NEWS SHEET 1. Wednesday 7th September 2016

A Thuismitheoirí,

Tá fáilte romhaibh arais chuig Scoil Naomh Iosef i ndiaidh an tSamhraidh. The staff extend a special welcome to all our new pupils! Together we will all work to ensure that this academic year is another very enriching one for the whole school community but in particular for our students. I eagerly look forward to it as do all the staff of the school.

1. School Hours

School starts at 8:50 a.m. and finishes at 2:30 p.m. Junior and Senior Infants finish at 1:30 p.m. It is important that children are on time each morning so that classes can commence as scheduled. Parents are also reminded to leave their children at the front door of the school every morning so as to foster their child’s independence. All meetings with teachers are made by appointment via our school’s email address info@castlehackettns.ie. This measure reduces interruptions to class time and ensures that all the pupils in our care receive the best education possible.

1. Afterschool Clubs

The afterschool clubs are being organised by Tiny Tots this year. All queries should be made to Madeline Finnegan in Tiny Tots. We are very grateful to our operators this year for providing this service. The continuation of this service relies upon payments being made and in a prompt manner. It is also reliant on there being sufficient demand for the service.

1. The E.C.C.E. Year.

We are extremely proud of our Tiny Tots facility. Many thanks to Thelma O’Reilly and Montessori teacher Linda Hession for providing a fine, warm, colourful and well resourced facility for the pre-schoolers in our community.

1. Collection of Children

On the rare occasion where a relative or friend, who normally does not collect your child, arrives to the school to pick up him/her, the school should be advised of this beforehand in the interest of safety. Please write a note to your child’s teacher should this situation arise.

1. School Uniform

Your co-operation to ensure that your child wears the full school uniform every day is most appreciated. Please remember to label your child’s uniform and all their belongings.

1. Education Welfare Act

We would appreciate a note explaining any absence should it arise throughout the year. Please note that if a pupil is absent for more than 20 days or is continuously late arriving to school, the principal is legally obliged to report the matter to the education welfare officer.

1. Personal Accident Insurance

Personal accident insurance forms are enclosed. Please fill these out at your earliest convenience (and not later than Friday 16th of September) and return to the school. We would strongly advise you to avail of this insurance for your child/children. For any further queries, please contact the Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Helpline on 01-6133900

1. Payments to the School

It would be hugely helpful if payments made to the school were for the exact amount requiring no change. Please also make sure that money is put in an envelope with the child’s names, details of the payment and date clearly written on the outside.

1. Confirmation and Communion Dates

The Confirmation for 5th and 6th class pupils this year is on Tuesday 28th of February at 11am in Corrandulla Church. The First Holy Communion will take place in May as usual. The exact date and time will be confirmed at a later stage.

1. Medical Problems

 It is very important that you read the attached letter re.nut allergy. Please continue to make the school aware if your child has any medical problems. The information given in this regard will be treated with total confidentiality. In the case of a child necessitating urgent medical attention and where parents cannot be contacted, he/she will be taken to a local doctor.

1. School Closings

A list of school closings for the year is attached.

1. Stretch and Grow

Please find attached the details regarding the stretch and grow lessons. Helen Corbett (tutor) has asked that a once off payment (€20 per pupil for 10 lessons) be placed in the attached green envelope and returned on Monday 12th of September.

1. Course Days

All the teachers have completed a summer professional development course. This entitles them to 3 ‘extra personal vacation days’, which can be taken at their discretion throughout the coming academic year.

1. Text-a-Parent

Group texts to parents are sent using the text-a-parent online service. Should your mobile number change, please inform the school of same, so that the record can be amended.

1. Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted in the school. If for a particular reason a child needs to have a mobile on a particular day, the class teacher should be made aware of same.

1. Parents Association

I wish to thank the outgoing Parents Association for all their help and support last year. A new Parents Association will be elected soon. A date for the meeting has yet to be decided. Your attendance at this meeting would be greatly appreciated.

1. School Assemblies

Once again we look forward to holding a whole school assembly at the start of every month to celebrate the pupils achievements and acknowledge their successes both inside and outside the school. We might also use this forum to discuss other matters i.e. behaviour, work rate, attitude etc

1. The School Website

Please check our fabulous school website regularly for updates on the latest news in Castlehackett N.S.

1. I.C.T.

We now have 6 I-pads loaded with educational apps to enhance the learning experiences of the children.

1. Football Training

The weekly lunch-time training sessions for 4th, 5th and 6th children will take place every Wednesday weather permitting. A day has yet to be fixed for lunch-time senior hurling sessions. Expect another very successful sporting year in 2015/2016!

1. Irish Dancing

Irish dancing lessons will commence in the second term.

1. Irish Music

We are very fortunate to have Matt Cunningham visit our school once a week. A note regarding this will issue soon.

1. Learning Support

Learning support in reading or maths or both may be offered to your child during the school year. This programme of support may involve withdrawing your child during the school year. This programme of support may involve withdrawing your child as part of a group or on a one to one basis. Please contact Ms Elizabeth Keady (head of learning support department) should you require any further information.

A huge thank you to you the parents and staff of Castlehackett N.S. for all your support and I look forward to your continued co-operation in the year ahead.

Is mise le meas,

Fergal Ó Neachtain

**School Closings September 2016 to June 2017**

**Mid Term Break:** 31st of October – 4th of November (inclusive)

**Christmas Holidays**: 23rd of December – 6th of January (inclusive)

**Mid Term Break**: 23rd and 24th of February

**St. Patrick’s Public Holiday:** 17th and 20th of March (inclusive)

**Easter Holidays:**  10th of April – 21st of April (inclusive)

**May Bank Holiday Weekend:** 1st of May – 4th of May (inclusive)

**Public Holiday:** 2nd of June – 5th of June (inclusive)

**Summer Holidays:** 30th of June – 31st of August (inclusive)