weeks to deliver 'Language Explorers' workshops to each class. Every child in the school is taking part in these workshops to explore their own languages, the languages of other children in their class and other languages from around the world. The children have loved these sessions and it is wonderful to hear them sharing their

languages, noticing similarities and differences and using this to support their learning.

Interactive Museum of Languages

We are lucky to have a beautiful art and play installation called the 'Interactive Museum of Languages' in our school for two weeks. Each class will spend time in the Hall exploring language in a hands-on practical way, listening to stories in home languages, completing puzzles with Braille and even exploring Inca knotted languages!

SFI Discover Science and Maths Award

We were delighted to receive a plaque of excellent for our learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths this month. Each year, we gather together all of the learning in these subjects and submit the evidence for this award. We are delighted to have achieved this award again and will display it proudly in our entrance hall. Well done to all of the children for their brilliant learning, to our staff for the creative and engaging way they teach these subjects and our thanks to Mr Kerr who led the project.

Other news this month:

4th Class took part in an online virtual workshop for 'Global Cyber Day' with volunteers from KPMG.

5th Class had a visit from our Community Gardai, Cian and Brendan, to remind them about staying safe at Hallowe'en, particularly around bonfires and fireworks. Remember fireworks are illegal and very dangerous for children.

Hallowe'en Disco

Our annual Hallowe'en celebrations will take place on Friday, 22nd October. The children are invited to dress up for the day and each class will have a disco slot in the Hall. We will continue to observe Covid protocols and keep classes separate. Please refrain from sending in swords, light sabers, wands or other hand-held toys as we want to limit the touching and sharing that will happen with these.

We will also have our annual pumpkin decorating competition – families are invited to decorate a



pumpkin and bring it into school on Friday, 22nd. We are always so impressed with your creativity and can't wait to see what you produce this year!

Hallowe'en is a very old Irish festival so we often teach children some of the old Irish traditions and games of the harvest season. We know some families do not like to take part in the dressing up – that is ok. Please remember it is a normal school day and children should come to school anyway.

Covid-19 Updates

The symptoms of Covid19 that we need to be looking out for are fever, cough, loss of sense of smell/taste, sore throat, headache, diarrhoea, fatigue, and any of those with a runny nose. Please keep your child at home if they have these symptoms and contact your GP for advice if they get worse. Children should be 48 hours symptom-free before returning to school.

The current approach from the HSE means that children in school are not deemed close contacts. We will continue to let you know if there is a case in your child's class so that you can be especially careful, but children will continue to come to school as normal unless they display symptoms.

Adults, we would ask you to please wear a face mask when you are dropping/ collecting your child from school and keep your distance from other adults.

School Books and Tracksuits

We are still accepting payments from families for books and tracksuits. We know September is an expensive month, so it is fine if you haven't been able to pay until now. We have paid for all of the children's books, copies and resources and now need to pay our bills. If you can please, the cost per child is €60. We are happy to take money in smaller instalments.

Please make sure your child's name is clearly marked on their clothes. Every day we find jumpers and coats with no names and it is a challenge to find the owners!

Board of Management – Parent Representative

We are seeking a new parent representative on our school's Board of Management, as Mariana Balau has stepped down. We will hold a meeting on Tuesday, 2nd November 2021 at 9.15 a.m. at the School Office to elect a new representative for mothers. If you are interested in being nominated or have any questions about the role, please speak to Ms Kelly or Ms Brophy who will be happy to explain more.

Attendance and punctuality

Remember that we aim for 95% attendance. We know this is challenging, especially with the caution around Covid – but it is important that children are in school every day they are well. Appointments (for children or parents), visits to family, birthdays or other social occasions, are not good reasons for children to miss a day of school. Please schedule these for outside of school hours.

Dates for your diary

22nd October – Hallowe'en Disco and Dress-Up Day

22nd October – School closes for Mid-Term Holiday

1st November – School re-opens at 8.50 a.m.

3rd/4th November – meeting for parents/carers of children involved in First Holy Communion or Confirmation this year.

5th November – School closes at 12 noon for teacher training on the new Primary Language Curriculum

11th November – Vision and hearing tests for infant children in school

22nd December – School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays

Keeping up to date on Seesaw

One of the best ways to keep up with all the wonderful learning in your child's class is by following the class on Seesaw using the Seesaw Family app. Ask your child's class teacher for more information if you need it.

Best wishes,

Éadaoin Kelly
Principal