September/October Newsletter

Welcome back to Ard Rí for 2017/2018. It is great to see everyone settling in so well. Here are some important points to note as we begin the school year. There is quite a lot going on so please read this carefully!!

**PE Days:** Tracksuit days are as follows:

Junior Infants (Múinteoir Maria): Tuesday and Wednesday

Junior and Senior Infants (Múinteoir Catherine): Monday and Wednesday

Senior Infants (Múinteoir Karen): Wednesday and Friday

First Class (Múinteoir Tara): Tuesday and Thursday

First and Second Class (Múinteoir Naomi): Tuesday and Thursday

Third Class (Múinteoir Jack): Wednesday and Thursday

Fourth Class (Múinteoir Rachel): Monday and Friday

Fifth and Sixth Class (Múinteoir Edel): Monday and Tuesday

We ask children wear tracksuits on the PE days assigned to their class **only**. Please ensure your child wears their white polo t-shirt on tracksuit days.

**After School Club:** After school is back. It has already begun for Senior Infants and will begin for Junior Infants on Monday 11.09.2017. As we have restricted hall space for the next few weeks we have to cap the number of children attending after-school to 20. Book early to avoid disappointment. For details please contact Debi on (086)8632741.

**Parents Get-together:**

**Gaelic Games:** Gordon Ward, Meath Youth Development Officer, will be coaching Gaelic Games to boys and girls in 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes at Ard Rí on Thursdays for 4-6 weeks. Please ensure your child wears their tracksuits on Thursdays.

**Rugby Blitz:** Ard Rí will be entering a team into a monthly Tag Rugby Biltz on the last Friday of every month. We hope to enter our senior classes into even more inter-school competitions this year.

**Interbelief learning:** Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim families who celebrated Eid on Friday. This year our *main* belief celebration will be the Christian and Catholic celebration of Easter. We will continue to celebrate one special occasion from each Faith group represented in our school as per the calendar below.

**Cultural Celebrations:** Please see calendar below for Cultural Events we will celebrate this year.

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|  | **Interbelief Celebration** | **Cultural Celebration** |
| **September** | Autumn Equinox – 22nd |  |
| **October** | Diwali – 19th | Hallow’een – 31st |
| **November** |  |  |
| **December** |  | Cultural Christmas i.e. Santa, gifts, reindeer etc. |
| **January** |  |  |
| **February** | Chinese New Year – 16th | Valentine’s Day – 14th |
| **March** | Pi Day π- 14th | St Patrick’s Day – 17th  Seachtain na Gaeilge  Mother’s Day |
| **April** | \*Easter – 1st | Cultural Easter- Easter Bunny, chocolate eggs |
| **May** |  |  |
| **June** | Eid-al-Fritr 14th | Father’s Day |

\*Main celebration

**School Photographer:** Memory Lane Photography will visit the school on Friday 15thth September. All children will be photographed but there is no obligation to buy photographs. All children must wear full uniform on the day. Don’t forget to brush their hair!!!

**Curriculum Information Meetings and Parents Association AGM**

* We invite the parents of Junior and Senior Infants for a short presentation and a chance to ask questions in relation to Jolly Phonics, Aistear, Mathematics and homework on Thursday 22th September at 8pm sharp in the school.
* **Parent’s Association AGM:** Thursday 29th of September at 8pm. We encourage a representative from every family to attend.

**Ard Rí Kickhams:** The first day of training for the Ard Rí Kickhams will be on Friday 23rd of September. The club will be run on a weekly basis. Junior and Senior Infants will go to the field for after school sports from 1.40-2.30. 1st-5th will go to the field for after school sports from 2.40-3.30. This event will be weather permitting of course. Children will get dirty at these sessions. Junior and Senior Infant children can wear their own sports clothes to school on these days. 1st-5th should bring sports clothes with them to school and will be given time to change before sports begins.

We have no volunteers yet ☹. We would love as much parental involvement as possible in order to make this a success. No experience is necessary. Could all volunteers please contact me ASAP. There will be a €2 cover charge per session. All this money goes towards maintaining our sports equipment.

**Speech and Drama Classes:** Speech and Drama Classes will resume with Leinster School of Speech and Drama qualified teacher Wilma Roe at Ard Rí CNS on Wednesday 28th September at 3.40pm for 2nd-5th and 4.30pm for JI-1st. Term fee for 10 weeks is €85. Children will be enabled to develop confidence and communication skills in a fun and creative environment, work on vocal clarity and expression through poetry, mime, drama games, improvisation and characterisation. To register please contact Wilma at 087 9315033.

**Community Assembly:** We would like to invite parents to join us for a short Community Assembly in the school yard on the last Friday of every month at 9am.

*September Assembly*: Friday 30th *October Assembly*: Friday 28th

**Skip’n’Rope:** There will be skipping workshops for all children on Friday 7th of October. Children pay €2 on the day for the workshop. There will be a skipping display at the end of the day and there will be ropes for sale. Further details will be provided by text closer to the time.

**Bedtime Stories:** Bedtime Stories is back for pupils in JI-2nd Class on Thursday 20th of October at 6.30-7.00pm. Children come back to school before bedtime in their pyjamas and they read their favourite bedtime story with their mum and dad. Teacher then reads a whole class story and the boys and girls go home to bed

**Family Pumpkin Carving Competition:** The Second Annual Pumpkin carving competition will be held on Wednesday 26th of October. One Pumpkin per family please. Winners will be announced on Friday 28th of October. Friday 28th of October will be fancy dress for Hallow’een.

*Please note:*

**Give a note to your child’s teacher explaining all absences.**

**Label everything: clothes, lunchboxes, stationery, wellingtons**

**Notify teachers of any change of details; address, phone number etc.**

**Healthy Lunches:** We are going to emphasise our Healthy Eating Policy this year. Teachers are attending HSE training on teaching children to develop healthy eating habits. We will be updating our Healthy Eating Policy shortly but in the meantime just think low-sugar, high fibre and lots of fruit and veg!!!

**Money:** When sending money to school with children please put it in a sealed, clearly labelled envelope. Please send the exact amount. Payment for school books 2016 is due immediately.

**Active School:** We like to get out and about as much as possible in all weathers. Please ensure your child has Wellington Boots and rain gear at school every day.Any parents with coaching skills or contacts for sports demonstrations or workshops please contact Múinteoir Jack.

**Hand Sanitiser:** Towels are provided for children at school. Providing your child with a small hand sanitiser and training them how to use it would be extremely helpful in the fight against germs.

**Policy Development**

We are at a stage now where we really want to include parents and give parents in policy development at Ard Rí Community NS. We would like to develop a committee of parents who will attend meetings on a 4-6 week basis and contribute a parent’s voice to our policies.

We want our committee to be a balanced one with gender, faith and nationality equality as well as a mix of representatives through the classes of the school.

Please come and talk to me if you would be interested in taking part in this iniative.