



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2025

Number: 1

Dear Families of Powerscourt,

### **Welcome Back!**

Welcome back to the new school year and to our weekly newsletters! For our new families, we use the newsletter to announce school events and activities, inform about afterschool activities, fund raising events, updates in the school, school tours, church services and any changes that may be happening in the school. We always endeavour to send the newsletter out on a Thursday.

We would particularly like to welcome Jack, Katherine, Beau, Romy, Mila, Edith, Simone, Harry, Jack, Oliver, Emma, Felix and Blaize to Junior Infants.

Also, we would like to welcome Pearl, Elowen, Bradán, Valeriia, Annabel, Bertie, Josh, Tristan, Lucia, Lyra, and their families to Powerscourt. We hope that your years here will be very happy.

### **Katy came to school on Kimmy**

A huge thank you to Katy, Kimmy and to Mum Hannah for the creating such lovely excitement on our first morning of school!



### **Stationary fee 2025/2026**

Thank you to all that have sent in their stationary fee for this school year. The stationary fee for 2025/2026 is now due. The fee is €80.00 and covers, compulsory Pupil Insurance, Photocopying Costs, Art Supplies and classroom resources. We would be very grateful if this could be paid before the end of September. The Aladdin collection is open.

### **Music in Powerscourt 2025/2026**

After the huge success last school year of the Music Generation programme with Ms. Catherine Ryan and our wonderful school show of acting, song and dance with Ms. Jamie Lyons. Ms Ryan and Ms. Lyons have agreed to return to Powerscourt to work together and with us for another year. The PTT are very kindly part

funding this, but we also need a contribution from families. We are asking for €80 per child and this is for the full school year. It can be paid in 2 instalments. One due before the end of September and one due after Christmas. Every child in the school benefitted from these music classes and we are grateful for your support with it. The Aladdin collection is now open.

### **Junior Infant Vaccination Clinic**

The HSE Vaccination team will be in Powerscourt NS for Junior Infants on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Consent forms will be sent home today. I would be very grateful if you could complete and return to the class teacher on or before Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September.

Parents will be offered the option of attending the clinic, if you choose to attend the HSE team will contact you directly to let you know the time to attend.

### **Swimming – Term 1 Commences Monday 8th of September.**

We have divided - 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class over the 3 terms as follows:

**Term 1: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class**, dates: 08/09/2025 – 10/11/2025

**Term 2: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class**, dates: 17/11/2025 – 09/02/2026

**Term 3: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class**, dates: 23/02/2026 – 11/05/2026

We will have 4 Teachers for Term 1 and 2 swimming teachers for Term 2 and 3, we believe this is a much more suitable option for our school. Parents are asked not to attend the lessons; however, some parent support will be required. If you are interested in volunteering, please let your child's teacher know. Details on costs and payments will follow, the PTT have kindly agreed to subsidise part of the cost of lessons.

For the term, every Monday swimmers will need to bring to school in a small bag, swimwear, a hat, goggles and a towel. Easy change clothes and a bit of extra lunch on the day might be a good idea also.

### **Allergies and Medicines**

We would like to ask parents and guardians to let us know of any allergies that your children have. Also, if there is a requirement for the school to hold medicines on behalf of your children an indemnity form will need to be completed. If your child requires an inhaler the inhaler must be kept by the teacher. Indemnity forms can be sent out from the school office on request. If we already hold an indemnity form for your child there is no need to complete another unless something has changed.

### **Contact Details**

Please let us know if any of your contact details or emergency contacts have changed since last year.

### **Aladdin Connect**

If any parent has been unable to access the Aladdin Connect App. could you please email the office or drop into Mandy (School Secretary) and she will help with your access.

### **Permissions and Consent forms**

We have activated the permissions and consent icon on the Aladdin Connect App. Please access your Aladdin to give or refuse consent. It is possible for consent to be amended but the school office will need to be contacted for this to occur.

**After School Activities for Term 1:** We have been busy finalising the below list with agencies and below is the timetable that we have confirmed. All activities will be available at 1.10 and 2.10 unless stated.

For Hockey, Playball and Basketball children are welcome to come along for a free trial lesson but they must register online before. No payment is needed at that stage.

Commencement dates for all afterschool activities are marked in Red.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Hockey</b> - Registration <a href="https://www.playballkids.com/franchise/55">https://www.playballkids.com/franchise/55</a>  €90 per term, term will commence on <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of September</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Let's Learn French</b> with Greystones Language School Junior and Senior Infants 1.10-2.00 and 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Class 2.10-3.00. €120 per 10 week term + €25 for book  Children having fun, learning French through songs, games, and role play. Learning French in primary school prepares children for secondary school. Children develop their accent and learn lots of basic vocabulary. We use the structured La Jolie Ronde methodology  For more info: contact Glenda at <a href="mailto:info@greystoneslangusges.com">info@greystoneslangusges.com</a>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Playball</b> – Registration will be on <a href="https://www.playballkids.com/franchise/55">https://www.playballkids.com/franchise/55</a>  €90 per term, term will commence On <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of September</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Speech and Drama with Oorla</b> (Oorla has taken over from Francis Radic as she has retired)- Please contact Oorla directly on <a href="mailto:oorla.rafter@gmail.com">oorla.rafter@gmail.com</a> or on 087 6503422  Term will commence on <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of September</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>White Doodle Art (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class)</b> - Book directly with Susie Wed Art Link <a href="https://www.whitedoodleart.com/service-page/doodlers-term-1-powerscourt-ns-wed">https://www.whitedoodleart.com/service-page/doodlers-term-1-powerscourt-ns-wed</a> Term will commence on <b>Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of September</b>
	<b>Basketball</b> - Registration will be on <a href="https://www.playballkids.com/franchise/551">https://www.playballkids.com/franchise/551</a> ,  €90 per term, term will commence on <b>Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of September</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Self Defence Heart and Soul with Sifu</b> – Register directly with Sifu Felicity on 0857331022. Classes will Commence on <b>Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of September</b> for 14 weeks until Thursday the 18 <sup>th</sup> of December. €185 for 14 weeks of term to be paid in Cash directly to Felicity on the first day of term.  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/p/Heart-Soul-Self-Defence-Academy-100068984598702/">https://www.facebook.com/p/Heart-Soul-Self-Defence-Academy-100068984598702/</a>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Let's Learn French</b> with Greystones Language School; 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Class 2.10-3.00. <b>€120 per 10 week term + €25 for book</b>  For more info: contact Glenda at <a href="mailto:info@greystoneslangusges.com">info@greystoneslangusges.com</a>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>White doodle Art for Juniors and Seniors infants only at 1.10 p.m.</b> Link <a href="https://www.whitedoodleart.com/service-page/mini-doodler-term-1-powerscourt-ns-fri">https://www.whitedoodleart.com/service-page/mini-doodler-term-1-powerscourt-ns-fri</a>  Term will commence on <b>Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September</b>

## PTT News:

The PTT are looking for new members to join the team!

# THE AMBER FLAG

PROMOTING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

## Amber Flag Committee – Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new school year! The Amber Flag Committee is delighted to continue our work in promoting positive mental health, celebrating neurodiversity and fostering an inclusive, anti-bullying environment throughout our school.



For those who are new to the school, the Amber Flag is an initiative by Pieta House that recognises schools and organisations that actively promote mental health awareness and wellbeing. After a year of dedication and teamwork, our school was proud to be awarded the Amber Flag in June — a testament to the efforts of our school community.

We were delighted to achieve 28 goals (when we only had to achieve 3!) and fundraise €212 for A Lust for Life, €400 for Pieta House, €3000 for our new sensory room and an additional €600 for Powerscourt National School. With support from the School Grounds Committee, we made some really positive progress towards creating a Yard for All and also recently took delivery of blackout tents and additional ear defenders for each classroom.

We had some amazing visitors come to the school including Adam Harris, Sinead Mooney, Sophie Morris and Adam Burke and we also had some incredible support from parents in the school community including Clare O'Brien Quinn, Jane Lonergan, Jessica Ramsey, Dominique McMullan, Rebecca Horan, John Neary, James Kiernan and Lydia Campbell who provided invaluable insight, advice and support.

We are thrilled to celebrate greater understanding in our school in the areas of Mental Health & Wellbeing, Neurodiversity and Anti Bullying.

We are now busy pulling together our ideas and plans for this term and will share those soon but in the meantime and we are also looking for new members to join the Amber Flag Committee. If you are a parent who is passionate about supporting positive mental health, inclusion and neurodiversity we would be delighted to hear from you! We are excited to build on last year's success!

If you would like to learn more and get involved, please email [amberflagpns@gmail.com](mailto:amberflagpns@gmail.com) or catch Kate McMullan (Mum of Rex, 1st class and Skye, senior infants), Zara Quinn (Mum of Blayre, 4th class and Ólan, 1st class - ) or Aoife Clancy (Mum of Zeby, 2nd class) if you see us.

This is not just about recruiting more committee members - there may be a project in specific you would like to get involved in or if you have any suggestions or ideas, we would love to hear them.

There is no obligation when getting in touch with the Amber Flag Team. We want to facilitate a line of communication so that all parents / guardians have the freedom to suggest ideas and/or get involved in any way they wish.

**Powerscourt National School:**

**Dates for your diary:**

Monday 8th of September	Term 1 Swimming – 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class only
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> of September	Junior Infant Vaccination Clinic
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Youth Club, Powerscourt NS Hall, 4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class and 1 <sup>st</sup> Year 7-9 p.m.

**St. Patrick's Church, Powerscourt:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Powerscourt Church (All services at 11:30)</b>
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> of October	Sunday Club for Harvest Festival

## **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

Designated Liaison Person (DLP) – Catherine Creed

Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) – Lynne Cashel

1. If you have any Child protection concerns, please contact DLP
2. If the DLP is unavailable, please contact DDL
3. If your concern is relating to the DLP, please contact the chairperson of the BOM, Rev. Catherine Hallissey.