



Corridor Echoes

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Beginning-of School-Year Mass

Our beginning-of-school-year Mass will be in the Church on Thursday 22nd September at 11.30am.

Congratulations to all our past pupils on their marvellous results in the Leaving and Junior Certificate exams.

Welcome to New School Year

Dear Parents,

Welcome to what no doubt will be another very busy school year. A very special welcome to all our new pupils and their families. We hope that you will have many happy years with us. This edition of Corridor Echoes contains lots of very useful and important information.

School Day: The school day begins at 9.20 for all pupils. It is important that pupils are in school on time. The school day finishes at 3.00 for 1st to 6th classes and at 2.00 for the Infants' classes. The playground is supervised each morning from 9.00. Boys shouldn't be in the playground before this time unless it is absolutely necessary. On wet mornings the boys will be allowed into their classrooms from 9.00 by the Principal. If any children (or parents) are in before that time they should wait in the shed in the senior playground or the sheltered area outside the Infants' classroom. When the school day is finished for the boys the teachers will bring them to the playground where they can be collected by you the parents.

Book Rental Scheme: Our book rental scheme now goes from 1st to 6th classes.

Up-To-Date News: Our school website www.ferrybankbns.ie will have up-to-date news regarding the school. It is currently being updated. Some classes have their own website that deals with their class alone.

Do you have a particular talent or interest that you think might be useful to the school? Do you have any ideas or suggestions for future editions of 'Corridor Echoes'? Please contact us if you have.

Attendance

Last year's attendance report to the National Education Welfare Board showed that the overall attendance was good. Unfortunately it wasn't all good. 21 boys were absent for more than 20 days (including one boy for 54 days and another for 45 days). Attendance at school is a topic that I have referred to on many occasions. It is very important that every boy attends school unless there is a justifiable reason that he cannot. We organised an attendance competition last year with a monthly prize for the class with the best attendance. While that did have a positive effect on attendance as a whole it didn't solve the problem of poor attendance. I am legally obliged to report to the Education Welfare Board any child who has missed 20 school days. I will also inform parents in writing when a pupil's attendance is noticeably poor or irregular. Another topic of some concern is the number of 'appointments' some appear to have during school days.

Parents Association

All parents are welcome and encouraged to join the Parents Association Committee. Ideally each class should have representation. We would encourage parents from all classes to join the committee.

The Parent Association will work together with the Principal, Staff, Board of Management and all parents to build effective partnership between home, school and the local community to ensure the best possible education for their children. We aim to offer all parents the opportunity to contribute towards enhancing their children's education through various activities within the community throughout the school year.

If you are interested in being part of the Parents Association Committee please come along to the AGM. Alternatively do not hesitate to contact any committee member below or email

paferrybankboys@gmail.com.

You will be notified about the date of the AGM.

Books / Uniform: I am making a very special appeal to all of you parents to donate any school books or items of school uniform and tracksuit that you no longer need to the school. The more books we can get will result in keeping costs down in the coming years. Please donate any of these items that are in good condition. Sincere thanks to those of you who have already done so.

Insurance

I strongly urge you to avail of the insurance scheme. All forms should be returned with the fee as soon as possible but no later than Friday 16th September.

Contact Details

Please ensure that any change of address or phone numbers are given to the office. It is vital that we have correct phone numbers for all parents/guardians. You wouldn't believe how many wrong numbers we get so please make sure that we have your correct details.

Meeting the Class Teacher

If you wish to discuss anything regarding school with either the class teacher or myself please make an appointment with Jackie in the office. It isn't fair to try to discuss any issues when the teacher has a class to teach. Neither is it fair on yourself. Please arrange a convenient time for meetings.

School Calendar for 2016 / 2017

- *Thursday 1st September: Opening of new school year
- *Monday 31st Oct. - Friday 4th Nov.: School closed for Mid-term Break
- *Thursday 22nd December: School closes for Christmas holidays
- *Monday 9th January 2017: School re-opens
- *Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th February: School closed for Mid-term Break
- *Friday 17th March: School closed
- *Friday 7th April: School closes for Easter holidays
- *Monday 24th April: School re-opens
- *Monday 1st May: School closed - Public Holiday
- *Monday 5th June: School closed
- *Tuesday 27th June: End of school year; school closes for summer holidays



Milk: Milk is available in school again this year. Please ensure that the milk is ordered and paid for by 12.00 *sharp* on Friday for the following week. Once our order is placed at 12.00 on a Friday *it cannot be changed*.

School Policies

Schools are required to have policies on curricular, organisational and management areas. Policies need to be amended and updated from time to time in line with changing circumstances and legislation. At the moment we are updating our policies on:- Behaviour; Anti-Bullying; Homework; Attendance; Enrolment; Special Educational Needs; Anti-Bullying; Child Protection and Critical Incident. If you have any views on any of these topics please send them in to the office or directly to the Principal. We welcome all helpful and practical contributions from parents. As you know all our policies dictate how the school operates. Your opinion matters. If you wish to see any current or draft school policy please contact the office with your request.

REMINDER

In line with the school's healthy lunch policy Friday is "Treat Day". One treat, not a lunch box-full please.

School Rules: We usually send home a copy of our school rules each year. Our rules are few in number and are very easy to keep. We ask all parents and guardians to ensure that the boys know and follow our simple rules. We make no apologies for enforcing our rules. A copy is included with this newsletter for each family.

Special Corridor Echoes

Parents, watch out for a special edition of *Corridor Echoes* soon. Our theme in school this year is **positivity**. We want to embrace everything that is positive about our school, the pupils, the parents, the school staff, the parents' association, the board of management, Ferrybank.....

There is a massive amount that we can be positive about and we fully intend to promote it. The only thing that is banned is negativity!

School Uniform and Tracksuit

All pupils in our school must have a school uniform and a school tracksuit.

Tracksuit

The school tracksuit is *only* available from Excel Promotions.

Uniform

Option A - The full school uniform (green jumper, grey shirt, grey pants and green tie) is available from Excel Promotions. There is a choice of crested or non-crested jumper.

Option B - The full uniform is also available from Shaws, The Quay, Waterford. Please note that only a non-crested jumper is available from Shaws.

The shirt, polo shirt and pants may be purchased in other shops also - provided they are the correct colour. No variations in colour or style are allowed. We went through the process of dealing with school uniforms and tracksuits last year as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills.

It is very important that all parents follow the simple rules about our uniform and tracksuit.

Important Notice

Parents, please note that:-

1. the €40 (+ €20 deposit if applicable) Book Rental fee should have been paid by 1st September.

2. the €30 fee must be paid by 30th September. This is a fee that covers some of the cost of Art and photocopying. It is not a voluntary contribution (we don't ask for a voluntary contribution) - it is a charge.

(These fees can also be paid in instalments. Please contact the office for details.)

Excel Promotions

Address: Unit 12J, Six Cross Roads Business Park, Waterford.

Phone: (051) 379 606

Email: sales @excelpromotions.ie

Website: www.excelpromotions.ie

- Quality Irish Made Clothing
- Savings Stamps Machines
- Stock all year round
- We cover all sizes in tracksuits 3-4, 5-6, 6-7, 7-8, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11, 11-12, 13-14, 25, 26
- We offer a mix and match service for our tracksuits
- You can split tracksuits and purchase separates
- Special Offers & Discounts

Sports Events.....Trips to Town

Last year we started to charge €3 for each boy for trips to away matches/sports events and trips across town. When we travel to these events we have to hire a bus. The €3 charge per pupil is a contribution to the cost. The arrangement is that the cost of these trips will be shared by this charge for pupils, the Parents' association and the Board of Management.

Shared Reading

It's great to see some of our former pupils back in the school for a shared reading scheme involving Mrs Kelly's 1st Class and a transition year group in Abbey Community College.

Cross Country

The annual cross country athletics competition will take place in the RSC next Tuesday, 20th September beginning at 12.00. As usual this event for 1st to 6th Class is promoted by Ferrybank Athletic Club.