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12th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!!

School Self Evaluation (SSE) in Wellbeing: Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out & return our questionnaires. In relation to School Policies, we have a section on our website with Policies (completed) and also Policies Under Review. The policies under review are the policies we are currently working on and would always welcome any feedback etc. before we ratify them with the BOM.

Gymnastics: we were delighted to start our new term with Magda on Monday. The children will enjoy 6 weeks of fun & safe sessions which will improve their balance, stability, flexibility & body control. The cost is €24 per child for the 6 weeks, payable weekly or in full. Thank you to everyone who has already paid.

Say 'Yes' to Languages: The programme kicks off in the senior room this Wednesday, January 17th and the children will be learning Polish with their Say Yes to Languages tutor Beata Gazda.

Punctuality: Please aim to have your child in school for 8.50am each day. We understand this isn't always possible, and understanding is always there for extenuating circumstances. The aim of attendance and punctuality procedures are to ensure the child gets the best experience of education and maximises learning time. Arriving late can be distressful for children and disruptive for their classmates. Being just 10-15 minutes late every morning is equivalent to missing more than 1 hour & 15 minutes every week, which is around 9-10 full days of school in an academic year.

Attendance: If your child is absent from school, please send in a note when they return or send an email to principal@rineenschool.com. When we record the roll on our online system we need to give a reason for the absence (eg. illness, family reasons, holiday etc.) Thank you to everyone who has been doing this. It is the time of year when the biannual attendance reports to Tusla are due. On this form we are required to list any pupils, over the age of 6, who have missed 20 days or more for any reason. If the report is followed

up by the Education Welfare Officer (EWO), they will ask if the absences were explained. Explained absences due to illness etc. are not a cause for concern and shouldn't cause worry at all. A large number of unexplained absences may lead to further investigation by the EWO. While attendance is hugely important and good attendance correlates strongly with improved outcomes, there are also very valid reasons for children to miss school and this is understood. Please also be mindful to not send your child to school if they are displaying symptoms of being unwell.

Dates for your Diary:

Staff Meeting - January 26th - closing at 12:30pm

St. Brigid's Day Bank Holiday - February 5th - closed

Mid-Term Break - February 15th & 16th - closed

St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday - March 18th - closed

Kind regards,

Nicola Sheehan 😊