

15th June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians

We hope that you and your family are keeping well as we all continue to establish new norms. It is wonderful to see Ireland slowly returning to a level of normality.

We would once again like to take this opportunity to tell our students how extremely proud of them we are. They have adapted and coped so well with new methods of learning over the past few months. We applaud their resilience and determination and we thank them for their diligent engagement with their teachers.

As this unusual school year has now come to close, we must look to the new school year. Based on the most recent information from the Dept. of Education & Skills (DES) our hope is that we will be able to welcome all students back to school with relative normality in August/September. The start-up dates as originally planned are listed below. Assuming there are no significant shifts in DES and HSE protocol over the next two months, we do not expect these to change.

- Friday 28th August – 1st Year & Transition Year
- Monday 31st August – 3rd Year & 6th Years
- Tuesday 1st September – 2nd Year
- Wednesday 2nd September – 5th Years

We will be in touch via the school app once we have more precise details around social distancing and the impact it may have on school life and our start-up dates.

End of Year Reports

End of Year Reports for 1st, 2nd, TY & 5th Years are now available via VSware. You can access VSware via the link on our school website or the link in the school app. Username reminders have been sent to all parents and you can reset your password if required. Please contact office@presmilltown.ie if you are having difficulties accessing reports.

Teacher Requests

As the new school year approaches, we ask parents to refrain from sending requests for their son/daughter to be in particular teachers' classes. Our weekly school timetable is extremely complex, requiring the scheduling of over 890 class periods. Considering these complexities and in the interest of equity and transparency, such requests will not be considered.

Nuacht

We hope to be able to publish our 'Nuacht' shortly. Our annual newsletter gives an insight into some of the activities and achievements of our students over the past school year. Our students have spent the past two months learning via a computer screen, and it is easy to forget about all the fun that took place before 12th March. As you will see, there was a great deal of fun and laughter to complement all the hard work that went on in the classroom. We thank your sons and daughters for the energy and enthusiasm with which they engage in these activities.

Root Beliefs and Shared Core Values

Our Nuacht also contains our Root Beliefs and Shared Core Values which have been developed as part of our School Culture Project in association with the University of Notre Dame and the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE). Our Root Beliefs and Shared Core Values are based on the beliefs, principles and practices of daily life here in Presentation Milltown. Along with our desire to continually improve the daily experience of each member of our school community, these values and beliefs challenge us to regularly assess and evaluate our actions, behaviours and interactions with one another, to ensure that we stay true to the Gospel values and our Catholic ethos.

P.T.O. →

Principal – Kerry Harkin

Deputy Principal – Sean Costelloe



Code of Behaviour

As you are aware our Code of Behaviour is a vital policy to ensure the smooth operation of each school day. It allows the creation of a learning environment which is safe, caring, equitable and consistent. The full policy can be found on our website. However, as always at this time of year, we wish to draw your attention to a number of points in relation to uniform and smart devices, before purchases are made over the summer.

Uniform

Students are aware of the need for the uniform to be worn properly and in its entirety. Our uniform identifies students as members of our school community. We require it to be worn properly to promote equality, unity and a shared identity within our student body.

Wearing the uniform unaltered prevents trends and fashion statements becoming prevalent. Students tell us that such trends put unnecessary pressure and stress on them to conform.

As the summer is often the time that new uniform items are bought, we request your support in ensuring students' uniforms are unaltered and worn correctly as per our Code of Behaviour.

We'd like to remind our girls that the kilt should be worn well below the knee and not turned-up at the waistband. We would like to remind our boys that their school trousers must not be altered in anyway. The current trend is that the legs of the trousers are narrowed and shortened to above the ankle. Uniform trousers must be regular, unaltered school trousers which fall below the ankle in length.

Piercings are another area that students often consider during the summer holidays. Please note that all students are permitted to wear one small stud earring in each ear. However, as per page 5 of our Code of Behaviour, other visible piercings are not permitted.

Mobile Phones/Smart Devices

Use of mobile phones and smart devices is always challenging for schools. Our students tell us that they value the time and sense of calm created by not being allowed to use their phones during school. They tell us it reduces the pressures and stress caused by social media and the demands of being online.

We encourage students to not bring mobile phones to school. However, if parents feel it is necessary the phone must be placed in the student's locker as soon as they arrive in school. The phone must then remain in the locker until the end of the school day. Our Code of Behaviour states that students are not permitted to use their phones/smart devices (including smart watches) at any time during the school day and/or on the school premises (including break, lunch, before and after school). In the interest of health and safety we request your assistance in ensuring students who need to contact parents/guardians during the school day do so through the school office and not via their own phones. Likewise, we request that parents/guardians who need to contact students during the school day do so through the school office and not directly through the student's mobile phone.

Despite the huge disruption caused by COVID-19, we hope that 2019-20 has been a good year for your son/daughter. We hope they found the year to be productive and enjoyable. We thank them for their positivity, creativity and diligence, but most of all for their kindness and understanding towards each other. We thank you for entrusting your young person into our care and for your continued support and cooperation in our work.

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry Harkin
Principal

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Sean Costelloe
Deputy Principal

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