***October Circular***

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope all the children have settled into their classes and are enjoying school life. Many thanks to all the parents/guardians for your support and interest in the school.

**Maths Week 2019** – Maths Week is taking place this week from the 14th to the 18th October. It promotes awareness, appreciation and understanding of maths through a variety of events and activities. In school, we will be putting a greater emphasis on making maths fun e.g. games, puzzles, maths trails. We will be asking the children to use their ‘Maths Eyes’ to look for maths in their everyday lives e.g. shape, time, money, number, pattern etc.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings –Monday 11th to Friday 15th**

Parent/Teacher Meetings will take place during the week of the 11th November. These meetings are very important as it affords you an opportunity to discuss the progress and any concerns you may have about your child in school.

**Homework -** By now, the children should be settled into the routine of homework. You can help your child by listening to their reading and checking their spellings and tables. Discuss their written work and encourage them to present their work as neatly as possible. If they cannot do an item of homework, or if homework is taking too long, please write a note in the homework journal for the class teacher. A really useful website worth checking is www.helpmykidlearn.ie. The website provides fun activities for parents to do with their children to improve their reading, writing and maths skills.

**School Uniform** - Every year many uniforms are lost or misplaced. We would appreciate, if all uniforms are labelled.

**Attendance** – Schools must maintain records of school attendance and inform the educational welfare officer if a child has missed more than 20 days in any school year or is not attending school regularly. To ensure that the school has accurate information about absences please send in a note to the class teacher. There are absence notes in the back of their homework journal.

**Policies –** School policies can be viewed on the school website (www.quayschool.ie) under the Downloads tab.

**School Website** - Please visit our school website regularly to find out about school activities. The website address is www.quayschool.ie. We often have photographs of pupils on the school website. If you do not wish to have your child’s photograph published on the school website, please send a note to the school office.

**Twitter/Facebook –** You can also follow us on Twitter (@QuaySchool) and Facebook (@thequayschool).

**Bottle Bricks -** Well done to our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils who collected 29.2kg of non-recyclable plastic waste in 108 recycled plastic milk bottles. We made a bench and a table for display outside Tertulia Bookshop during Westival. Thanks to all the school community, Ms. Hope, 5th class and Nicky Dowd for your help.

**Dancing Classes –** Dancing classes will commence on Monday, 4th November. Please see e-mail re cost and details.

**Music Lessons -** Music lessons with Des Cafferkey have now commenced for all pupils from first to sixth class. Children will cover a wide range of musical styles and themes over the next number of months.

**GAA Coach –** Our GAA coach Padraig Walsh visits the school each Wednesday and takes pupils from 3rd and 4th classes for GAA coaching. This will be extended to other classes over the course of the year.

**Hurling/Camogie –** Our Hurling/Camogie coach Ms Roseleen Duggan visits the school every Thursday and takes 1st and 2nd classes for coaching. This will be extended to other classes over the course of the year.

**Rugby Coach –** Our rugby coach Mr Dave Keogh visits the school each Monday and takes pupils from 5th and 6th class for Rugby skills. This will be extended to other classes over the course of the year.

**School Choir –** A note was sent home last week inviting all 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils to get involved in our school choir. If you would like to join, please let Marie know in the office.

**Senior football teams** – Well done to the senior girls’ and boys’ football teams who took part in the mini sevens in Kilmeena. This was played on a knockout basis due to weather conditions. The girls got a bye in the first round and beat Scoil Phádraig in the quarter finals. They are through to the semi final – day and time to be confirmed. The boys are also through to the semi-final after beating Carrakennedy/Lecanvey in the first round and Brackloon in the quarter final.

**Cross Country Connacht Champions** – Congratulations to our successful 5th/6th class boys’ cross country team of Dara Dawson, Shane Brennan, Eoghan Moran, Rian Durkan, Connor Whittaker and Darragh Malone. A huge achievement to win a West Mayo, County and Connacht cross country medals.

**Confirmation 6th Class** – The Confirmation will take place on **Saturday March 21st** 2020 in St Mary’s Church, Westport.

**Holy Communion 2nd Class** – The First Communion will take place on **Saturday 16th May** 2020 in St Mary’s Church, Westport.

**Halloween Dress-up –** On Friday 25th October the children will dress up for Halloween.

**School Closure –** **Please note that on Friday 25th of October** school will close for mid-term at the normal times of 1.40pm and 2.40pm. We will re-open on Monday 4th of November at 9.00am.

***Changes to School Calendar***

**Primary Language Curriculum In-service:** We will also have a school closure for Teacher Induction and CPD to assist with the implementation of the new Primary Language Curriculum on **Wednesday 6th November 2019**.

Looking forward to your continued support and co-operation throughout the coming year.

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Kevin Munnelly, Principal