

## Parent Newsletter

- **WELCOME BACK!!!:** A very warm welcome back to all our pupils and parents after the Summer Break. We look forward to another happy and fulfilling year here at Scoil Ursula. A particularly special Céad Míle Fáilte to our new Junior Infants and also to our new arrivals to other classes throughout the school. I wish you all much health and happiness here in Scoil Ursula. We also welcome a new staff member, Karen Feeney, who teaches 5<sup>th</sup> Class. We welcome back Ms Maureen Hoey to Senior Infants, Ms Catherine Kilgallen to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class and Ms Aisleen Colleary & Ms Deirdre Dwyer to the SEN Team. We wish all of our pupils & staff every blessing and success during the School Year!!
- **START OF YEAR REMINDERS:** I wish to draw your attention again to some procedures that will make things run more smoothly and more safely for pupils, teachers and parents –
  - Opening Time: The school doors open at 8:50am and children should be at school and in their lines at that time. There is no provision for early arrivals so please do not send or drop your children before this time.
  - Coming to and Leaving School: Please use the two side gates for entering and exiting the school and **not the main Staff Car Park gate for Health & Safety reasons.** The School Car Park is for Staff Members only. **Parents are asked not to drive into the school grounds when dropping off or picking up their children.** Please do not park in the bus bay in front of the school or in front of driveways and please use the pedestrian crossing in the morning and afternoon.
  - Collection Time: The collection time for Infants is 1:30pm. Please do not come into the Junior Block at this time – it is very disruptive for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes that are continuing their work with their teachers. The children infant children are brought out to their lines by their teachers and you can collect them there. The collection time for all other classes is 2:30pm.
  - Uniform: A reminder for all pupils to wear the full school uniform including tie please.
  - Payments: Thank you to all the parents who have sent in the money for Art & Craft, Photocopying, Book Rental and Insurance. If you haven't paid yet, please send any outstanding amounts in to the school as soon as possible or pay online at [www.scoilursula.com](http://www.scoilursula.com)

- **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION:**

We hope everyone had a happy and safe Summer holiday, we are looking forward to another school year. Welcome to all the new children in the school. For Parents /Guardians that are new to the school and as a reminder to all Parents, the Scoil Ursula Parents Association (SUPA) is for all parents/guardians of children in the school.

- We help add extra activities throughout the school year (e.g. pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and School photos) as well as charitable initiatives at Christmas.
- We liaise with the school on procedures and policies.

- Each class has a class representative who that is the class link to the Parents Association if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns you can bring them to the class representative to bring to a meeting.
- We also do some fun fundraising. Last year, SUPA funded Music Generation classes, gardening resources, and new reading resources for the junior classes (literacy lift off).

Meetings are held once a month in the school in the evening time and don't take long, everyone is welcome. It is a great way to keep in touch with what happens in the school and for meeting other parents which can be invaluable in making new connections, sharing ideas and getting helpful hints (Homework/lunches boxes/uniforms).

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at **The AGM on Wednesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October at 8pm in the school halla.**

We are APPEALING for MORE PARENTS to GET INVOLVED with the PA as we are very low on numbers and NEED SUPPORT if we are to run the same suite of activities as last year.

So if you can help out in any way at all – whether that be for individual events or in assisting with one of the committee roles – please do consider giving something back to Scoil Ursula by contributing to the SUPA. If everyone came to just one meeting and helped at just one event, it would help to spread the load and would really benefit the school and pupils.

We also have a Facebook page. If you like the page and turn on notifications it's a great way to keep in touch and find out what we do. Wishing everyone Children, Parents, Guardians, Grandparents, Childminders, Teachers and Staff a great school year..

- **HEALTHY EATING & LITTER PREVENTION:** We have noticed that the high standards we set in recent years have slipped a bit especially with regard to litter and waste, which is up 30%. We are determined to get back to where we were and so we are appealing to pupils and parents to refocus on the following areas:
  - Healthy Eating: The following **foods are not allowed at any time:** crisps, chewing gum, lollipops, fizzy or energy drinks, sweets, cereal bars, chocolate or chocolate spread, popcorn, biscuits and yoghurt or yoghurt based items.
  - Litter & Waste: Not to bring cartons, tinfoil, plastic bags and to bring waste food and packaging home in their lunchboxes.
- **MUSIC GENERATION:** The highly successful Music Generation Programme will continue in the school over the coming months. This is a joint collaboration between the Parents' Association and the Board of Management and it is hoped to that all of our pupils will avail of the programme at some point during their time in Scoil Ursula.
- **SPORT:**
  - Athletics: 38 athletes from Scoil Ursula participated in the Annual Supervalu Sligo Primary Schools Athletics Fest, last Thursday. It was a wonderful day's running with all of our athletes performing very well. Special congratulations to our Senior Girls' Team who came a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> in their 4 x 100m relay event. We also have 24 runners taking part in the Sligo Primary Schools Cross Country Athletics next Saturday at Sligo IT. **Good Luck to all our participants!!**

- **COMHGHAIRDEAS:** Congratulations to Ms Crawford who got married over the Summer and now becomes Mrs Barrett. We wish her every blessing in her married life during the years ahead. Comhghairdeas mór also to Ms Taaffe on the birth of her daughter, Chloe!! We wish her long life, health and happiness!! ☺
- **SCHOOL WEBSITE:** Don't forget to keep up with school news, events and policy formation on our school website [www.scoilursula.com](http://www.scoilursula.com). You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter.
- **DATES FOR YOU DIARY:**
  - Cross Country Event: Saturday, September 30, 12.00 Sligo IT
  - PA AGM: Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8pm, School Halla

Le meas,

---

Tony Gallagher, Principal.