



OCTOBER 2021

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Guardians,

We have nearly completed term one of the school year and I am sure we are all relieved to have got to this point without hearing the words home-schooling or school closures. I hope your children have settled into the school environment and are now looking forward to their midterm break after all their hard work since September.

As you are aware we are a new committee this year and trying to incorporate new things and all ideas are extremely welcome.

Our upcoming AGM will be held in November (date to be confirmed).

All parents are invited to attend especially if interested in learning more about the Parents Association and possibly joining the committee or even a subcommittee. Every Parent of a school going child is a member of the parents association. The committee members work on behalf of the Parents Association.

**The Role of the Parents Association has 2 main roles within the school**



OCTOBER 2021

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

- To work in partnership with the Principal, Board Of Management and the whole school community for the betterment of the children in the school.
- To support and empower parents to be active in the best interests of their children's educational lives.

The Parents Association is a member of the National Parents Council (npc.ie), and we recommend that parents take a look at the website. It has a lot of information which may be useful to you. It also provides training/talks, some are free and online, however some talks fees do apply. If any parent is interested in any of the training/talks please email us and we can see if we can organise a talk in the school with parents or virtually depending on restrictions.

We held our first meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> and we welcomed some new members including Emer Lacey who was elected as treasurer.

### Cycling/Walking to/from school



Parents have raised concerns about cycling to and from school and the fact that some older children do not want to or in fact do not wear their cycling helmets. The Parents Association along with the school urge all children cycling to wear helmets as, it is for their safety and we want children to arrive and leave school safely. We would also urge children and parents cycling to use the cycle lane on the footpath and pedestrians not to walk onto or in the cycle lane. Use caution when crossing the road.



OCTOBER 2021

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

***Below is an extract from the RSA website***

### **Cycling for children**

*Using a bike for the first time and learning to ride has been a rite of passage for generations of Irish children. Cycling is fun and sociable and, like swimming, a life-skill that stands to children in later years.*

*Yet, like many activities, cycling carries an element of risk. Parents play an important role in minimising the risk by giving them proper guidance and instruction at an early age to ensure that basic safety rules are absorbed while young.*

### **Do's and don'ts of safe cycling for children**

*Do ensure they:*

- Cycle a bike matched to their height and experience*
- Wear a safety helmet*
- Use lights in dark or dusky conditions*

*Don't allow them to:*

- Cycle on public roads unsupervised (if under 12)*
- Wear loosely-worn scarves or other clothing that could get caught in the wheels or chain-set*
- Take unnecessary risks*

### **Pedestrian Basics**

*Although you can't be responsible for the way people drive, you can take a number of steps to make yourself safer as a pedestrian:*

- Stop, look and listen*
- Don't try to cross the road between parked cars*



OCTOBER 2021

- *If possible, cross at a pedestrian crossing or traffic lights*
- *Never cross at a bend*
- *If there is a footpath use it*
- *If there is no footpath, walk/run/jog on the right hand side of the road, facing oncoming traffic and keeping as close as possible to the side of the road*
- *Walk no more than two abreast and if the road is narrow or there is heavy traffic, walk in single file*

## Vehicles



The Parents Association also ask for due care to be taken at the school gates as there is a pedestrian crossing. Pedestrians have the right of way to cross. We realise the pillar coming out of the school (left) can block vision but we ask that u slowly move towards the gate. The Principal is discussing with Kildare County Council the markings as they are incorrect, but all cars should ease out to the gates and if you see any pedestrians give right of way. Also coming from the main road, do not cross the road, give right of way to the pedestrians crossing. The principal is also discussing the possibility of getting a lollipop person once again with the council.

## Car Park





OCTOBER 2021

The Car Park is a one way system. We ask that no one turn right once in the car park to park at the railings. This can cause an accident at the very worst and frustration at the very least.



### Roundabout

No child should be dropped at the roundabout and no cars should be continuously circling the roundabout waiting for the school doors to open.



### Fundraising

We are extremely lucky in that fact that we have a new school so we don't have to fundraise for school roofs etc however it is important for our children to keep funds available to help the school with other expenses when needed and also PA events such as coffee mornings for parents.

Before Covid we donated funds to reupholster the seats in the school library. We donated to the hoodies for 6<sup>th</sup> class during covid. Then as a community gesture we donate to the Christmas lights in the village along with funding Santa in the school.

Our first fundraising event this year is the cash for clothes. This will be all collected on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> so hopefully by the AGM I will know how much was made from that.



OCTOBER 2021

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## Halloween Disco (Cancelled)

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we cannot hold our Halloween disco this year. Hopefully next year will go ahead as normal.



## Calendar of events

### *November*

- **Junior/Senior Infants & first class news**

We are delighted to confirm a coffee morning will be held in November for all Junior Infant, Senior Infant and First Class parents. We need to wait until the restrictions have lifted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October but once we return on 1<sup>st</sup> November I will be in a position to confirm the dates.

- **Book Fair**

This has been confirmed for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November – 17<sup>th</sup> November  
Details to follow nearer the time however I believe with the restrictions being lifted in October that Junior and Senior Infant parents may be able to accompany their children to the book fair at their allotted time. I will confirm once I know for definite. If this is not possible I will inform you how it will work.





OCTOBER 2021

- **Facebook**

I would ask all parents to join our Facebook group as there will be regular posts and information being posted. This is a completely private group for parents with children in the school. The page is called Scoil Bhride Kill Parents Association. The old pages will be deactivated shortly to avoid any confusion.



### Email

The Parents Association email is [parentskns@gmail.com](mailto:parentskns@gmail.com). Please email if you have any queries, requests or suggestions.

We hope everyone enjoys their midterm break and has plenty of fun adventures. We wish everyone a safe and spooky Halloween.

Anne Marie, Sandra, Emer

