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Sept 2016

Dear Parents

St. Ronan's is going digital and moving online.....

Over the coming months, you will notice some changes to the way the school communicates with you.

Currently we have sought to keep you informed by using

- 1 our school website – www.stronansnewry.com
- 2 sending messages to you via our text messaging system
- 3 the Monday note

As a school, however, we cannot ignore two facts:

- 1) Digital technology and the fact that nearly everyone has a smart phone, tablet or computer
- 2) The reductions in School Budgets due to the ongoing economic difficulties and reduction in spending by the UK Government, which is impacting on the funding the NI Executive receives from HM Treasury via the Block Grant

As a result of these the Monday note will be discontinued and as a school we will be keeping you updated electronically using:

- 1 our school website – www.stronansnewry.com – which will be updated on a weekly basis
- 2 sending messages to you via our text messaging system
- 3 our new School Twitter account ([@stronansps](https://twitter.com/stronansps))
- 4 we are also currently developing a School App, which will be available for both Apple and Android devices

Some of the reasons for doing this are:

- to reduce costs of photocopying
- to keep you updated about the life of the school as quickly as possible rather than for you to have to wait.

If you have difficulty accessing information electronically please contact the school and let us know so that alternative arrangements can be made.

E Banking

We are also in the process of introducing online banking, where you can pay the school electronically at a time of your convenience. This will lead to

- 1 - greater accountability
- 2 - reduce the need for cash to be sent into school with the children
- 3 – reduce the amount of cash being handled by the school and therefore reduce our banking costs

At the moment we are developing our procedures for this. Further information on this new process will be sent to you over the next few months.

Twitter, the school website and online banking can all be accessed from computers, mobile phones, tablets and other forms of smart technology. Our website has been updated and our Twitter feed and messages will also be displayed on this.

Could I please urge you all, if possible, to:

- 1 - follow us on Twitter even if we are the only person you follow,
- 2 - check the school website-this details all that is happening in the school during the week, the website has all the key dates and the monthly dinner menu
- 3 - once up and running, pay money owed to the school online due payment date
- 4 – ensure the school has an up to date mobile contact for yourself so that you can be added to our text messaging service.

For the pupils we will be moving, as far as possible, to introducing access to Google and Microsoft online products and cloud based storage.

Currently all pupils can access electronic work they do in school at home by going to Google and typing MY SCHOOL into the search bar. They access their area by typing in their user name and password. It would be helpful if you could encourage children from P4 – P7 to log in and check the daily online Newsdesk, from home.

This work already compliments the work of their online learning in subjects such as Maths via Alta Maths.

As a school we are trying to move to become a paperless and cashless organisation and embrace all that the digital revolution can offer to us. The global economy is moving from physical products to a digital ones. As a school we want to be at the forefront of this and ensure our pupils are ready to enter a digital global economy.

Gaelic Dress Up Day and Sponsored Skip

This Fri 16th Sept (Non Uniform/Gaelic Dress Up Day) come dressed in county/club colours or PE top. Sponsored skip – please make sure to send sponsor money into school in a sealed envelope along with sponsor card.

Parents' Association

You will have received a note about the Parents' Association. Could I strongly urge you to participate, volunteer a few hours and help out. The Parents' Association not only helps to raise much needed funds for the school, but is also about developing parental and community links. This year the money raised is being used to pilot our new Spanish language programme.

Parking

As we move into the colder, wetter weather can I remind all of you that the turning circle is for drop off only. Parking here causes traffic congestion. If asked to move I would ask that you do so – I am sure that you understand that as a school we need to ensure the safety of all the children who attend St. Ronan's PS.

Colder Weather

Moving into the colder, wetter weather can you please make sure that children come to school with a coat.

Uniform

Proper school uniform must be worn at all times. PE uniform should only be worn on PE days. Please make sure that you have your child's name and class on all items of clothing.

Opportunities at St. Ronan's Primary School

At St. Ronan's PS we offer a wide range of opportunities and after school activities.

During School:

Musical Opportunities include:

- Trombone
- Trumpet
- French horn
- Percussion
- Violin
- Cello
- Bass
- Flute
- Clarinet

Other School activities include:

- ICT Digital leaders (for e safety)
- Eco Schools Committee
- School Council

Our Primary 4 classes take part in a string project and the P5 – P7's receive tuition in recorder. We also have afterschool Choir and traditional music.

After School activities this year also include:

- Multisports (P3,4,5)
- Evo Soccer (P2 – P7)
- Galaxy Coaching
- Art Club

During school time P1 – P4 also have fundamentals coaching in ball skills from the Ulster Council (GAA) whilst our P4 – P7's will have opportunities to avail of coaching from Down GAA.

Thanks this year to hard work and the money raised by our **Parents' Association** we will be able to pilot Spanish language programme, whereby **every pupil**, during class time, will have the opportunity to learn Spanish.

The activities available are spread across the entire school community and thus help us deliver our school ethos of developing the child holistically.

P7 support for transfer

As part of our ongoing support for those children doing transfer, the school has managed to negotiate a reduction in price from £25 to £10 for the Transfer Tutor website (www.thetransfertutor.co.uk). These letters should be returned to the school, by the current P7's by Fri 16th Sept, along with either £10 cash or a cheque for £10 made payable to St. Ronan's PS.

If you have any worries or concerns I would ask that you arrange to speak to your child's teacher.

I look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming months and years.

Yours

K. Donaghy
(Principal)