

Milford NS Newsletter October 15th 2015

Dear Parents,

We hope your child is well settled back to school by now and looking forward to the Mid-Term break. Welcome to all our new pupils and we hope you are enjoying life in Milford School.

Enrolments 2016: Please check to ensure your child's name is down for 2016 if he/she qualifies under the sibling rule.

WOW day: A Halloween themed **WOW** (walk on Wednesday) will take place on **Friday, October 23rd at 8.30 am sharp**. The starting points for the walks will be: a) The Set-down area in UL, b) Unigolf, c) The old Spar on the Milford Rd. If you wish your child to participate, please be at the starting point at 8.25am. The children will be accompanied by teachers and parents. For safety reasons, your child may not join the walk after it has begun. As always, the safe arrival of your child in school remains your responsibility.

Green Flag News: Our Green Flag programme this year is: Global Citizenship and Energy. Mr O'Connor is working hard with the Environmental Committee towards securing our seventh Green Flag.

Maths Week October 10th to 18th: There are lots of activities taking place throughout the school for Maths week, with the emphasis on "Maths for All". Classes from Junior Infants up to Sixth are engaging in fun and practical Maths activities and challenges. The children will also get the opportunity to participate in the "Giant Connect 4" challenge. For more information check out www.mathsweek.ie. Many thanks, Miss Doody.

Parents' Council : Please support our **Clothes Recycling** (Irish Clothing Company) on **Monday October 19th**. A **Cake Sale** will take place on Friday October 23rd. All donations of cakes, buns and treats can be left into the staffroom on the morning of Friday 23rd. Well done and thank you to Nicola Twomey and her team, and to you, the parents, for your support of all these ventures.

Semi Finals: Congratulations to our U11 Girls, U11 Boys and U13 Girls and U13 Boys football teams who have progressed to semi finals stages this week. We wish all teams the very best of luck. The finals will be held next Wednesday, October 21st in the Gaelic Grounds. Well done to all involved and many thanks to their coaches for all their time and effort!

3rd and 4th Class Hurling league: This Boys' Hurling League was held over three Mondays in September/October. Each boy played a minimum of five games. Paul Canny's team had a hard earned victory over Mark Field's team in the final. 6th class pupils refereed all the games and helped with the organisation of the league. Congratulations to all who took part and thank you to Mr O'Connor.

Milford Gazette: The October edition of the Milford Gazette is on www.milfordns.ie. Many thanks to Miss Rael and the editors!!

Attendance Policy: Parents, please note that the school is legally obligated to report to the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) any child who misses more than 20 days in the school year. All absences must be explained in writing (absence note at the back of the homework diary will suffice) by parent/guardian. Congratulations and well done to the children who recently received certificates for 100% attendance last year. See www.milfordns.ie for the photos.

Meeting the Teacher: We always encourage and welcome parents to come and talk to your child's teacher if you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss. However do make sure to make an appointment beforehand, preferably outside of class time, so that the teacher can give you and your concerns undivided and considered attention. An appointment may be made by contacting the office at 061 339123.

Lotto: Many thanks for your continued support of the Lotto, which generates a much-needed weekly income for the repayment of the gym loan.

Medical Issue: If your child has a medical issue about which we need to be informed please call to the office to collect necessary documentation.

Communion and Confirmation Preparations: Congratulations to our Second classes who were formally enrolled for their First Holy Communion at the Children's Mass on Sunday October 4th. On Tuesday 20th October at 6.30pm, our Sixth classes will take part in the Ceremony of Light in preparation for their Confirmation.

Car Park: Please park in the **designated spaces only** in the car park as the irresponsible car parking by a minority of parents is causing serious concern for the health and safety of our children. Please note that tickets will be issued by the Garda Siochána for illegally parked vehicles.

Christmas Cards: The children have been busy over the last few weeks working on designing and decorating their own Christmas cards, which will be on sale in the school in time for Christmas. Many thanks for your support.

Board of Management : At its recent meeting, in compliance with DES directives, the Board of Management of Milford NS conducted its annual review of the Child Protection Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy. The current Board's term of office is up on November 30th 2015 and a new Board will take up office on December 1st 2015. Please see the Parent Council newsletter for details of nominations to the new Board of Management 2015-2019.

1916 Centenary Commemoration: As part of Ireland 1916 centenary programme the Department of Education and Skills (DES) is presenting each school in the country with the National Flag. This will happen in Milford NS next Tuesday at 9.30am when the National Flag will be presented to the school by a member of the Defence Forces, who will outline the history of the flag and the protocols to be observed in relation to it. Part of the 1916 proclamation will be read at the ceremony. On March 15th 2016 the flag will be officially hoisted to commemorate the Easter Rising of 1916.

Important Dates:

Hallowe'en Events: Children may wear Halloween costumes to school on Friday October 23rd. There will also be a cake sale that day. School will close at the usual times of 1.40pm and 2.40pm on Friday. The following week, October 26th to 30th the school will be closed for mid-term. School will re-open on November 2nd.

First Holy Communion: Saturday May 14th 2016.

Confirmation: Wednesday April 13th 2016

Le gach dea-ghuí

Kathryn O'Mahony
Principal

