



20th October 2020

A Message from Ms. Veale

We are all delighted to be back in school. We have had a very safe, productive half-term. We extend a very special welcome to all our new children, especially our Junior Infants, and indeed all the other pupils who have joined us for the first time this year. We wish them well for their first year in school with us. We would also like to wish all our former pupils the very best in their new schools.

I am also delighted to welcome our new members of staff and know that they will be made feel very welcome here in Good Shepherd National School.

Ms Geraghty (Sr. Infant Teacher)
Ms Egan (Support Teacher)
Ms O' Riordan (SNA)
Ms O'Brien (SNA)

Many changes have been made in our school over the Summer to ensure that government guidelines are being closely followed. New routines have been put in place to ensure that the school environment has been made as safe as possible for everyone. Our pupils are adapting very well to our new procedures and the atmosphere in the school has been wonderful since we re-opened.

Thank you so much to all our parents and guardians for your continued co-operation in ensuring the success of our School Return Plan.

Beir bua is beannacht
Órlaith Veale
Príomhoide



Calendar 2020/21



Halloween Dress UP €2. Friday 23rd Oct

Mid-term Break

School closed Monday, 23rd Oct. – Friday, 30th Oct. (inclusive)
(Re-opens Mon. 2nd Nov. 8.50am).

Parent/Teacher meetings (Virtual) –Monday-18th Nov-Fri 22nd
(Teachers will be in contact with information after mid-term)

**Fundraising for the Asthma Society of Ireland in memory of
Ross Edwards R.I.P.**

Friday 27th Nov Dress in Blue €2.00

Christmas Holidays

School closes

Tues, 22nd Dec. at 12.00pm

(Re-opens Wed 6th Jan. 8.50am). **2021**

Mid Term Break

School closed

(School re-opens Mon. 22nd Feb. 8.50am).

Thurs 18th & Fri 19th Feb

St. Patricks Day

Wed. 17th March **School closed**

Easter Holidays

Friday, 26th March

School closes at 12.00pm

(Re-opens Mon. 12th April 8.50am).

May Bank Holiday

Monday, 3rd -School Closed

Mid Term Break School closed Tues 4th - Fri 7th

(Re-opens Mon. 10th May 8.50am).

June Bank Holiday

Monday, 7th – School closed.

Tuesday 8th June

School Closed

Summer Holidays

Wednesday 30th **June 12 noon**

JUNIOR INFANTS 2021

Applications for Junior Infants 2021 closes at **12pm Friday 23rd October.**



We recognise the importance of student wellbeing and the positive mental health of the children in the Good Shepherd NS. Since we returned on August 31st we have placed a huge emphasis on positive wellbeing. We incorporate it into our daily school lives and it continues to be a common focus across all classes.

Children from every class in the school participated in 'Well-being Week' recently where meditation, yoga, and other relaxation exercises were enjoyed by all. Since returning post 'Lock Down' we have been privileged to welcome back 'Happy Joe' to our school. Happy Joe Conlon has been delivering weekly well-being classes to all children in the form of music, dance and meditation. Check out our school website www.school@goodshepherd.ie for some fabulous photos of wellbeing in action!



Homework Club:

Homework Club will resume after Mid-Term for 4th, 5th & 6th classes only. It will take place from 2.30 - 3.30 on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays. Places this year are extremely limited. Cost is €5 per week and a small snack is provided. If you are interested please contact Ms Lynch to book your child in. hscl@goodshepherd.ie

Breakfast Club:

Thank you for your cooperation with our booking system for Breakfast Club. Children may now be booked into Breakfast Club on a monthly basis. Places are limited so please ensure you book your child in as drop ins cannot be accommodated. Breakfast Club costs just 50c per day and is a great way to start the day. Please contact Ms Lynch on 086 3194460 or hscl@goodshepherd.ie for more information.

PA Whats App Groups

PA Whats App groups are up and running in every class in the school. If you are not part of the group and wish to be, please contact Ms. Lynch or your class teacher and your number will be added to your class group. Parents have found the Whats App groups very useful – especially since last March.



A Halloween Safety Message from our Community Garda, Padraic Syron

I hope everyone is keeping well. Unfortunately this year due to the continuing COVID19 Pandemic, I will not visit Good Shepherd to give the Annual Halloween Safety Talk. However, I am asking you to chat about the main points below with your children before Halloween. Use some of the safety tips below to keep you safe again this year.

Top Tips for a Safe Halloween

- Stay a safe distance from bonfires and fireworks
- Have an adult with you when trick or treating or at events
- Wear reflective material on your costume so that you can be clearly be seen
- Fire resistant materials should be used for costumes, masks and wigs
- Keep pets indoors on Halloween night
- Skip houses that have no lights on
- Do not buy, use or supply fireworks

Advice to Parents

- Be extra vigilant during this period and know where your child is at all times
- Ensure your child stays in contact with you throughout Halloween night. Know who they will be with and where they will be going.
- Check on your elderly neighbours who may be frightened
- Keep dangerous substances such as oil, petrol and diesel away from fires or fireworks
- If your child has a mobile phone ensure it is charged and switch on the location sharing.
- Ensure that children are aware of very real dangers associated with fireworks
- If you discover your children have bangers/fireworks please hand them into your local Garda Station
- If you have any information about the illegal importation/ sale of fireworks please contact any Garda station or use the Garda confidential line – telephone number 1800 – 666 -111. In the event of an emergency dial 999 or 112 or Rathfarnham Garda Station on 016666500.



Future School Closures



If there are future school closures and we revert to remote learning we will use the SeeSaw app to post daily activities for children to complete. We will also use the Educational Version of ZOOM for virtual interactions. Individual teachers will notify you of dates/times for these virtual get together so you too can plan your time. Please ensure you have the apps downloaded and ready just incase.