

Parents Association September 2011 Newsletter

Our AGM will take place late September – date tba

Welcome to the start of a new school year and a special welcome to Parents of children in Junior Infants who join our school community for the first time.

Last year was a busy time for the Association and some of the highlights of the year were

1. Santa's Visit in December
2. Table Quiz in May
3. Introduction of the Class Rep (see below for more info)
4. More parents opting to receive our newsletters via email (form 3)
5. Introduction of Homework Club (see below for more info)
6. Fundraising – 2 events were organised this year, carol singing and bag packing. A total of €1180.24 was collected and was evenly split between the two schools.

Class Rep

The role of the Class Rep is to act as a link between the Parents Association and the Parents of the children in a particular class. They welcome parents of children who join mid year, inform parents of upcoming events being arranged by us, arrange support for the class teacher, if required, with any event during the school year i.e. communion, school tours. The Class Rep should attend our monthly meetings so that they can participate in plans for future events and/or update the meeting on any issues or ideas coming from parents in their class.

Our meetings are held 1st Tuesday of each month during the school year, upstairs from library at 8.30pm. If you are interested in becoming a class rep for this year please complete the form below and return to the class teacher. (Form 1)

Class List

Many parents have expressed an interest in creating a Class List. This is where you opt to give your email/telephone number to your class rep. Once the list of names is complete a copy is given to the class teacher and to each parent in the class. This list would prove helpful if you need to contact a parent re homework query, arrange a play date, issue birthday invitation etc.

If you would like to be included on your child's class list, please complete the details below. (Form 2)

Homework club

The Homework Club was introduced in February last year. Children from 1st class upwards are eligible to attend. The club runs from Monday to Thursday 2.35 – 3.35pm and is supervised by a teacher or member of the Parents Association.

The aim of the club is to provide the children with

- 1) A quiet environment in which to do their homework
- 2) A teacher available to provide help if the children need it
- 3) To educate the child on how to structure their homework

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the Homework for this term please ask the class teacher for a form. The cost is €2 per child per day and is payable weekly or monthly **in advance.** The new term starts September 5th.

Birthday Presents

While each child's birthday is a very special occasion and deserves to be celebrated the cost to parents of their child attending a number of parties over the year has steadily increased. This year we would encourage all parents when arranging their child's party to request "No presents please, €5 in a card if desired". This will greatly reduce the expense of accepting an invitation to a party. Furthermore the birthday boy/girl can use the money received to buy one special gift for themselves from all their party guests. This practice is operating very successfully in other schools and we hope you will opt in to it for your child.

Please remember also that party invites should be given outside of class time. This prevents children who may not be invited from feeling excluded or isolated. Also the school's have asked us to remind parents not to send in party treats for the class as this is against school policy.

Joining the Parent's Association

Our meetings are usually held the 1st Tuesday of each month during the school term. The complete schedule of meeting dates will be on the Parents page of the school websites shortly. Becoming a member of the association is a great way to meet other parents, get involved in some of our annual activities, and bring ideas to the association on how to improve your child's school experience. Our meetings are open to all parents and you are welcome to attend at any time. **Our 1st meeting of the new school year is TUESDAY 6th September 8.30pm upstairs from Library. We hope to see you there.**

Kind regards, Niamh McInerney
Outgoing Chairperson

Class Rep. Nomination Form (September 2011)

If you would like to volunteer to act as class rep for your child's class please complete and return to the class teacher

YOUR NAME: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

CHILD'S CLASS
& TEACHER: _____

YOUR MOBILE _____

YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS _____

If your Childs class is not represented on the Parents Association Committee then it is very difficult for the Committee to truly represent your child.

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Class List (September 2011)

If you would like to be included on a Class List for your child's class please complete and return to the class teacher

YOUR NAME: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

CHILD'S CLASS
& TEACHER: _____

YOUR MOBILE _____

YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS _____

This information will only be shared with the parents in your child's class. The aim is to provide contact details for you to use throughout the school year for arranging play dates, issuing party invites, checking homework details, sharing of information etc

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Email List (September 2011)

Email is our most efficient and cost affective way of communicating with you. If you would like to receive our newsletters etc via

email please complete and return to the class teacher. Our email lists are set up by class and parents are blind copied so that email details remain private. If you have a number of children in the school we aim to send the information just once, using the youngest child class. For parents who do not wish to give their email details to us, you will receive our newsletters etc in hard copy via the school.

YOUR NAME: (print) _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

CHILD'S CLASS
& TEACHER: _____

YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS (Print) _____