



# Ard Rí Community National School

## September/October Newsletter

Welcome back to Ard Rí for 2016/2017. 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!!!

*Here are some dates to note:*

**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 Mairéad): Monday and Wednesday

First Class (Múinteoir Tara): Wednesday and Friday

Second Class (Múinteoir Naomi): Wednesday and Friday

Third Class (Múinteoir Jack): Wednesday and Thursday

Fourth and Fifth Class (Múinteoir Rachel): Wednesday and Friday

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 begins on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of September for Senior Infants and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of September for Junior Infants. As we have no hall space for the next few months 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:** There will be a coffee morning for all parents on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of September at 9.15am. All welcome!!!

**Rugby:** Robbie, Leinster Youth Development Officer for our region will be coaching rugby at Ard Rí on Wednesdays for 4-6 weeks. Please ensure your child wears their tracksuits on Wednesdays.

**Rugby Blitz:** Ard Rí will be entering a team into a Blitz on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of September. We hope to enter our senior classes into more inter-school competitions this year. We would like to get a set of



# Ard Rí Community National School

---

jerseys for the school. Any parents who might be interested in sponsoring a set of jerseys please contact me.

**Eid ul Adha and Diwali:** This year we hope to celebrate one special occasion from each Faith group represented in our school. We will teach the children about Islam and celebrate Eid ul Adha on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of September. We will teach the children about Hinduism and celebrate Diwali on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

**School Photographer:** Memory Lane Photography will visit the school on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm sharp in the school.
- **Parent's Association AGM:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> September at 3.40pm for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and 4.30pm for JI-1<sup>st</sup>. 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



# Ard Rí Community National School

---

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 30<sup>th</sup>

October Assembly: Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

**Skip'n'Rope:** There will be skipping workshops for all children on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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-2<sup>nd</sup> Class on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> of October. One Pumpkin per family please. Winners will be announced on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of October. Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 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



# Ard Rí Community National School

---

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 initiative.