

## **Dear Parents/Guardians**

A happy new year to all parents and families for 2018. Our teachers and staff thank you for your help and support. Our parent/teacher meetings were a success. There was almost 100% attendance, which proves the interest you as parents have in your boys. I would like to thank you the parents, for encouraging and helping with good discipline and good manners, which your boys bring to school each day. Our pupils' behaviour is very good. I must thank our teachers also.

**Yard supervision begins at 8.40 every day. Could I remind all parents to remain at the barrier and the boys to walk down to the playground.**

St. Stephen's is a busy place with many activities taking place. Recorder classes, drumming classes and dance classes are going very well. Swimming for all boys in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> has started on Thursdays. Swimming for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will start on April 12<sup>th</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will begin in May. Many boys in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> are taking part in basketball training and matches.

**Hurling in the school yard will be starting on the week of Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes, weather permitting. Indoor hurling blitzes have started. Thanks to our teachers for giving so much time to these activities. Chess is running on Mondays and Tuesdays, thanks to Billy.**

Congratulations to our quiz boys who won second place trophies in the Waterford Credit Union Schools Quiz.

Thanks to Mrs Musgrave, Miss Flavin, our teachers and parents for their support and help.

**Please remember homework Monday to Thursday, being on time, having all materials and books each day. For health and safety reasons scarves and hats with strings should not be brought to school.**

Almost all boys are on time for school each day thanks to parents. Those that are late should bring boys to reception to enter the school.

**Please remember that no cars should come onto school grounds as it would be a serious health and safety issue for pupils and staff alike.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes are preparing for communion and confirmation. First Penance takes place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Communion date is Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation boys will have their Commitment Mass on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Confirmation takes place on Friday 1st June.

**Please remember for safety reasons that all visitors to our school must report to reception.**

Sincere thanks to all parents and families for your support with our Christmas raffle.

A big thanks to our wonderful Parents Association for their tremendous support to our school. They are delighted with the response and all these funds will be used to support many school activities.

School will close on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February for midterm. School will close for a half day at 12.00 noon on Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday March 16<sup>th</sup> as there will be staff training in 'Children First' (National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children).

**As per Department of Education guidelines Stay Safe lessons will begin next week - please find cover letter included.**

St Stephen`s Board of Management has accepted the grant from the Department of Education and Skills to build four new classrooms. These classrooms will replace the prefabs. Our school continues to have an application with the Department for a multi-purpose room to hold P.E. classes and concerts.

Thank you,

Mr Morris

January 2018

Dear Parents,

We are planning to teach a personal safety education programme called Stay Safe over the next few weeks. The aim of the Stay Safe programme is to teach children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It deals initially with common situations which most children will experience at some stage or other, e.g. getting lost or bullied. The programme also teaches children the safety skills necessary to protect themselves from physical or sexual abuse and emphasises the importance of telling a trusted adult about any problem they have.

The Stay Safe programme is part of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum which all primary schools are required to implement. Co-operation between parents and teachers is essential to the success of this programme. It is important that parents are aware of the content of the Stay Safe lessons and are able to discuss the topics being covered in class and how you can reinforce the messages at home.

You can familiarise yourself with the content of the Stay Safe lessons at [www.staysafe.ie/teachers/resources.htm](http://www.staysafe.ie/teachers/resources.htm) Please contact the school if you wish to discuss the programme further.

Thank you for your co-operation,

Mr Morris.