

May 24th 2021.

Dear Parents,

As we face into the final weeks of this school year, I wish to thank you for your patience, help and advice during this unprecedented period. We have five weeks left in school and thankfully the vaccination programme continues to offer hope and a welcome easing of restrictions, but it is important to remain vigilant.

In school, our protocols around handwashing, class pods and zones, regular movement breaks and ventilation all remain in place. Meeting and playing outside, we are advised, are the safest options and any social gatherings in-doors should be avoided. We must continue to follow the guidelines to reduce the risk of infection.

Changemaker Schools.



Since 2014 our school has been identified as a “changemaker school” under a scheme operated by DCU College of Education. There are 14 designated schools nationally. This designation recognises a commitment to innovation in education and is based on the promotion of empathy, creativity, teamwork and leadership. Some of the initiatives involved were our B3 CaféScribblers Magazine, Green Schools, Growth Mindset, Pupil Voice in School Design, Blue European flag, various diversity initiatives, Roots of Empathy Programme and our Outdoor Classrooms. Our classes and assemblies also highlight and discuss the values and understanding of all our potential as ‘changemakers.’ We look forward to working and learning from other schools in the network in the year ahead.

Parent-Teacher meetings.



Our Parent – Teacher meetings this year are being carried out by phone. Parents and Teachers of our children in Infants and First Class have already been in contact and our other classes will commence meetings this week and next. Teachers will be in touch via email and Seesaw to arrange suitable times to talk on the phone.

Accessing Substitute Teacher and SNA Cover.

One of the many consequences of the pandemic is that our school staff must remain off school if they are feeling unwell or identified as a close contact of a suspected case of Covid-19. Pregnant teachers and SNA's are also advised to remain out of school. These guidelines are in the interest of all our safety and to reduce any threat to our individual and collective health. It has, however, resulted in more of our staff being off school and a consequent greater need for substitute cover for our teachers and SNAs. There is also a shortage of available qualified teachers available for substitution work at present. We continue to work to minimise the disruption to our children's school lives by booking qualified substitute cover and then working as a team to welcome and support substitute teachers and SNAs. Please remember that if you wish to contact the school at any time in relation to any concern and your child's class teacher is absent you can contact the main school office at 0646632047 / 0877559237 or by email at rodydarcy@stolivers.ie

Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

While we await a final announcement this week, it is highly unlikely that our Confirmation and First Holy Communion Ceremonies will go ahead this month. No new dates have been set by the parish as yet, but the likelihood is that ceremonies will take place in September/October, as they did last year. This is disappointing, but we look forward to gathering in the Autumn.

Sixth Class Graduation.



Guidelines around gatherings are changing and again we await further announcements this week. At present, we plan to hold Sixth Class Graduations outdoors on Tuesday, June 22nd. Each class will have their own Graduation Ceremony and we will circulate times and guidelines in the coming weeks.

Staying in touch.

Our school will shortly upgrade to Aladdin Schools Connect. We use the Aladdin Schools software service for administrative purposes and Connect will give parents and guardians secure access to messages from the school and to details of your child's attendance, test results, reports cards etc. via secure login from your internet browser or Aladdin Connect App.

Aladdin Schools uses state-of-the-art security to safeguard information entered by the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish and European data protection laws.

Next week, you will **receive a text/email message** containing your **registration link**. There will be one link per parent.

Go to <https://aladdin.ie/files/pdf/ParentSignUp.pdf> to see the Parent Connect signup process. For more information please visit https://www.aladdin.ie/connect_app_faqs.html

Please note the following:

- If there are any personal concerns, or legal provisions in place regarding giving access to Connect to any parent/guardian of your child please contact the school in confidence to discuss or restrict access as required.
- Let the school know if your email address or phone number has changed recently.

We look forward to using Aladdin Connect as it will improve school administration and make for better home-school communication.

This section of our note is posted on our website www.stolivers.ie to view and use the links.

Summer Provision Programme.



Last Thursday we received details from the Department of Education on the July Summer School Provision Programme. This voluntary programme will offer in-school support to children enrolled in our Special Classes for a four week period from July 1st – 28th and a three week programme from July 5th – 23rd for children with additional needs in mainstream classes. We will contact the families of the children involved by email on Thursday with further information and details re. registration.

Summer Holidays

We will close for our Summer Holidays on Wednesday, June 23rd at 12 noon.

Míe buíochas is le gach dea -ghuif

Rory D'Arcy

Principal Teacher.