



Welcome to the first edition of the Piercestown Post for the new school year 2024-2025. **The beginning of school year newsletter included all the 'housekeeping' procedures at Piercestown National School.** Now with all formal procedures and practices outlined, we consider this our first *official* newsletter of the school year. The 'Piercestown Post' for those who might not know it, offers an opportunity for parents, family members and the wider school community to get a flavour of what goes on school wise from month to month. We also list upcoming events, which allows us all to plan for various activities and creates an excitement in the school for much loved events and new initiatives. Hopefully, it will offer you an enjoyable and informative read from month to month.

Welcome Back!

On Wednesday the 28th of August the newest members of the Piercestown family joined us as they began their journey in the form of twenty seven Junior Infants. They were welcomed, with open arms, by our Principal Ms. Walsh, Junior Infant Teacher Mrs. Larkin, Mrs. Corrigan and Mr. Furlong. It was smiles all round and they quickly settled. We can't wait to continue the journey with our new friends in Junior Infants and know that you will all make them feel welcome here at Piercestown National School. Along with our twenty-seven new Junior Infant pupils, we welcomed three new pupils also, two in Senior Infants and one into 5th class. We hope you all settle in at Piercestown N.S. and enjoy many happy school years with us. The staff at Piercestown N.S. would also like to take this opportunity to send their best wishes to 6th class of 2023-2024 as they are settling into their next chapter in secondary school. As per our housekeeping letter, we welcomed some new faces to our staff and welcomed back some familiar faces! Finally, welcome back to *all* the boys and girls in our school. We hope you had a great summer (despite the not-so-great weather) and enjoyed your time off. We have a new school year ahead with lots of different learning activities already in the pipeline. We wish you an enjoyable and successful year with us. Best of luck to our twenty-nine new role models – 6th class, as they begin their last year of primary school. We hope that this year allows them to make more happy school memories to add to the final chapter of their primary school journey!

Projected Enrolment

With our school expanding and growing from year to year, we predicted that our staffing schedule (i.e. number of teaching staff) will be due to increase in the school year 2025-2026 based on our numbers on roll on 30th September this year. This is indeed the case and as it stands, we look forward to adding a tenth teaching position to our staff next year. This is amazing news for our school community. Again similar to this year, this teacher would be in a classroom and used to reduce a class size somewhere along the line, you may have heard some schools have a 'split class'. However, as we stand, already one room down, we have no room for this extra teacher as we will be *two rooms* down. Therefore, we will use the teacher to offer team teaching in classrooms with larger populations to reduce pupil teacher ratio and thus further enhance the quality of teaching and learning. This is where the bigger picture will see our new build provide us with the best facilities for our children in our ASD classes and our current classrooms for our Le Chéile Suite, will revert to mainstream classes when our build is complete!

Condolences

The staff and Board of Management of Piercestown N.S. wish to convey their heartfelt sympathies to Siobhán on the loss of her beloved sister Anne. We extend our sympathies to Anne's immediate family, grandchildren and her mother Joan.

The staff and Board of Management also wish to convey their deepest sympathies to Bríd Quigley, our Board of Management member, on the loss of her mother Síle. Bríd is a stalwart of our community, giving endless time to our school and community. Our sympathies are extended to her brothers and sisters and family on their loss also.

The staff and Board of Management finally, wish to convey their deepest sympathies to Bryan Barnes, a member of our SNA team on the loss of his mam Úna. Again, deepest sympathies are also conveyed to Bryan's brothers and sisters and extended family. May their gentle souls rest in peace.

Congratulations

Having had a lot of sad news, we were delighted to hear and celebrate the good news of two staff members. Congratulations to Pat Quigley and his wife Bridget on the safe arrival of baby Sam. Rumour has it that Sam was at the

Fleadh at one of his first gigs so his love for all things traditional has surely been nourished already. We continued to celebrate with the safe arrival of baby Donagh, to Ms Taylor and her husband Shane! Rumour has it Donagh is already a dog lover and fond of his walks! We send our love to both families and wish them all the best making new memories during this precious chapter of their lives.

Piercestown Parents' Association

Following on from the night held in our school by the PA last May, and drafting of a Smartphone Pledge, Piercestown NS are ready to follow suit on some schools who have taken the proactive approach with regard to keeping our childhood 'smartphone free'. The Parents' Association Pact on Smartphone Owners and Social Media Use was sent out to all parents yesterday by the Parents' Association and liaisons for each class group. All data is confidential and will not be shared with the school except for statistics e.g. what percentage of take up there is in what class. This pact was presented to the Board of Management at their last meeting on September 25th and ratified by the Board. The Board would like to compliment the PA on their proactive, measured and informed approach to this new initiative and support them in this new venture. The deadline for parents to complete the pact is Wednesday 9th.

Halloween Costume – reduce, reuse, recycle!

Following on from the success of the sustainability events last year, our wonderful PA have announced their 'Halloween Costumes for Sale' event. This will take place on Thursday 17th in the PE hall from 7-8pm with costumes being collected next week 7th-11th October. Many thanks in advance for your costumes. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children to get a costume or two for a small fraction of the price. For those of you who are new to the school, we hold an annual Halloween dress up day, traditionally known as 'Freaky Friday' on the Friday before we finish up for the midterm break. This takes place on Friday 25th October this year and you can read about it a little further in our newsletter.

Upcoming Piercestown Parents' Association AGM – Date for your diary!

Tuesday 22nd October at 8pm is the date that has been set in our diaries for the Parents' Association Annual General Meeting. Come along to hear all about our brilliant PA and their integral involvement in our school community. New members are always welcome. We would love to get new committee members and/or names of people who are interested in helping out at many of our much-loved annual events throughout the year. Many thanks to all PA members, past and present, for all their contributions.

What happened during Summer 2024

Summer 2024 was scheduled to be a busy summer with the completion of the grounds following the arrival of the modular. Thankfully, all the grounds work was completed, the back court that we missed so much last year has been returned in better condition than ever, with a tarmac resurfacing having taken place. The fencing is back in place, the wall that was taken down has been rebuilt and we were back ready to open with the new addition of our lovely new Le Chéile building! Many thanks to the Board of Management who continued to work behind the scenes over the summer to ensure we were ready to open and in tip top shape.

Start of year school bills have been issued

In Piercestown N.S. we recognise that returning to school can be an expensive time for parents and have therefore made every effort to keep costs to a minimum. This year, we were delighted that once again books, workbooks and copybooks have been funded by a grant received from the DES. In our case, we were able to further extend the grant to cover additional resource e.g. homework folders, homework journals, etc.

This year sees Piercestown National School continuing to work with you the parents to make life easier. Last week, you will have received your bill and a link to your payment. You can pay from the comfort of your home/office/wherever you may be! Should people require extra time or wish to pay bills in instalments we are happy to assist with this, via an option on our epayments system. Full confidentiality is guaranteed. Following on from feedback received last year, we attempted to draw up a calendar of expenses that may arise during the year. Many are optional and some are class specific. We hope this assists people in their planning for the year ahead.

Assembly is back!

Our monthly assemblies are up and running. We welcomed Junior infants, our new pupils along with new members of staff to their VERY first assembly at Piercestown NS. We always cherish the first Monday of the month and take the

opportunity to come together, celebrate birthdays, revise our lámh signs and discuss any exciting, upcoming events! As we gather, it is great to see how our school community is growing and evolving over time! And of course, the much awaited 'Class of the Month' goals were discussed. Stay tuned for the winner! To get a snippet of what happened at assembly why not go to our website www.piercestownns.com

First Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation Dates coming soon!

Many thanks for your patience while we awaited our sacramental dates. Hot off the press our dates were confirmed today as follows; First Confession Feb 13th at 7pm. Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 10th May at 11am. Confirmation will take place on Friday 11th April at 11am, before we break up for Easter. We appreciate how busy Fr. Aodhan is and the co-ordination involved in selecting dates within the parish calendar. Many thanks to Fr. Aodhán for getting these dates to us for publication of our first newsletter. Many thanks to Mr Murphy and Mr Lehane who are paving the way for the children to embrace these events. As an inclusive school, we are respectful of all those taking part and those who choose not to and will facilitate all parents and their children with their stated choices.

Class of the Month September 2024

As mentioned in the section on assembly, the first class to receive the title of 'Class of the Month' for the school year 2024 2025 will be announced at assembly on Monday 7th October. The winners will receive a certificate of recognition, a night off homework to be agreed with teacher and the much-loved 'pizza party'. Who will go down in history as the first winner for the new school year?!

Beginning of Year Service on Thursday 17th Oct.

Now that we are all settled in, our beginning of year service will take place Fri Oct. 17th at 11.30am in St. Martin's Church. This is a simple service of music, poetry and prayer to acknowledge all that is good in our school community and look forward to the year ahead. Many thanks to Fr. Aodhán for giving his time to our school for this enjoyable experience. The service can be attended, but there will be minimum seating due to the capacity of the church. You can of course join us virtually by clicking onto the churches webcam <https://www.ipcamlive.com/piercestownchurch>.

Jersey Day Friday 11th Oct

In previous years, we as a school community have participated in GOAL jersey day. This year sees GOAL jersey day take place on Friday 11th Oct. Children can bring in €2 coin for donation. GOAL jersey day, sees tens of thousands of people all over the country join forces and wear their favourite jersey while raising much needed funds for the charity. With the camogie final taking place this weekend, we are confident that many of our school community will be awash with maroon and white! Also an opportunity for those of us not from the area to show our true colours!!

Speaking of Jerseys! We are almost there!!!

Our Students Council as their last act before they hand over the baton, have been busy designing our school jersey. Having raised the funds previously and been an integral part of our crest journey, they presented the classes with the final four jerseys that will be up for vote. All classes will get to cast their votes in the coming days and we will reveal our personalised school jersey design! The excitement is really building. Many thanks to the Students Council and in particular Ms. Hearne for all of this work.

New Students Council Members wanted!!

We look forward to getting our Students' Council back in action in the coming weeks and electing a new Students Council to take over for this school year. An assembly was held yesterday for 3rd to 6th class to outline the process to all classes. The enthusiasm in the room was palpable and we love an election to get the creativity pumping! Our Active committee are scheduled to get back up and running too with some active breaktimes due to take place during Maths Week 2024! No doubt Mrs Ryan will be looking to revamp her 'green team' too. Our pupils' voices are so important in our school, and it is often from them that the greatest ideas are born! So, keep an eye out in the monthly newsletters to follow as we return to the format of including an input from our students!

School Photographer - Image Masters – CHEESE! -20th and 21st November 2024

We have booked our photographers into school on November 20th and 21st to take official individual photos of our newest members of school, Junior Infants. This year we offer the option of individual and sibling photos for all classes.

We repeat this every second year with every other year having group photos taken for the next school year. In this way, we hope to reduce costs on people, in the knowledge that individual photos are taken every second year should people wish to avail of them. We will send you a reminder text the week of the photographer!

Active School

2024 will see us continue our Active School status. 3rd class have begun their school year with a 'splash' having started their 10 weeks swimming lessons. This is an important part of the Physical Education curriculum under the aquatics strand. While our GAA coaching is in an interim phase, it is not stopping the competitive season beginning with gusto in the second week of September. Read on ahead for some sporting updates as Ms. Hearne, Ms Sheehan, Mr Lehane and Mr. Murphy fly the flags for Piercestown and Murrintown in the much-enjoyed Rackard league, Rising stars and Mini 7's tournaments and lunchtime league.

Sporting update from Mr Lehane and Mr Murphy

Rackard League football season is in full swing since early September. To date the boys have played two Rackard League against Rosslare and Glynn and one Rising Stars games. All games resulted in comprehensive victories and some fantastic performances with all those interested in playing in both 5th and 6th class seeing plenty of game time. Wednesday the 2nd October saw a winner takes all clash in the Rackard League against the Shells, the prize being topping the group and a home quarter final against Rathangan next week and we emerged on the victorious side! The Rising Stars team also played the Shells the same day and were winners and will round off the group with a game yet to be organised against Barntown.

Mini 7s

The mini sevens team travelled to Crossabeg Community Pitch on the 1st October, they had a good win against Crossabeg and just lost out to Curracloe. This means they will not progress unfortunately, we wish Curracloe the best in the next round. All the boys have represented the school and Parish exceptionally to date with superb performances on the field and fantastic behaviour off it.

Sporting update from Ms Hearne and Ms. Sheehan

Girls Rackard League:

No sooner were we back in school than the Rackard League Football Fixtures pinged into our inbox and training for the girls in 5th and 6th class began on Thursday the 5th of September. With such a strong interest we, combined with Murrintown, entered two teams, one in the Rackard League and one in the Rising Stars competition. The girls kicked off their Rackard League competition on Tuesday the 17th of September away to Crossabeg/Ballymurn. After a hard-fought game with Piercestown leading at half time Crossabeg came out fighting in the second half and took the lead with a few minutes to go but the girls from Piercestown/Murrintown settled down, defended well and scored some crucial scores to win by two points. The Rising Stars team were next up with a game against Kennedy Park. The Kennedy Park team proved too strong for our young side, made up mainly of 5th class pupils who were playing their first game in the Rackard League. However, all the girls got their first taste of Rackard League and are eager to learn from this defeat in their remaining fixtures.

The Rackard League team followed up their first win with a home game against Glynn on Thursday the 25th. This was another close encounter but the girls showed great determination to come away with a 5 point victory. The last group game of the Rackard League group, played last Friday, had the two table toppers pitted against each other with our girls facing a very strong Castlebridge team. The girls showed a lot of grit and skills and at halftime after playing against a strong wind were trailing 4-5 to 2-3 and had it all still to play for. But Castlebridge proved too strong in the second half and our girls despite their best efforts came out on the losing side. However, due to their two earlier wins they had already qualified for the knockout stages of the Rackard League which they will all look forward to in the coming weeks. This week is a busy week for the girls with the first round of the mini 7s taking place on Monday and girls playing their Rising Stars home fixture against Cushinstown fixed on Wednesday. Unfortunately our Rising stars did not emerge on the winning side yesterday.

This past week, our girls Mini 7's showcased their skills in the 7 aside football blitz in St Martins GAA pitch. They delivered an impressive performance against Kilrane, securing a decisive victory. In a closely contested match,

Barntown edged out Piercestown with a score of 4-3 to 2-3, adding excitement to the day. It was a fantastic display of teamwork and sportsmanship, and we couldn't be prouder of all the players involved!

Lunchtime League:

We are hoping for good weather in the coming weeks as we kick off the Daithi Waters football Lunchtime League competition today, Thursday. We are delighted to see the biggest numbers ever register their interest in the lunchtime league with over 70 pupils from 4th to 6th class split into 8 evenly matched teams. It is great to see new inexperienced players try their wit against their seasoned peers out on our playing field with everyone enjoying the competition and getting a chance to show off and improve their skills. We are looking forward to seeing this competition heat up in the coming weeks, it is the first experience of the children in 4th class of our lunchtime leagues and their excitement is infectious!!

County Final on the horizon!!

Best of luck to the Camogie final this weekend as all roads lead to New Ross at 5pm. We have our fingers crossed for the right result versus Glynn Barntown! We have the flags and signs out and the children are creating posters to send their very best wishes to the team which includes past pupils of our school! St. Martin's Abú!

Big Birthday Shout Outs - September!

We would like to wish the following children a big happy birthday: Heidi from Junior infants, Emer, Conor and Alannah from Senior infants; Oscar, Megan, Harry and Doireann from 1st class; Bobby from 2nd class; Caoimhe, Chloe and Henri from 3rd class; Callum, Tom, Tess, Jamie and Ruth from 4th class; Donagh, Ryan, Aodhán, Aoibhínn and Robyn from 5th class; Mia and Erin from 6th class; We hope you all enjoy your special day!!!



"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you!"

Happy birthday dear Heidi, Emer, Conor, Alannah, Oscar, Megan, Harry, Doireann, Bobby, Caoimhe, Chloe, Henri, Callum, Tom, Tess, Jamie, Ruth, Donagh, Ryan, Aodhán, Aoibhínn, Robyn, Mia, Erin, Happy birthday to you."

Lá breithe shona duit

Lá breithe shona duit

Lá breithe shona gach duine

Lá breithe shona duit

Big Birthday Shout Outs - October!

We would like to wish the following children a big happy birthday: Emma and Evie from Junior infants, Cormac, Alex, Matilda, Max and Seán from 1st class; Liam, Oran, Niamh and Oisín from 2nd class; Tom, Oliver, Oisín, Elodie and Christian from 3rd class; Levi and Amy from 4th class; Heath, Ciara, Eoin and Willow from 5th class; Nicole, Malachy, Kate and Joe from 6th class. We hope you all enjoy your special day!!!



"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you!"

Happy birthday dear Emma, Evie, Cormac, Alex, Matilda, Max, Seán, Liam, Oran, Niamh, Oisín, Tom, Oliver, Oisín, Elodie, Christian, Levi, Amy, Heath, Ciara, Eoin, Willow, Nicole, Malachy, Kate, Joe, Happy birthday to you."

Bain triail as! We are working on our 'Gaeilge'

This year we will try and foster a positive attitude towards the learning of Irish here in Piercestown NS. Children and teachers are encouraged to speak Irish throughout the school day. A large emphasis is placed on the teaching of Irish

through oral language through singing songs, reciting poems and rhyme and playing oral language games and activities. However, our main goal is to get the children communicating in Irish, to use their 'cúpla focail' and give it a go confidently. As the seanfhocal says: "Is fear Gaeilge bhriste, ná Béarla cliste" "Broken Irish is better than clever English" Tá na páistí agus na múinteoirí chun iarracht an-mhór a dhéanamh as Gaeilge a úsáid chomh minic agus is féidir agus seo spreagadh daoibhse chun triail a bhaint chomh maith!/The children and teachers are going to make a huge effort to use Irish as often as possible and we have provided some prompts for you to have a go too!

BAIN TRIAL AS AN GAEILGE SA BHAILE

Maidin Mhaith! Good Morning!

Cá bhfuil mo leabhar/chóta? Where is my book/coat?

Cad atá agat don lón inniú? What do you have for lunch today?

Mrs Larkin has offered to get the ball rolling by adding a piece 'as ghaeilge' and translated into our newsletter. So here is our piece for September.

Is gá do gach dalta Gaeilge a labhairt i rith an lae scoile. Beimid ag chur béim ar ár teanga i mbliana agus mar sin de, mealltar páistí chun Gaeilge a labhairt i dtimpeallacht na scoile, sa rang, sa chlós, le linn imeachtaí iarscoile chomh maith le í a labhairt sa bhaile agus moltar iad dá bharr. Is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste!

Every pupil from Infants up speaks Irish during the school day. This year we will be placing greater emphasis on our language and we encourage your child to speak Irish in the school environs, in class, in the yard and during after school activities as well as the odd word at home. Praise them when they speak Irish. No doubt you have heard the phrase, 'Broken Irish is better than clever English!'

Chess is due to make its comeback!!

With September Up and Running, the chess trolley began to make its way into many of our classrooms. The children have begun practising their moves with some classes coming together to share chess tips in preparation for our in-school chess competition. The competition will kick off officially after Halloween and will see every child from 3rd to 6th class play between eight and ten games of chess before our Chess Champion of 2024/2025 can be crowned. Medal winners will also be crowned in each class and the school chess teams of the Masters (5th and 6th) and Buds (3rd and 4th) will be picked following this much loved competition. In October we will begin our 'Chess Club' one lunchtime a week where the children can choose to play chess in the hall during part of their lunchtime. Here they can pick up invaluable tips from other players or just challenge their friends to a game. So dust off the chessboards at home and get playing, what a great and fun away for us all to improve our problem solving abilities.

REMEMBER 'Every Chess Master was once a beginner'!

Sing out Loud returns!!!!

Every second year, our school enters Sing out Loud. With a personal connection to Piercestown National school in that Eric Hayes, past pupil is one of the directors, we are delighted to take part on a bi-annual basis. This ensures all children by the time they leave primary will have been on stage in the National Opera House. We will have our confirmed date shortly and send out all the information for bookings etc. Many thanks to Ms. Lehane and Mr Murphy who are in full voice since we returned ensuring that the children will be ready for the show!

Flu Vaccine – for those who wish to avail of it

Our school has teamed up with a local practice to provide parents with the option to avail of the nasal flu vaccine for children, if they wish to do so. The school is as a facilitator in this process and does not offer advice either way. The nasal vaccine for those consented, is scheduled to take place on Wed 9th October for all classes, with the exception of the junior infants who will be done at a later stage.

Halloween Fun! Costumes at the Ready for Friday 25th October

October brings with it so much fun. Already, the conversations of dress-up are taking place. We look forward to our Freaky Friday Walk which takes place annually on the last Friday before midterm. This year our Halloween fun will take place on Friday 25th October. What could be more exciting than seeing a parade of over 240 ghosts, ghouls, vampires

and witches make their way from the St. Martin's pitch down to our school. We will send more information on this nearer the time.

Primary Curriculum Framework – Next up is Maths!

This school year 2024/2025 sees the focus continue in the subject area of Mathematics. Circular 39/2023 gives an overview of the CPD and training that lies ahead. Ms Walsh continued her role in supporting the CPD of the staff by attending a leaders clinic recently and sharing her learning with the staff. As per our text this year and calendar on Aladdin, our scheduled school closure will take place on Thursday April 3rd, 2025.

Bí Cinéalta Procedures – Half day school closure to take place this year

Following on from the published antibullying guidelines from 2013, a new publication has been issued by the Dept of Education under circular 55/2024. This requires schools to reassess antibullying procedure over the coming school year. Staff and Boards of Management are required to work on the guidelines throughout the year and have an updated policy ready for publication for September 2025. As the work progresses throughout the year, we will be engaging with you our school community in the review of this policy. Under the circular, schools are requested to take a half day school closure for part of this review. As soon as this date has been confirmed we will issue it to you by text.

Pencils to arrive! Many thanks to our local community!

We are delighted to announce that coming soon will be the arrival of some school like bollards outside our school. Some of you might have seen the 'pencil bollards' outside other schools and felt a tad envious. Well, we need not be envious anymore. Thanks to Peadar Dempsey from our local community and funded by the budget from our local councillor Lisa McDonald, we will now be the envy of other schools! So watch this space outside of our school literally, and we are so excited to see the new additions arrive to further both the aesthetics but more importantly the safety of our school.

Fond farewell

While September is mainly the season for new arrivals, we also bid some fond farewells. Lolita in 5th class departed after her short time with us. We wish her well in her new home and school. We also bade farewell to Vitalina and Veronkina from 4th class. The girls were great members of our school community and will be greatly missed. We wish them both well in their new schools and new homes.

Bus escort

A position for bus escort has arisen within our school setting. If anyone is interested in applying for this job, go to www.educationposts.ie

Agreed report from the Board of Management meeting Sept 25th 2024

The Board meeting took place on September 25th and the following was the agreed report:

- The Board of Management wishes to welcome back all members of our school community, pupils, families and staff. A special welcome to all the new faces to our school.
- The Board of Management congratulates Pat and his wife Bridget on the arrival of baby Sam, and Ms. Taylor and her husband Shane on the arrival of baby Donagh and send their best wishes
- The annual review of the Child Safeguarding Statement will take place at our next meeting following the appointment of the post of Acting Deputy principal for the school year 2024-2025.
- The Antibullying policy review will be conducted in accordance with the Dept. checklist as outlined in the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary schools at our next meeting following the appointment of the post of Acting Deputy principal for the school year 2024-2025.
- The Bí Cinéalta guidelines under circular 55/2024 will be worked on throughout the school year as requested.
- The Board of Management continues to work on the progress new build and will have a design team appointed in the coming weeks.
- The Board of Management offers their deepest condolences to Board member Bríd Quigley on the loss of her beloved Mam. The Board offers their condolences to Siobhán Berry, on the recent passing of her beloved sister

Anne. The Board of Management offers their condolences to Bryan Barnes on the loss of his mother. May all of their gentle souls' rest in peace.

- The Board of Management wishes the boys and girls involved in all football tournaments this terms, Rising stars, mini 7s and Rackard league the best of luck and thanks the school personnel for giving of their time so generously.
- The Board of Management ratified the Pact for 'Smartphone Ownership and Social Media Use'. The Board wishes to acknowledge the great work by our Piercestown Parents Association and thanks all of those involved and wishes them well for the coming school year.
- The next Board of Management meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

A Word from the Principal

I am delighted to welcome everybody back into the new school year. It gives me great satisfaction to see our school continue to grow and develop from year to year. Having seen a modular literally built in front of our eyes last year, it is hard to believe that we are now embarking on another new building venture that will further enhance our school. But a building is only as good as the people inside. Life is all about human relationships. With that in mind, I would like to offer the warmest of welcome to all our new families, we hope you have many enjoyable years with us over the next eight years. I give a warm welcome to our new staff; it is always so lovely to have new people who join the team and welcome back our 'old' staff who are as dedicated to our school as they were from the first day they started with Piercestown. The children have settled in so well over the last month, and we are privileged as a staff to be part of such a wide and supportive school community. I look forward to working with a new students' council and seeing what else 2024 2025 has in store for us!

"Every child deserves a champion - An adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be" Rita Pierson

The staff of Piercestown National School are ready to be your children's champion! We can't wait to experience all that the school year 2024 2025 has to offer!

Dates for your diaries so far this year: *Don't forget to check the calendar on Aladdin for dates *

- Swimming every Wednesday for 3rd class (until Dec 4th)
- Deadline for completion of PA Smartphone Pact Wed 9th Oct.
- Nasal flu vaccines (for those who consented) Wed 9th Oct (all classes EXCEPT Junior infants)
- GOAL Jersey day Friday 11th
- Beginning of Year service - Thursday 17th at 11.30am
- Parents' Association Halloween Sale Thursday 17th 7-8pm in the PE hall
- Maths Week – Monday 14th- 20th October 2024
- Student Council Election day Thurs 24th October
- Halloween Fun! - Friday 25th October (this is a normal full school day)
- School closes for mid-term – Mon 28th Oct.-Fri 1st Nov. inclusive
- Science Week – 10th – 17th November 2024
- Parent teacher meetings – 19th and 21st November 2024
- Image Masters Photographers 20th and 21st November 2024
- School closure Primary Maths Curriculum April 3rd 2025
- Confirmation – Friday 11th April 2025
- First Confession – Thursday 13th Feb 2025
- First Communion – Saturday 10th May 2025