
St. John Bosco Junior Boys' School,
Navan Road,
Dublin 7.



Newsletter September/October 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

Fáilte ar ais

Belated welcome back to all our boys, parents and staff. I hope everyone had a lovely summer and everyone is back refreshed and ready for a new school year. A very special welcome to all our new Junior Infants and to Jack, Youssef and Syed who have joined us in other classes.

Aladdin Connect App

The Aladdin Connect App is now our primary method of communicating with parents. Please ensure that you download the app, set up an account and log in to your son's profile. Don't forget to ensure that notifications are enabled on your phone. If you have any problems with the app, please let us know.

Emergency Contact Details

If you have changed your telephone number or moved house please remember to let us know as it is vital we have emergency contact details for all boys. You can also change or amend your contact details through the Aladdin Connect App.

Head Bumps in the Yard

Currently, we always call a parent when a child receives a bang on the head at school. The vast majority of the time, this is simply to notify parents of the bump and the child is fine to stay at school. To make things easier for parents, we will now send a text in place of making a phone call in these non-emergency situations. We will continue to make a phone call in cases where we have any concern about the injury. If you do receive a text, please feel free to call us if you require any clarification.

Presidential Election

Due to the voting in the Presidential Election, our school will be closed on Friday 26th October.

Witch Walk

We will hold our annual Witch Walk on Thursday 25th October, weather permitting. The boys may dress up in their Hallowe'en costumes and bring in a donation of €2 towards ICT resources in our school. The Parents' Association will provide a small treat for the boys after the walk.

Collection Time

Collection time, especially for our new Junior Infants is a very busy time of the day. We ask parents to help make this as easy and as safe as possible for all the boys. When you are standing in the yard, please try not to stand on the yellow lines that the boys line up on. Allow the teacher to bring the whole class out onto the line and dismiss them one by one. This way the class teacher knows that

every child has been collected. On wet days the teachers will dismiss the boys from the doors. We know that this can take time but we appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Head Lice

We have a number of classes with incidents of head lice at the moment. We are asking all parents to actively check your son's hair on a regular basis. It is vital to use proper nit combs to check as a visual inspection is not always reliable. If you find that your son does contract head lice, the only way to get rid of them properly is to comb the hair using the nit combs every three days for at least two weeks. We have purchased a number of Bug Buster Kits and they are available from the office for €10. This contains all the combs you will need to check for and clear head lice and nits. This kit is reusable time and again so it is a once off purchase that is highly recommended.

Healthy Lunches/Allergies

Just a reminder that we encourage the boys to have a healthy lunch at school every day. Please have a read of our Healthy Eating policy which is on the website. The boys may drink water at all times during the day but please ensure that the bottle has a sports cap on it to avoid spillages. **As we have a number of children in the school with nut allergies we ask parents not to give nuts, peanut butter, chocolate spread and other products containing nuts for lunch.** Also, remember that birthday cakes/party bags should not be sent in to the teacher for distribution.

So that you are aware of what your son is eating at school, we encourage the boys to put all rubbish and uneaten food back into their lunchbox. Please ensure that your son has a lunchbox that he is able to open and close by himself.

Smoking and Dogs

Please remember that smoking and dogs are both banned from our school campus. In the interest of the health and safety of all our children, please remember this at drop off and collection times.

Meeting your son's teacher

Parents are always welcome in our school and teachers are happy to meet with you to discuss your son's progress. We do ask that, while a brief chat is possible at home-time, for serious issues it is always best to make an appointment. It is very difficult for the teacher to talk to you in the mornings as the focus then is on bringing in their class, talking to the boys themselves and getting started on the day's work. If you drop a short note to the teacher or make a phone call to the office we will organise a suitable time for a meeting.

Photographer

The Photographer will visit the school on Wednesday 17th October. He will take photographs of all the boys. Further details will issue closer to the date.

GAA

Mark Cooper is back on Tuesdays for GAA training with all Senior Infants and First Class boys. The Junior Infants will begin GAA after Christmas.

Parents' Committee

The Parents' Committee have a vital role in ensuring that the boys have a memorable three years in our school. As always they are looking for volunteers to help out. The date for the AGM has been set

for **Thursday 18th October at 8pm** in the Parish Centre. We hope to see as many parents there as possible.

Attendance

We encourage good attendance at all times and we request that, if your son is absent from school, you send in a note to the class teacher. If any child is absent for 20 days or more during the school year, we are obliged to report the details to the National Education Welfare Board.

Signing out

If you need to collect your son from school before dismissal time we ask you to come to the office and sign him out. This ensures we have a record of children leaving school early.

Medical Information Form

If your son has a medical condition, please ensure to let us know and fill out a Medical Information Form. You will be asked to update this on an annual basis. Marie has distributed these forms to most children now so if you haven't received one and feel you should fill one out, please contact the office.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 18th October - Photographer

Thursday 18th October - Parents' Association AGM

Friday 26th October - Presidential Election - School Closed

Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November - Midterm Break - School Closed

Clodagh Farrell
Principal