

Sonas

Special Junior Primary School

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Roll No. 201620



Halloween 2020

Board of Management

The first Board of Management meeting of the academic year took place on September 23rd. At this meeting, the Board thanked Rosie Twomey for the two years of committed service she gave the Board as the Parent Representative whilst her son was in school with us in Sonas. Following Rosie's departure,

we are now calling for interested parties to put themselves forward as a new female Parent Representative on the Board. Once a number of candidates come forward, we will then issue balloting sheets to each parent in school to choose the candidate of their choice and a new female Parent Representative will be then appointed. The next Board of Management meeting will take place online at 5pm on Wednesday October 22nd.

News from the Classes

Blue Class

All the boys and girls in blue class are having a great term! We had lots of fun making cheerio towers using spaghetti sticks as part of our fine motor group. Everyone is working hard practicing taking on and off their shoes and socks as part of their self-care group. We have enjoyed preparing the art board by making spiders, pumpkins and Halloween masks, we will be doing pumpkin carving for sensory work. Next Friday, we are excited about dressing up for a Halloween party in blue class. Happy Halloween 🎃

Silver Class

Lots of fun has been had in silver class during our first term. The children have enjoyed splashing in puddles with their wellies on, autumnal walks and finding signs of autumn around us such as assortments of leaves, conkers and pine cones.

On the lead up to Halloween, we've been exploring emotions on some pumpkins and listening to 'The 5 little pumpkins' song as well as making spooky ghosts for our classroom display board!

Purple Class

Purple class have been having fun making the most of the dry weather- going for walks, doing sensory work, autumn activities and science experiments outside in the sensory garden. We have been enjoying our Halloween songs, spooky stories, activities and games and are looking forward to dressing up and having a Halloween party next week

Green Class

Green Class have enjoyed doing Autumn and Halloween themed work this month. The stories "Room on the Broom" and "The Gruffalo" are loved by all in the class. We're looking forward to dressing up and having a Halloween party in class, on the last day before mid-term. Hope everyone has a lovely mid-term.

Yellow Class

Yellow class have been busy preparing for Halloween 🎃 We have been learning songs and made pumpkins and ghosts in art. Our sensory play has been messy with spiders and creepy crawlies hidden in the boxes!

We are enjoying parachute games at group time and working well on using PECS to request our motivators

Orange Class

Orange class have been having lots of fun outside recently. We have been playing in the playground, riding our bikes and going on lots of nature walks. The children recently collected leaves to make our leaf rubbings in art and they also made lovely Hedgehogs.

Orange class are working really hard and the kids are all sitting for short Circle time groups. We are

listening to some Halloween songs , playing some games and practicing our waiting and turn taking skills.

We are all looking forward to Halloween and dressing up for our class Halloween party.

Pink Class

Pink class have really enjoyed getting ready for Halloween. We painted pumpkins using our fingers and witches from our footprints. We have enjoyed exploring different sensory activities and going for walks. We got a new trampoline in pink class and everyone is loving jumping on it. Everybody is working very hard on their fine motor

IEPs

IEP meetings for all 42 pupils have taken place in advance of the school closing for the Halloween midterm break next week on Friday October 23rd.. The first block of IEP Goals for 2nd and 3rd year children commenced on September 28th . The second block of IEP goals for these children and the first block of goals for children in their first year in the school will commence on November 2nd.

Parents of 2nd year and 3rd year children received a digital copy of their child's IEP Front Sheets, Goals and the first set of 6 week objectives and this will be sent home digitally to all new parents by Friday October 23rd.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Class teachers will be in touch after the midterm break to organize Parent Teacher Meetings for the week beginning the 25th of November. This will be a very timely opportunity to discuss with your child's

teacher his/her progress at a very timely point in the academic year.

Halloween Art

We will safely put aside your child's Halloween Art for 72 hours before sending it home to you next week to enjoy - the children have been very busy making lots of gorgeous creations!

Flu Vaccine for Children aged 2-12

Earlier this week, the school emailed home to parents the details sent to us re the Flu Vaccine for 2-12 year old children.

This year all children in this age bracket will be offered the flu vaccine free of charge. The flu season usually starts at the beginning of October and lasts until the end of April.

The flu vaccine for children is called Fluenz Tetra. It is available from either your GP or pharmacist. They will give the vaccine as a spray up your child's nose – a nasal vaccine. There is no need for an injection.

Full details re the Flu Vaccine are outlined in the HSE leaflet that was emailed home.

Progressing Services for Children and Young People

We also emailed home earlier this week details issued to us from the Brothers of Charity with regard to Progressing Services for Children and Young People. The central focus of this programme is to provide a clear pathway to services regardless of where a child lives, goes to school, or the nature of their disability or delay. At present there are some very good services for children with disabilities and their families but also some large gaps. There may be a service for children

with a physical disability in a locality, but none for children with an intellectual disability. Some children and their families have little or no access to services. The 'Progressing Services for Children and Young People' Programme aims to achieve a national unified approach to delivering children's disability health services.

Full details of the Programme are detailed in the email sent home.

€100 contribution

Sincere thanks to all parents who have sent in the annual contribution of €100 to the school towards the cost of making customized resources, visuals, photocopying, laminating etc. We do not have a book list and all learning materials for our children are customized individually- this contribution goes towards defraying this cost.

Thank you also to all who have sent in the termly contribution of €40 that goes towards funding sensory play in the classrooms.

School Places for when your child leaves Sonas

Year on year, the supply of school places for children leaving Sonas seems to be in increasingly greater demand.

We would encourage any parents who have not yet started putting their child's name on school lists to contact those schools that they are interested in for their child. New legislation introduced earlier this year has meant that the Admissions Process for schools has changed – some schools are now only accepting applications for this particular year and other schools may have closed waiting lists for a period so it is worthwhile directly contacting schools you are interested in for your child and see what the case is for these schools.

School Closures

The school will be closed for the Halloween midterm from finish of school today October 26th until it re-opens again on November 5th.

Thank you all for your support in upholding the strict guidelines by which we have operated since re-opening at the end of the summer. It was a big change for everybody to adapt to and the personal responsibility, respect for others and general sense personal responsibility has ensured that thus far Sonas has remained open without interruption to the children's education.

If we can all continue to keep this momentum and goodwill, although it can be trying at times, hopefully we will maintain normality as best we can for the children, families and staff of our school.

Wishing you all a lovely mid-term break



**Kind regards,
Bairbre
October 15th 2020**