



Dear Parents,  
26th June, 2017

As we come to the end of this special year, which brings Scoil Mhuire and the Abbey Boys' National School to a close, we would like to recap on what has been achieved so far this year, and what we hope to do in the next few days and over the summer to ensure that we are ready for a great new beginning in St. Coman's Wood Primary School in September.

#### Work Done

- We have a new school with a new name, uniform and crest decided. The uniform is available to purchase at Donnellan's, Main Street and George Bannon's Sportswear, Main Street, Roscommon.
- A new principal has been appointed. The Deputy Principal position will be filled next term due to Department of Education regulations.
- The children who have not already seen their classroom or been introduced to their teacher for the coming year will have done so before finishing school on Tuesday. Boys and girls will be in each class. Children from Junior Infants to 3rd class inclusive will be on the Convent site. Fourth to 6th classes will be on the Abbey site.
- Meetings regarding the school curriculum and methodology of teaching have taken place this term with the class teachers from both schools, ensuring consistency in style and approach at each class level.
- Book lists for the 2017-18 school year have been agreed.
- The Learning Support timetable has been agreed for both sites
- Vacancies for 2 temporary teachers have been advertised and will be filled presently. Other teaching positions will be filled over the summer holidays.
- School opening and closing times will remain the same. (9:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m./2p.m. for infants.). First break times will remain the same -11:00 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. and lunch time on the Abbey site will be from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on the Convent site. Parents with children on both sites should collect the younger children first at 3p.m. There will be supervision from 9a.m. to 3.15p.m. to facilitate parents who have to travel between sites.
- Funding for 4 new classrooms (2 on each site) and conversion works has been sanctioned by the DES. Funding for the repair of the roof on the convent site has been sanctioned.

Work to do because of the amalgamation SCHOOL CLOSING AT 3PM ON TUESDAY to facilitate this

- Whole school policies mandatory by legislation need to be agreed by the full team i.e. child protection, school rules, behaviour, sanctions, anti bullying, communication, attendance etc.
- Resources for 24 classrooms and 15 SEN rooms have to be ready for the 30th of August. 20+ teachers are moving room with 10 teachers and their classes moving site. One enormous task for example that has to be carried out is that in respect of our reading resources - over 10,000 graded readers have to be checked and transferred to the appropriate locations on both sites. Existing laptops, new laptops and interactive boards have to be reconfigured because of different systems on each site. Applications on 90 i-Pads have to be checked – some installed/deleted. Two new interactive boards will be installed in the two 4th class rooms which do not have them. New i-Pads will be purchased to ensure more accessibility for all the pupils.
- Files for 640+ children need to be updated and carefully transferred and stored safely on the correct site. Files older than 9 years need to be shredded.
- The following timetables - PE, Aistear, i-Pad access etc. will be agreed over the next few days.
- Our IT expert is at present building systems to ensure effective communication between and on both sites. Two teachers are being trained in using these systems.
- Details of 650 children need to be updated on the new system which will be used on both sites. This data base is used for recording attendance.
- Extra-curricular activities timetable will be finalised and activities will be available on both sites from 3 to 5 p.m. Music practice will be available on both sites from 8.45a.m. daily.
- Refurbishment and decorating of some classrooms, which will include erecting shelving, fitting of cupboards, toilet refurbishment etc., is planned over the summer. A building committee is being set up at present, responsible for the building of four classrooms, conversion works, toilets etc. This building will not take place this summer because of the delay in the planning process- outside our control.
- An inventory of all Maths, PE, Music and Science equipment has to be carried out in order to ensure that each site has what it needs in terms of quantity and suitability.
- A furniture inventory will be carried out and furniture transferred as necessary. There are different sized/coloured chairs and tables for different ages of children. (We may need some of your help with this as the DES does not provide funding for furniture removal)

We are aware that the 3 day closing has inconvenienced many of you parents. However this time is invaluable to us to ensure that all will be in place and ready to go on August 30th so that children will settle quickly and adapt to their new environments. We are confident that this will be a positive experience going forward and we thank you for all your support during this transition.

Have a great summer.

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Dr. Úna Feeley: Principal