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**Family Note 2**

05/10/26

Dear Parents,

Please note the following;

**Thanks;** Well done to all pupils, staff and parents for a wonderfully enthusiastic return to another school year. It is a source of great pride to see so many happy pupils (and staff!!) entering our school each morning full of positivity, energy and good humour. We look forward to an exciting year ahead with that firm commitment to fulfil our school motto, 'Ní Neart go cur le Chéile' (No strength without Unity). As always, should any issues arise, please don't hesitate to contact us.

**Attendance;** Please see the school percentage attendance for the month of September below.

- **September; 95.2%**

You can check your own child's percentage attendance on the Aladdin Connect App under the attendance section.
We are obliged to record all absences and reasons for same. You can record your child's absences and the reason on your Aladdin App. It may be a timely reminder to check your app to update any absences.

**Brooke's 2 year anniversary**! at our recent assembly, we celebrated a full two years since Brooke, our school dog, arrived in Coolick NS. Brooke is truly a wonderful part of school life in Coolick and her infectious personality brings a smile to all our faces.

As a reminder, Brooke is a Golden Doodle school dog and resides with her 'foster' carer, Múinteoir Clíona who brings her to and from school each day. The benefits of a school dog are;

- Increased school attendance
- Positive changes lead to better learning and enhanced motivation
- Growth in confidence levels
- Development of better and stronger relationships with teachers and peers due to the experience of trust and love with school dogs. Children learn ways to express their feelings and develop more trusting relationships
- Reducing learner anxiety behaviours causes improvement in learning outcomes like improved reading and writing skills and levels

Brooke has had a hugely positive impact on the children and staff, but it could not happen without the full and enthusiastic support of all staff . In particular, I would like to sincerely thank Múinteoir Clíona King for acting as 'foster' carer for Brooke and also sincere thanks to our SNA Deirdre O Connor who acts as 'second handler' to Brooke. Happy two year anniversary to Brooke.

**Enrolment;** We are now accepting enrolment applications for **September 2027**. Enrolment application forms are available on our website www.coolickns.com or from the school office. Please alert any neighbours or friends who may also be interested in enrolling their children in our school. The school's Admissions Policy and Admissions Notice is available to view on our website.

**Industrial Action;** As you may have noticed in the media, a day of industrial action has been scheduled for **Wednesday 14th of October**. At present, should an agreement not be reached between the unions and the government then the school will remain closed on this day. We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached before then. We will provide you with further notice as soon as we have confirmation of the arrangements, but we would ask you to keep the date in mind in the meantime.

**Parking and Road Safety:** School drop-off and collections are very busy traffic times daily and I thank you for your continued vigilance of the risks on the road in front of the school and to the side of school. Please continue to drive slowly in the area and advise your child not to leave the school until s/he can see you or your car. I appreciate the lack/shortage of parking space for all. Your continued patience and co-operation at busy times is greatly appreciated. .

**SNA Appreciation Day;** We celebrated SNA appreciation day on **Thursday 24th of September.** It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the important role of our three SNAs Deirdre, Claire and Gerli in our school. We are hugely grateful for the kindness, support, compassion and care they show to our pupils each and every day. We are so lucky to have such amazing SNAs in our school who go above and beyond every single day.

**Cumann na mBunscol;** Well done to all those who took part in the Cumann na mBunscol boys football competition in Gneeveguilla GAA Club recently. For the second year in a row, the players lost out in the final to worthy winners, Loughquittane NS. The players were immense on the day, displaying some outstanding skill levels, commitment and team work. They were an absolute credit to their school.

**School Activities;** It has been a busy start to the year. Sorcha O Connor has commenced **singing lessons** with all classes every Wednesday and this will continue throughout the year. Daniel O Sullivan has commenced **his year long fitness and well-being programme** with all classes every Tuesday. **Reading Buddies** has commenced for all classes every Thursday. Peggy Healy has commenced **tin whistle** every Friday for classes 1st to 6th. We have Vince Cooper on Tuesdays for **football skills** with 3rd to 6th class. A host of activities for all to enjoy and learn.

**Communication with Teachers;** Reminder, as per my previous message please use the Aladdin app for communicating with teachers.

**Drying Cloths;** As you are aware, all pupils now have their own cloths in a zip-lock bag/wash bag for drying of hands. Please try to change this cloth at least one a week. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

**Rubbish;** In an effort to be a sustainable school, all pupils are encouraged to use appropriate bins for disposing of their waste. We pride ourselves on recycling where possible and we have separate bins for recycled materials. Where items cannot be recycled we will be asking pupils to take this waste home with them.

**Website;** As always, please continue to view our website https://www.coolickns.com/ and also our Facebook page for regular updates, photos and videos of all the events and occasions in our school.

As you can see, a busy school! Thanks to all the staff for their continued enthusiasm with these initiatives.

Kind regards,
G O Sullivan
Principal.