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Newsletter # 2

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents & Staff,

School Raffle- The PA Committee in consultation with the BoM, have organised a Raffle Fundraiser to help fund the development of the astro turf pitch in the school. Each family has today received a booklet of 4 tickets costing 5 euro each. Please find attached a letter with the full details as well as a list of the fantastic prizes on offer. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Spellings for me- We are delighted to inform you that our school is now moving on from traditional spelling books. Traditional spelling books are generic and do not provide differentiated learning for your child. They do not consider your child's individual spelling ability. They simply set a very general standard, based on whatever class your child is in. The Spellings For Me programme pre tests the pupils ability online as they work through different levels and then creates their individualized spelling program based on their results. Each pupil has their individualized own Spellings For Me log in details. We are now asking that they complete the test at home to create a baseline so we can start our

programme next week. Please find further details on the log in and Spelling For Me in the attached document.

First Confession/Communion-The First Confessions took place today for the Communion group. They are looking forward to celebrating their Holy Communion on the 3rd of October. The staff and all the pupils in Newcastle would like to wish them the very best of luck.

Homework- As mentioned in the first newsletter we plan to reintroduce homework for all classes next week. We have created an online questionnaire to guide our decision making and planning around the topic of homework and would appreciate your feedback to help formulate best practice. At present we are considering prepared homework wallets for Juniors-Second and Seesaw for third to sixth class. Please click on the link below.

<https://forms.gle/Q7shHZJ9zr6GnskZ7>

New Appointment

On behalf of the Board of Management I would like to congratulate Caroline Keady on her appointment to the vacant SNA post.

Healthy Eating Policy: We encourage all children to eat a healthy lunch with lots of fruit & vegetables. Soft drinks, crisps, chewing gum, sweets, bars, biscuits, buns and cakes are not allowed.

AllergiesIt has been brought to the school's attention that a few pupils in the school have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts/ nuts. This allergic reaction can occur through ingestion of nut products, cross contamination and breathing peanuts/ nuts in the air. Due to the severity of the problem, it is important that all parents carry out the following measures to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction to this child

- Avoid giving your child anything in their lunch that contains nuts - this includes all cereal bars and sandwich spreads etc., which states it contains nuts or may contain nut traces.

- Speak to your child about **not** sharing their lunches. The class teachers will also speak to their pupils about this.

Contact details: Please inform Carmel, our secretary, of changes in postal or e-mail address or phone numbers so your child's file can be kept up to date. Carmel is in the office from 9.05am to 1.05pm Monday to Friday.

Parent teacher meeting

Due to the safety measures in place, parents/visitors to school should be limited. Because of these restrictions it has been decided to postpone the Parent/Teacher meetings until further notice. We will give as much notice as possible when the rearranged dates are finalised.

If you have any queries or worries about your child's please contact the class teacher by e-mail and they will make contact with you to discuss your concerns.

School support files will be reviewed this term. Regular communication is welcome and the Classroom teacher and the Special Education Teacher working with your child will be working together to set new targets later in this term.

The secretary works from 9.05am to 1.05pm every day and will be available to take calls during that time or will respond the following day if you leave a message after this time.

Aistear Collection

??Sinead and Emer are writing a blurb

Lotto news: The school lotto is a long term fundraising venture for the school. Thank you very much for your support to date. If you would like to join our school lotto please contact Carmel on 091 849178 for a membership form. Membership costs €100 a year and can be paid in full or by direct debit each month. The next

draw will take place in the school on the last Friday of the month -27th September at 10.40am.

Family Contribution: Thank you to all those families who contributed so far this year. The school receives a grant from the Dept. of Education each year but unfortunately this does not fully cover the running costs of the school. In order to defray the costs we call on every family to give a voluntary contribution. Families with 1 child at school are asked to give **€60 now or €30 now and €30 in January.** Families with 2 or more are asked to give **€100 now or €50 now and €50 in January.** Payment can be made on-line at aladdin.ie/epayments or a cheque can cover all costs - voluntary contribution, pupil insurance, money for Art /Photocopying/PE and school lotto if it is more convenient for you. Please make cheques payable to '**St. Oliver Plunkett NS**'. You will be sent a link for e-payments.

Astro Turf-There has been delays to the

School Planning-Draft policies: The Acceptable Use Policy and documents related to GDPR are available to review on our website www.newcastlens.blogspot.ie. You may email suggestions to newcastlens@yahoo.ie by 3RD of October.

Kindest Regards,

Danny O Connor

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