***Nuachtlitir***

**An Scéim bainne / The milk scheme**

The fruit scheme is going well at the moment. Any child not having a piece of fruit from school can bring in their own piece.

Milk will be available at a cost of £6.60 from 8 November. Payment is through Parent Pay.

**COVID**

While things are generally a bit more relaxed than they were, it is still very important that we are observant of practices to keep us all safe. Hand sanitizing and wearing a mask is still important as COVID rates are still high.

Our guidelines from PHA/DE remain the same, if a child is a close contact, book a PCR test, self-isolate until a negative result obtained and then return to school.

If positive, self-isolate for 10 days.

If a child does not take a PCR test, we cannot accept lateral flow test results, a child will have to self-isolate for 10 days.

If a child has any COVID symptoms, please book a PCR test.

Staggered times are no longer in operation. Classes begin now for all children at 8.55

***na Samhna***

**Nut Free School**

We are a nut free school. Please ensure your child does not bring any food with traces of nut to school.

**Comhghairdeas/ Congratulations**

Congratulations to all the families who decorated their imagination islands for Halloween. They were all very impressive. I hope you all seen the photographs in Fridays Derry Journal, they were also online.

**Clubanna iar-scoile / After school clubs**

Clubs have resumed again after the halloween break. Keep an eye on the finish dates for some of the clubs. Children attending Thursdays multi-activity club should collect their child from Shantallow Community Centre.

**Corpoideachas / PE**

We are also returning to Steelstown hall for PE each Thursday. Children must wear trainers to take part in PE lessons.

**Parent Pay**

Reminder that all parents/guardians must register with ParentPay system. If paying for meals, children need to be booked in for their meals each day. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals you do not need to do this.

**An bialann / The canteen**

We have returned to Steelstown canteen after the Halloween break. Lunchtime for the whole school will be from 12.30-1.15.

**Cruinnithe Tuistí / Teacher Parent meetings**

Beidh na cruinnithe ag tosú an tseachtain 15-26 Samhain.

Teacher-Parent meetings will begin the week of 15-26 November. Parents from rang 3-7 can choose whether they prefer a phone or a face to face meeting. Naíscoil and Rang 1-2 will have face to face meetings.

**Cosaint Páiste /Child Proctection & Safeguarding**

As your child is at the heart of your family, they are also the heart of everything we do at school. Therefore, the care and welfare of your child is very important to us.

If you or your child have a concern about something, speak first of all to the class teacher. You can also speak to the Designated Teacher (DT) for Child Protection/Safeguarding, Múinteoir Máire Mhic Lochlainn or to the Deputy Designated Teacher (DDT) for Child Protection, Múinteoir Aisling Ní Mhaolómhair. Anne Craig is the Designated governor for Child Protection/safeguarding. Currently Múinteoir Niamh Ní Chearúil is the DDT in Naíscoil Dhoire until Múinteoir Nuala returns from maternity leave.

**Schools NI app/School website**

We have many initiatives in school as we continue to reduce our carbon footprint, re-use and recycle, saving water through the use of water butts etc.

Our school website has been a successful strategy in helping us to reduce waste. It has allowed us where possible, to communicate without the use of paper copies.

**This means that you need to have the Schools NI App downloaded to your phone/tablet.**

The website has many useful functions and allows us to send public and private messages to you digitally. It is much more efficient and effective in terms of reaching everyone.

Like all other Apps, it does occasionally need to be updated. We ask that you open the app often so that you do not miss important information from us.

If you are having any difficulties with access you can contact ourselves or the Schools NI App has a function where you can contact the website provider who are always very helpful.

A private message may also be sent to a class group.

If you think you are not verified or do not receive these private messages, then please do let us or the website provider know.

***Class Do-Jo***

Class Dojo worked very well for us during lockdown and it is very quick and easy to use for parents and teachers. Please ensure that the app is downloaded to your phone as we can also send messages to the whole school via the Class Dojo app. It is also the method the teacher will use to keep in contact with his/her parent/guardians. Parents also use it to keep in contact with the teacher.

**Banaltra na scoile / School nurse**

The school nurse will be in school to give children the flu jab on Tuesday 16 November

**Geataí / Gates**

For safety reasons, the bottom gate leading into Shantallow will be locked at 9.20 each morning and opened again at 1.15. Please close the gate upon entry and exit as classes are often in the garden.