

22nd June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians

We hope that you and your family are keeping well as we look forward to a summer of relative normality.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your son/daughter to our school community. We know that their time in primary school has been a little unusual due to COVID-19 closures, measures and restrictions. Please know that we will do all we can for our 1st Years in August/September to help them get back to a level of normality and to settle into school life here at Presentation Milltown.

The first day for our incoming 1st Year students will be **Thursday 26th August**. Assuming there are no significant shifts in DES and HSE protocol over the next two months, we do not expect this to change. Should changes be required we will contact you via the school app.

My First Day Booklet

All incoming 1st Years should have received our “My First Day” booklet giving your son/daughter some more information about their first few days and weeks at secondary school. If your son/daughter has not yet received this booklet please contact office@presmilltown.ie by this Friday (25th) at the latest and we will ensure that one is posted out.

School App

We would remind you to select ‘automatic updates’ for the school app in order to ensure that you receive all necessary school communications. The school app is used for all school communications, payments, news and consent forms.

Book Rental Scheme & Payment

As outlined in our previous correspondence all textbooks for Junior Cycle (1st, 2nd & 3rd Year) are allocated to students through our book rental scheme. The payment for this is €260 and can be paid via the school app in one lump sum or in 6 equal monthly instalments.

Incoming 1st Year students can collect their books from the school on **Wednesday 11th August**. Due to social distancing requirement the following time slots will apply.

- 10am - 10.30am - Surnames A - C
- 10.30am - 11am - Surnames D - G
- 11am - 11.30am - Surnames H - L
- 11.30am - 12pm - Surnames M - N
- 12pm - 12.30pm - Surnames O - O'
- 12.30pm - 1pm - Surnames P - Z

We ask that students be accompanied by just one adult and that face masks are worn at all times while on the school premises.

Please practice social distancing while on-site and adhere to signs/directions on arrival.

P.T.O. →

Principal – Kerry Harkin

Deputy Principal – Sean Costelloe



Root Beliefs and Shared Core Values

Also attached are our school's 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.

Summer Letter

In addition, we have enclosed a copy of the end of year letter sent to parents of our current students. You may find some of this information useful in relation to uniform trends and mobile phones etc.

COVID Measures for August 2021

While we know COVID measures will still be in place when schools reopen in August, we do not have details on the specific requirements at the current time.

We will be in touch via the school app in August, by which time we will have more precise details around COVID measures and the impact these may have on school life and our start-up dates.

We hope that your son/daughter has enjoyed their final year in primary school, despite the huge disruptions caused by COVID-19. We look forward to getting to know them all in the autumn and we look forward to working with you over the next five years to ensure they have the best possible educational experience during their time with us. We thank you for entrusting your young person into our care and for your support and cooperation in our work.

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry Harkin
Principal



Sean Costelloe
Deputy Principal



Presentation Secondary School, Milltown, Co. Kerry



ACE School Culture Initiative

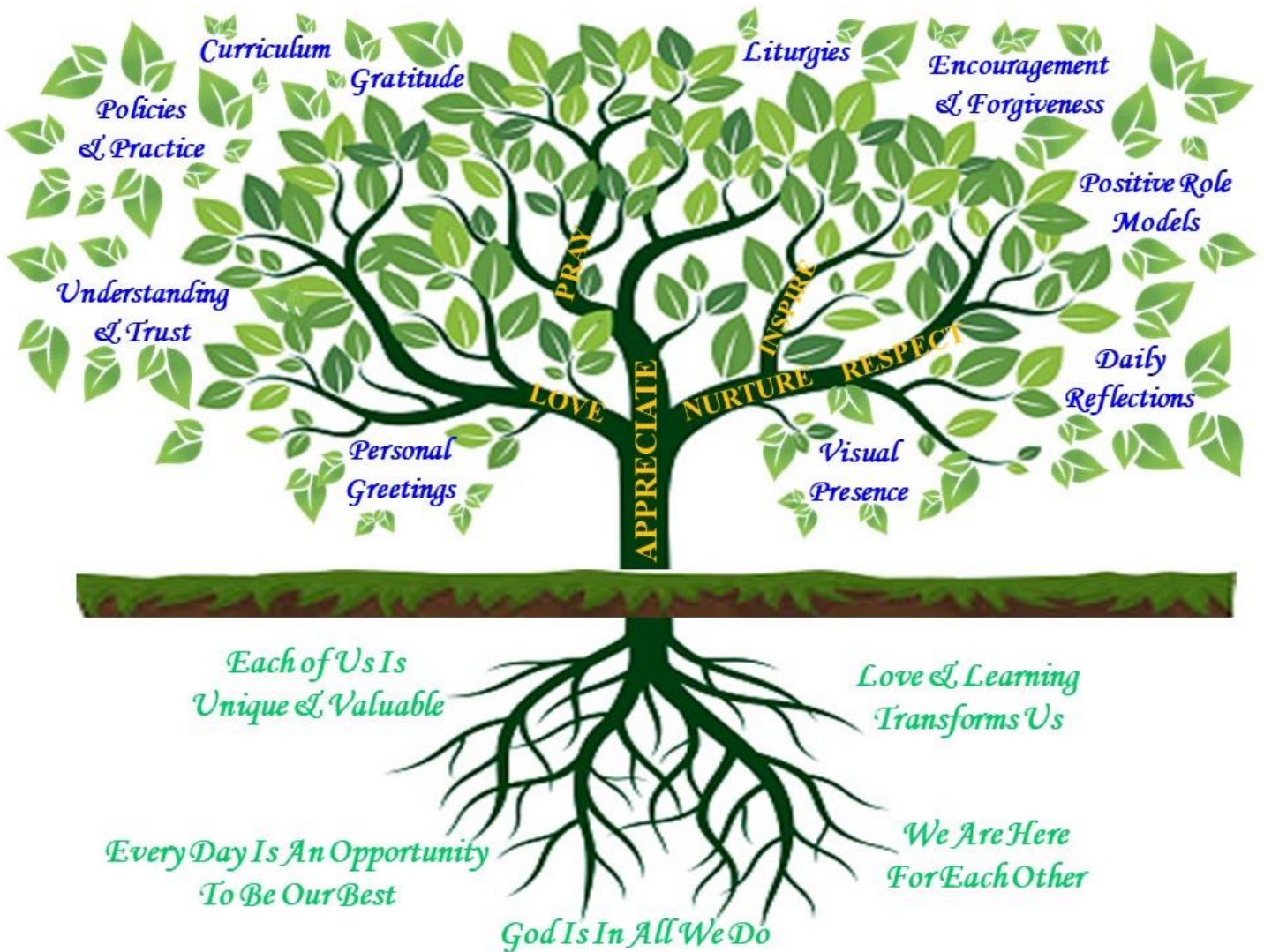


Our Root Beliefs

- † God Is In All We Do
- † Each Of Us Is Unique & Valuable
- † We Are Here For Each Other
- † Every Day Is An Opportunity To Be Our Best
- † Love & Learning Transforms Us

Our Shared Core Values

- † Love
- † Respect
- † Pray
- † Appreciate
- † Inspire
- † Nurture





Catholic Education
An Irish Schools Trust



22nd June 2021

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 COVID measures and restrictions as well as new methods of learning over the past year or so. We applaud their resilience and determination, and we thank them for their diligence and cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

As another unusual school year has now come to a 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 in August with some level of normality. While we know COVID measures will still be in place in August/September, we do not have details on the specific requirements at the current time. The school start-up dates as originally planned are listed below. Assuming there are no significant shifts in DES and HSE protocols over the next two months, we will try to keep to these as far as possible.

- Thursday 26th August – 1st Year & Transition Year
- Friday 27th August – 3rd Year & 6th Years
- Monday 30th August – 2nd Year
- Tuesday 31st August – 5th Years

We will be in touch via the school app in August, by which time we will have more precise details around COVID measures and the impact these may have on school life and our start-up dates.

End of Year Reports – 1st, 2nd, TY & 5th Years

End of Year Reports for all year groups are now available via VSware. You can access VSware via the link on our school website or the link in the school app. Please contact office@presmilltown.ie if you are having difficulties accessing reports.

Junior Cycle School Reports – 3rd Years

As you are aware the Minister for Education & Skills determined that once again in the absence of state examinations for the Junior Cycle, certification for each 3rd Year student will involve two elements:

- A State Certificate of Completion of the Junior Cycle from the Department of Education. This certificate will state that the student has completed the Junior Cycle programme of study. For each student the certificate will include the list of subjects, short courses and/or priority learning units studied by him/her during their Junior Cycle programme.
- A School Report detailing the learning achievements of the student during their Junior Cycle programme. Students should receive a written report on the broad range of learning that they have achieved in each subject, short course and/or priority learning unit at the end of Junior Cycle. This assessment of their learning will be provided by their teachers. Schools will have autonomy, following consultation with the teachers of third-year students, regarding how this assessment is to be arrived at and the format in which the report is provided.

We would like to commend our 3rd Year students for their hard work and determination during a very challenging year. Junior Cycle School Reports have now been posted to parents/guardians of 3rd Year students. State Certificates of Completion of the Junior Cycle will be issued once received from DES.

P.T.O. →

Principal – Kerry Harkin

Deputy Principal – Sean Costelloe



Root Beliefs and Shared Core Values

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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 937 class periods. Considering these complexities and in the interest of equity and transparency, such requests will not be considered.

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.

In particular 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.

P.T.O. →

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Presentation Secondary School

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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 (or school bag if lockers are not in use) 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.

Leaving Certificate

As the Leaving Certificate 2021 draws into its final week we would like to wish all of our 6th Year students the very best for the future. We commend the adaptability, determination, and resilience you have shown in over the past 18 months and we thank you for leaving us with so many fond memories of the Class of 2021. We know that the future is both safe and bright in your hands.

Despite the huge disruption caused by COVID-19, we hope that 2020-21 has been a good year for your sons and daughters. 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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Deputy Principal

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