

Welcome Back:

Welcome back to all our children and their families after the summer holidays. We hope that everyone is settling back into the routine of school life.

We now have 327 children on our roll as we enter our 7th year and we have appointed a number of new staff. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new teaching staff – Dara, Mark, Grace and Lisa and to our new SNAs – Siobhan, Ruth, Maeve and Louise.

We are delighted to have opened the second class in our special needs unit, Coiscéim, which now caters for 11 children on the autistic spectrum, and to be hosting Ballymakenny College and their 65 first year students as they await the completion of their permanent building on the Ballymakenny Road.

The staffing allocation for the 2014/15 year is as follows :

Principal : John
Deputy Principal: Pauline
Office: Antonia

Junior Infants A: Naomi
Junior Infants B: Sandra Wogan
Coiscéim 1: Dermot
Coiscéim 2: Grace

Class Teachers:

6th Class : Dara
5th Class : Claire
4th/5th Class : Lisa
4th Class: Brian
3rd Class: Maria
2nd Class: Síle
1st/2nd Class: Alicia/Elaine
1st Class: Liz
Senior Infants A: Sandra Tavey
Senior Infants B: Áine

Learning Support/Resource Team:
Shirley, Rose, Paul, Mark and Joanna

Language Support:
Pauline and Des

Special Needs Assistants:
Michelle, Freda, Delyse, Rose, Siobhan,
Maeve, Ruth and Louise

Ancillary Services: Kim, Mihaela + Frank

The very best of luck to Vivien who will be leaving us on Friday after three years service to take up the position of SNA in a local secondary school.

New Parents:

We strongly encourage all new parents to keep up to date with school news through our website www.astonvillageetns.com and also our Aston Village ETNS Facebook pages. There is one official Facebook page for the school and one for the parent community, both of which are updated regularly. Both can be found very easily by searching for Aston Village on Facebook. Newsletters are posted on the website if you ever need to check any information that has been sent home.

Important or urgent messages are communicated to parents via our textparent service which is free to parents. ***If you have not received any communication from the school via text since the beginning of term then please check with Antonia that we have the correct mobile number on file for you.*** Any change to contact details such as address or phone number should be notified to the office immediately.

Meetings will be held later this month for the Parent Teacher Association and the Catholic Parents Group (CPG). After school Catholic religion classes will commence in October. In the meantime if you have any queries you may contact the following parents:

Caroline Shaw (Chairperson PTA):	089 432 7948
Antoinette Quinn Dorgan (Chairperson CPG):	085 788 9389

A copy of the 2014-15 school calendar can be found overleaf. Please make note of any school closures and half days in the coming school year. Please also remember to back up your children's absences with a note to the teacher if they are unable to attend school for any reason. ***Please note the first half day closure is on Monday 22nd September at 12pm to cater for staff training and development.***

Open communication between parents and teachers is encouraged but we would like to remind you that if you need to speak to your child's teacher they are not available during class time and an appointment can be made with them through the office for before or after school.

Fees:

Huge thanks to all families who have already paid their school fees contribution for the 2014-15 academic year. Funding is extremely limited and we rely heavily on this parental contribution to ensure that the school is adequately resourced. The fees are set as follows:

1 child = €80 * 2 children = €150 * 3 children = €210 * 4 children = €270

Fees are due in full by ***Friday 24th October 2014***. You may pay any amount in the office as it suits you or send money into your child's teacher in an envelope clearly marked with their name. Envelopes are available from the office and receipts will be issued for all payments.

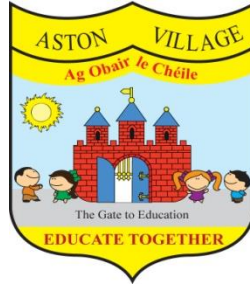
Book Scheme:

Thanks also to all the parents who have supported the new book scheme. It has been a huge success. We appreciate the support and patience of pupils and parents as we await delivery of the final few books and we look forward to improving the scheme even further for 2015/16.

Opportunities and Visits:

- Claire organised an Uilleann Piper to visit the school on Wednesday and give a free demonstration to all classes
- 6th Class have had a special invitation to the filming of RTE childrens show "*Una's Dream Ticket*" in early October. Parents will receive a separate letter with full information about this fun day out.
- 4th and 5th Classes will commence Gaelic training next week. This is one of many sporting opportunities offered to children throughout the school year.
- 5th and 6th class will once again represent our school at the annual Garda Sports Day on Wednesday 1st October.

And finally, the very first Educate Together school has opened in England! Redfield ET Primary Academy in Bristol is one of three new primary schools being opened to address rapidly growing numbers in the city and it is a very exciting venture for the Educate Together community.



School Calendar 2014 – 2015

Monday 22nd September:

School will close at 12pm to facilitate an Intercultural and Ethical Education seminar for all teaching staff and SNAs from 12pm-4pm

October Mid-term break :

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October inclusive

Christmas Holidays :

School closes on Friday 19th December at 12pm and reopens on Monday 5th January

February Mid-term break :

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February inclusive

Easter Holidays :

School will close on Friday 27th March at 12pm and reopen on Monday 13th April***

School will close for the following bank holidays -

Monday 16th March (*day in lieu for early August return*)

Tuesday 17th March

Monday 4th May

Monday 1st June

School will close for the summer holidays on Friday 26th June at 12pm

***unless changes are required as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures e.g snow days, in which case the school may reduce the length of the Easter break by remaining open up to and including Wednesday 2nd April*