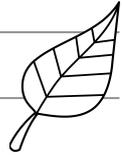




St Gerard's Primary Newsletter

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Halloween Fun Day and Family Night

Our Halloween fun day was a great success! The children looked fabulous in their costumes - thank you! Children took part in the dressing up parade, singing along and dancing to some classic music. It Our dinner ladies even flew to work this morning! Thank you for supporting school fund with your child's £1 donation.

Our family Halloween Night on Friday 30th October is fully booked; we have sold all our tickets. This promises to be a great night of fun and we are all looking forward to it. Remember anyone not in fancy dress will not be allowed entry!! Many thanks to Miss Lynch and the PTA for organising the event, your efforts are greatly appreciated. Well done!



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone had a lovely October holiday and managed to spend quality time with their children. We have been blessed with a rather beautiful autumn this year, the colours on the trees have been magical and the kind weather has allowed us to enjoy this time of year. However with the clocks going back one hour we already feel the impact of the darkness in the evenings and with winter fast approaching this makes things a bit problematic on the roads and pavements around the school. Please try to make sure your child is wrapped up for the school day and that they are coming to and from school accompanied by an adult or for senior children, to have a few friends with them. Please also remind your child/ren of "Stranger Danger" issues. Staff have done so with children but it would be a healthy reminder from parents and I am sure you would be happy to do so.

Mr Conaghan

Parents' Evening

We asked you to complete Partners in Learning sheets with your child at Parents evening and we hope you have had the time to do this. Please send in the completed sheets so we can use them within school as part of the learning process.

Questionnaire/Parent's Focus Group

Our school values the contribution of outdoor visits to exhibitions, museums, and activities. While they enhance children's educational experiences we can only arrange these trips if we have sufficient adult supervision. In the past we have been well supported by parents and once again I would be grateful if you could consider offering your help as a parent helper. If you are able to volunteer your time please pass your name and details to our office staff and they will contact you when outings or events are organised.

Parent Council

Please come along to the parent council AGM/meeting on Tuesday 10th November at 6.30pm. All parents are members of the parent forum and the parent council is the representative group for that forum.

Children's Health

If your child is ill, can you please ensure they are fully fit for returning to school. Recently we have seen a number of children returning to school too soon and attending school when ill. When a child is ill they bring their bugs and germs into the school and as you are aware schools are excellent places to pass on illness to others. Good attendance is always promoted at St. Gerard's but it is counter productive to the school community to send your child to school when not fully recovered. **Your support in this area is greatly appreciated.**

St Gerard's Twitter



As previously explained we need to pay for every text message we send out. As a result we have stopped using the service. Instead we have started a pilot using Twitter and we have started to "tweet".

Please be aware that we want this to be information from the school to parents and not a two-way dialogue. We do not have the human resources to respond to questions or comments that parents may wish to leave as the result of a twitter feed left by the school.

We are currently collating the feedback from you regarding use and access to twitter at home. We will have more news regarding Internet safety and appropriate use of twitter coming home to you soon.

You can find the school feed on twitter if you search @St_Gerards and the nursery are @GerryBears.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre is not far away, Sunday 29th November 2015 straight after 11am mass. Miss Lynch and the PTA are working hard in preparation for the day. If you would like to make donations for the Fayre they would be warmly welcomed. Please send all donations to the school office

Eco

St Gerard's Eco Committee and Mr. Harkins are working very hard to gain our green flag. Recently the committee with the help of P7 pupils have planted bulbs and set up our raised beds in the infant area. We are very proud of all the work they do. Go Eco Warriors!

New Baby Girls!

Congratulations to our staff and their families on the births of their little girls.

Mrs. Clarke gave birth to Darcy on 4.9.15

Mrs. Murphy gave birth to Orla on 22.9.15

Mrs. Gibbons gave birth to Eva Marie on 9.10.15

The little ones are doing well, we wish their mum's all the best as they settle into motherhood and many sleepless nights.

Race to Rio

Our whole school are delighted to be taking part in NL Leisure's Race to Rio. The program not only raises awareness of the upcoming Olympic Games in Rio in 2016 but is helping to improve the health and fitness of our pupils. Every Friday the whole school take to the yard for a 20 minute walk/run. They notch up the number of runs they do and there are little awards for them along the way when they reach bronze level, silver level and gold level. The initiative will be running for the rest of the year so make sure your child has a suitable jacket with them throughout the winter months.

Pantomime Time

We will be having a panto visiting the school on 23rd November 2015. The panto is "Jack and The Beanstalk" by Hopscotch Theatre Company. Cost will be £1 per family towards the cost of the panto.

Fire Service Visit

On Friday 23rd October the local Fire Service visited our infant classes to tell the children about all the good work they do for the community. Our children got the chance to wear the uniform and step inside the fire vehicle. Our teachers also enjoyed the experience! Thank you to the Fire Service for visiting St. Gerard's as we know you are very busy saving lives and keeping us all safe.

Sky Academy

On Friday 23rd October our P6 pupils visited the Sky Academy in Livingston. The children had a tour of Sky's building to see how this organisations works behind the scenes but the highlight of the day was the chance for the children to make their own news report on Eco issues. We had writers, reports, editors and camera crew. The children had excellent day. Thank you to Mr. Harkins for organising a great learning experience and thanks to our parent helpers who supported us on our visit.