

St. Oliver's Newsletter September 2021



A big "Thank You" to all our pupils, parents, and school staff on a successful return to school: Let's keep up the good work.

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COVID 19 Update

The management and staff of the school are very appreciative of the efforts that parents are making to make our school a safe place for all our pupils and staff. Many schools, including our own, have had to send entire classes or class pods home, due to positive COVID 19 cases. We can all do our best to minimise the chances of this happening again if we continue to follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Stay at home if you or your children have any symptoms. See poster below. Get advice from your doctor about the need for testing for yourself or your children.
- ✓ If your child is named as a close contact of a confirmed case please follow HSE advice.
- ✓ Parents must wear face masks when on the school grounds. Staff wear facemasks in accordance with school regulations. Pupils are also welcome to use face masks.
- ✓ Only pupils and staff are to enter the school building.
- ✓ Pupils stay in their own class bubbles – some may be part of a second bubble.
- ✓ Pupils and staff continue to be vigilant about hand washing and hand sanitising.
- ✓ Pupils should have warm and rainproof clothing so that regular breaks for fresh air can continue to take place as the weather disimproves.

- ✓ Air monitors (11) have been delivered to the school and have been set up in a range of classrooms. We await the delivery of additional monitors that were promised.

Advice for parents during Covid-19:


Symptoms to look out for

If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celcius or more
- A new cough
- Loss or changed sense of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse
- Fatigue
- Aches or pains
- Sore throats
- Headaches
- Diarrhoea
- Runny or stuff nose
- Feeling sick or vomiting

For more see gov.ie/backtoschool

An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education



Your child may be taking part in new school initiatives this year

Because St. Oliver's is part of the Dublin City University **Changemaker Schools** Initiative we have been invited to be one of only 20 schools nationwide to participate in two new pilot programmes for Primary School pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th classes. These are:

- **Design for Change** – A Young Social Innovators Programme, 4th
- The **FUSE Programme** – An anti-bullying and on-line safety programme, 5th- 6th
- **Fighting Words** – A creative writing workshop based on learning from FUSE 5th- 6th

For more info see:

<https://www.youngsocialinnovators.ie/programmes-initiatives/design-for-change/>

<https://antibullyingcentre.ie/fuse/>

<https://www.fightingwords.ie/>

Our new Deputy Principal, Ms Sandra Chute and Ms Claire O'Mahony will work with our 4th, 5th and 6th class teachers to bring these opportunities to our pupils.



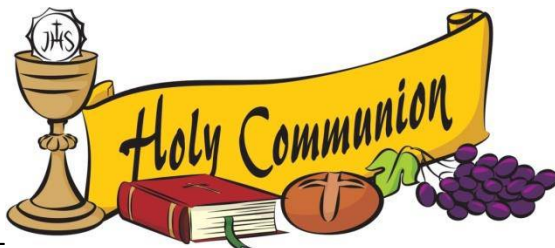
Ionad Frithbhulaíochta
Anti-Bullying Centre

And some more new language opportunities for our pupils

- CLIL Content and Language Integrated Learning. It sounds complicated but it is just a modern language learning technique. This is a **Professional Development Service for Teachers** pilot programme where our **Senior Infant and Third Class pupils will have fun learning Irish while doing Physical Education.** Ms Sandra Chute and Mr Ciarán O'Muircheartaigh will be working with our SI and 3rd class teachers on CLIL.



- A **French Language** 6 week programme will also be introduced for our Sixth Class pupils.



First Holy Communion Dates

Sat 25th September for Ms Chute's 3rd

Sat 2nd October for Ms O'Neill's 3rd

Sat 9th October for Ms O'Mahony's 3rd

Church of the Resurrection at 1pm

A Message from Fr Niall

Thanks to all who were involved in the recent celebration of Confirmation for the girls and boys of last year's 6th classes - it was wonderful to finally celebrate with the children and great to see them doing so well in their new schools. Thanks to Ms O'Carroll, Ms Doncel, Ms Culhane, Mr O'Sullivan, Mr Muircheartaigh, Mr O'Donoghue and all the support teachers, SNAs and staff.

We look forward to celebrating 1st Holy Communion for this year's 3rd classes who are patiently waiting and eagerly preparing.

Thanks to the current 3rd class teachers, last year's 2nd class teachers - Ms O'Brien, Ms Maloney & Ms O'Connor - and all support teachers and SNAs. Please God all will go well for them. While attendance numbers will be limited, these are great celebrations for the whole school to rejoice in.

Language Curriculum In-service Training on Friday Sept 24th
School will close for half-day at 12:30pm for teacher training.

A Message from The Parents' Association

The Parents' Association would like to extend a **warm welcome to our new Principal**. We wish Mr. Colm O'Suilleabháin every success and we look forward to working with him.

We offer a **sincere thank you to Mr. Rory D'Arcy** for his incredible support and dedication to the whole school community during his time as Principal. We wish him every success in his new role.

Our **AGM is planned for November** with a date to be announced very soon. We would be delighted to welcome both familiar and new faces !!!

We congratulate all those who received their **Confirmation** recently and wish those preparing for their **First Holy Communion** every blessing!



Support our Jersey Day on Friday.
School closes at 12:30

Aladdin Connect

This is an app for parents which will make communication between home and school a lot easier. If you are a new parent or have not yet installed the app you will be getting an e-mail or text from the school with your own individual log-in code. If you already have Connect or wish to install it this HELP Page will answer many questions and solve some problems.

https://www.aladdin.ie/connect_app_fags.html

Final Words

We extend our best wishes to Mr Rory D'Arcy who has started his secondment with the CPSMA (Catholic Primary School Management Association). We thank him for leading, guiding, supporting and inspiring us all over the past 19 years. Mr Colm O'Suilleabháin, who will be replacing Mr D'Arcy as Principal for the period of his secondment, is continuing with his weekly visits to our school. He has met with school staff, pupils and members of the Parents' Association. Ms Sandra Chute, our new Deputy Principal, and I, are working with Colm to ensure a smooth transition for the new leadership team in St. Oliver's as they prepare for the changeover at the start of October.

Tim Horgan, Acting Principal.