

Assumption Junior School

Autumn 2017

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Fáilte

This year, we welcomed 150 new pupils to the school and said farewell to 141 others. To those who have moved on, we wish you every success and look forward to meeting you again along the way. To our new pupils and their parents, we look forward to working with you over the next few years. We will do what we can to make your time here memorable and fun but, above all, we will do what we can to help you learn and to love learning.

New Faces on Staff

New members of staff this term include...

- **Ms. McManus** - Principal
- **Mr. Vaughan** - 1st Class Teacher
- **Ms. Drinan** - Senior Infant Teacher
- **Colette Collopy** - Special Needs Assistant

What's been happening in AJNS...

September was a very busy and productive month in Assumption Junior National School. Our New Junior Infant Pupils have settled into school life well. This year the Junior Infant and Senior Infant teachers held Parent Information Meetings to outline their plans and routines for the year. A big thanks to all of the parents who attended. They were a great success and a great way for parents to find out more about school life.

The children in 1st and 2nd class have also been hard at work in their new classes. GAA classes have started in most of these classes and the children are thoroughly enjoying them.

We have great plans for all of our students this year and will keep you posted with any upcoming events.

School Walk - Sunday 15th Oct

The annual School Walk will be held on Sunday next, beginning at the school at 2pm sharp. It will follow the usual route, with refreshments on arrival back at the school. The disco for the kids will follow until about 4.30.

Sponsorship cards have been distributed and any money collected will be used to cover the costs of running the two schools.

If you can help with stewarding, please leave your name with Nora, the School Secretary.

The Junior School by Numbers

There is a lot of activity around the school at the moment. Much of it arises from increasing numbers which is a feature of many schools around the city. The following figures give an idea of the context in our school:

- ◇ 505 pupils
- ◇ 22 Classes
- ◇ 33 Teachers
- ◇ 12 Special Needs Assistants
- ◇ 12 Members of Ancillary Staff

Parents' Council

The school has a very active and supportive Parents' Council. The Parents' Council organize fund-raising and activities to enhance the educational experience of our pupils. We are very grateful for the work the parents council do.

The Parents' Council are always looking for new members. If you are interesting in helping out in any way please contact Angela (Chairperson) through Nora in the office.

Reminders

It would help a lot if we could have everyone's co-operation with these routines throughout the year. You might keep this list and the calendar on display on the fridge at home for the year.

- **Cars** - please do not drive into school grounds at any time of the day unless you have made an arrangement with one of the principals.
- **Punctuality** - please try to have the children at the lines on time each morning and to be on time when collecting them. It can be upsetting for a child if s/he is late or is not collected on time.
- **Lining up** - Please stand beside/behind the lines in the morning and don't cross through/in front of the line as the boys and girls walk in. Lines that are crowded with adults can frighten some of the children.
- **Walking beside the line** as the children walk in or standing at the windows waving at your child slows everyone down and may cause your child to trip, bump into others. Please say goodbye at them line.
- **Doors** - please use the doors at the back of the school in the morning and in the afternoon only.
- **Classrooms** - if you are late, please do not open the classroom door and apologise to the teacher when classes have started as this distracts the class. Hang up your child's coat, give her/him the schoolbag and let her/him go in alone and as quietly as possible.
- **Absence** - we hope your child will be at school every day but if absence is unavoidable, then we need a brief written explanation. The teacher will have a blank form in the classroom if you want to use one, or you can write a note yourself. If your child is often absent without an explanation, this will be reported to Tusla.
- **After School** - After School Care runs from 1.30 to 2.30. Children will be ready for collection in time for sisters/older brothers to be collected when they finish ten minutes later.
- **Calendar** - Please match holidays etc to school closures as this will help your child's attendance record and general progress.
- **Collecting a child** - please do not take your child away from the line or the classroom without letting the teacher know s/he is with you. If your child must leave early, please sign out at the secretary's office.
- People are **not allowed to enter and exit the school grounds by climbing over the wall and railings**. It is dangerous, it is damaging the wall and it is costing us money continuously.
- If **someone else is collecting your child**, make sure we have been told in advance. We cannot allow a child to leave with someone we don't recognise, with someone who is too young to take responsibility for the child, or with anyone who seems impaired by alcohol or other substances.
- **Smoking is prohibited in the school grounds** for the health and safety of the children.
- **Consent Forms** - from time to time we will ask you for written consent for various activities. It would help if we got these back promptly. One that was given out recently to new pupils related to the school website.
- **Healthy Lunches** - when preparing lunch, remember not to include sweets, crisps, fizzy drinks or any of the other items on the list that was given out.
- **We use the Green Schools Programme** to help the children learn about the environment, conservation and other 'green' issues. You can help by using a lunch box instead of wasteful packaging, or a beaker instead of plastic bottles...
- **Dogs** - For the children's safety, dogs should not be brought into the school grounds at any time.
- **Birthdays and Party Bags** - In the interest of fairness and good use of time in school, we cannot accede to requests to give out party bags/cake/invitations in school.
- **Contact Details** - if you change your address, email address or telephone numbers, please remember to give us the new details.
- **Books & Requisites:** if you still owe money for books and requisites please send it to Nora in the office. Insurance
- **Website** - keep in touch with school activities by logging on to
www.assumptionjns.com

Parents' Council

Annual General Meeting

9 am - 11.30 am
Friday, 20th October
School Hall

All parents welcome. This meeting will consist of:

- * Tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival.
- * AGM: discussing role of Parents' Council, fundraising achievement and plans; questions and answers
- * Anti-Bullying Talk provided by Dr. Helena Murphy (National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre DCU).

Looking forward to seeing you all there,
Angela (Chairperson)

Parents' Council Activities

Any of you who availed of coffee on opening day probably met the committee of the Parents' Council that morning. Our thanks to them and to the volunteers who helped out. It is a great service on a very important day.

Other events / routines organized by the parents include:

- Monthly Draw:** return slips are distributed through the classes *i.e.* You get a letter and an envelope requesting entry. If you haven't already done so, please return your envelope back to the office so you can be included in the draw held each month in the school.
- Clothes Recycling** - on Thursday last, over 136 bags of unwanted clothes, curtains and other fabrics were dropped off at the school and later collected by Liberties Recycling. The school gets €4 per bag so that's a total of €544. Thanks to all involved.
- Loose Change Friday** - those colourful Minions just love to be fed with loose coins!! This year we will be using this money to fund the painting of a Mural (colourful painting on the walls) in the yard.
- Christmas Coffee Morning** - let's not even think of that yet.

Annual General Meeting: the Council has scheduled its AGM for **Friday 20th October at 9 am.** Why not come along and perhaps you might even get involved. All parents of current pupils are welcome.

Free Puppet Show on

Swami Vivekananda

Saturday, October 14th
In the Assumption Primary School Hall
From 6-8 pm
Proceeds in aid of Osteoporosis Society

Deirdre Browne

Hip Hop Dance Classes

School Hall
For further Information
Tel: 0868587364