

LISNAGRY SCHOOL NEWS

Tabhair Maith agus Geobhair Maith (School Motto)



September 2013

Principal:

Mr. Michael Feeney

Deputy Principal:

Mrs. Bernie Kennedy

Present Staff:

Mr. Michael Feeney

Mrs. Bernie Kennedy

Mrs. Maura Barry

Mrs. Marion Cahill

Mrs. Maura Boland

Ms. Maureen Copse

Ms. Eimear Carroll

Ms. Sinead Bourke

Mrs. Sandra Delaney

Ms. Marie Blake

Ms. Helen Mc Inerney

Ms. Edel O' Doherty

Mr. Kevin Raftery

Mr. Shane Mc Grath

Mrs. Aine O' Grady

Mrs. Paula Enright

Contact Details

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Website:

www.lisnagryns.ie

Welcome Back

On behalf of the B.O.M. I would like to welcome you all back after the summer holidays, especially the new entrants and their parents and to thank you for entrusting the education of your children to the staff of Lisnagry National School. I look forward to all of us working together to ensure the school will be a safe, happy, and busy place for your children to grow and learn. I would like to extend a warm welcome back to Ms. Bourke and Ms. Copse who have returned from career break. It is with great regret that we say goodbye to Ms. Tierney and Mr. Scanlon. They worked very hard and I wish to express my appreciation for their contribution to our school community during the past three years.

Points of Information

School officially starts for all classes at 9.20 am so please ensure your child is present on time so as to limit disruption to



classes. Roll call is taken in each room at 9.50am so any children not present at this time are marked absent. However, if you know that your child has an appointment which will delay them please notify the teacher in writing in advance and your child can then be marked present on their return. All children must be signed in and out of school when leaving/returning during school hours. The Sign In/Sign Out book is available at reception. Should you wish your child to remain indoors during break time a note is necessary stating the reason. Children who are sick should stay at home until fit for school.

School Absences

In accordance with the School Welfare Act '98 schools are obliged to inform the relevant authorities of absences of 20 days or more. Notes from parents explaining each absence are required at all times and will be kept in school files for the NEWB. A phone call will not suffice. Parents are requested not to withdraw pupils during term time.

Supervision

Children are supervised every morning in the yard from 9am to 9.20 am and for fifteen minutes after school. Children who are on school grounds

before and after these times are not supervised.

Appointments

All parents and visitors are requested to use the front door only and to report to Áine at reception. Please refrain from disturbing classes as much as possible. If you wish to speak to a teacher concerning your child please make an appointment. Please sign and use your child's homework diary to ensure consistency of communication between the school and home.

School Uniform

Children should be in the full crested Lisnagry NS school uniform attending school. Clothing with logos or branding e.g Nike, Canterbury etc are not permitted because wearing these types of clothing differentiates children and defeats the point of having a school uniform. Please ensure that all of your child's possessions especially jumpers and jackets are clearly labelled with their name and class as these can easily be mislaid.

Healthy Lunches

A healthy eating policy is in operation in our school in an effort to develop good eating habits and help combat obesity in the future. Please support this initiative and provide healthy lunches for your child including fruit and veg. Please view our website for healthy lunchbox tips.

Nut Allergies

A number of pupils in our school have an extreme form of food allergy to nuts. In the interest of health and safety we request that children are not given nuts or nut related products for lunch. While we are aware of the inconvenience that this may cause we cannot take a risk with a child's life. Here in Lisnagry, we will do all we can to ensure these children's safety but we depend on parental support with regard to lunches. The BOM earnestly requests your support in this matter.

Child Protection

The school is obliged to act in accordance with child protection guidelines and procedures introduced by the DES in relation to the welfare of children. Consequently if there is a matter of concern in relation to child abuse we are obliged to report this to the HSE. They will assess the case and provide support for the child. Children First Guidelines may be accessed on www.dcy.gov.ie

School Contribution

I would like to thank the parents who have paid the requested €45 school contribution which goes towards photocopying, art and craft and insurance. I would just like to remind those of you who have yet to do so. Should you have difficulty meeting this payment, please do not hesitate to contact me in the strictest of confidence. Your child is insured for personal accident twenty four hours from the 1/09/2013 to the 31/08/2014. Please keep expense receipts in event of accidents. Claim forms are available from the school

Updating Contacts

We are updating our telephone contacts and e-mail addresses at the moment. If you have changed numbers, please notify reception immediately to ensure effective communication between us.

P.T.O »»»

Current Board of Management 2011-2015

Chairperson: Brendan Conroy

Secretary: Michael Feeney

Treasurer: Noel Fox

Parent Nominees:

Gráinne Murphy

Kevin Donnellan

Teacher Nominee:

Bernie Kennedy

Community Nominees:

Irene Hynes

Michael Tierney

Parking

On behalf of the Board of Management, I would like to appeal to parents to show patience and courtesy when dropping off and collecting children from school.

We are very fortunate to have the facility of a stop and drop area with safety barriers all around. During the holidays, speed ramps have also been constructed outside the school. In the health and safety interests of everyone, I would urge the following as per previous years.

»We ask you to observe the pick up and set down area as it is intended. Do not park your car here or in the designated bus parking area.

»Do not park your car in the stop and drop area and leave it unattended. Should you need to enter the school building, please park your car outside the school wall. Also please refrain from parking your car outside the post office.

»Do not reverse at any time. Instead please wait for traffic in front to move. Three-point turns in a congested area are extremely dangerous.

»Please keep the staff car park unobstructed and do not park there. It is a serious safety hazard to partially park across the entrance.

»For your child's safety, please ensure he/she exits the car on the path side of the stop and drop and walks behind the barrier into school.

»Please encourage older siblings to walk in with their younger brothers and sisters. Thanks to the majority of parents who already cooperate with this strategy.

New School Website

We are very pleased to announce that our new school website www.lisnagryns.ie is now Live. Our new site gives a glowing reflection of who we are and showcases all the wonderful activities happening here at Lisnagry school. The site is colourful, dynamic, highly functional and will be a fantastic resource for you our parents and indeed the whole community. The news section gives up to date information on events, activities and so on. This area will have our most recent posts about the happenings throughout our school. Each classes page details all the happenings in the class. The parents section allows you to download important documents and forms while there are links also to other useful and interesting topics. We would like to thank Andre Bober from 'abitsupport' for his work in helping create this fantastic and effective site for us. Be sure to share your impressions with us by using the feedback form on the homepage and stay tuned for more updates.

Literacy lift-off

We are all very excited to be starting Literacy Lift-Off this year in Lisnagry. Lift-off is an intensive programme of reading and writing that gives children lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually lift the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing. We hope to implement this programme in blocks of 6/8 weeks in Senior Infants, First and Second class this year. There will be a daily literacy hour where resource teachers in collaboration with class teachers work in the classroom on a range of literacy activities. As teachers we appreciate our Board of Management's financial support and encouragement in purchasing the PM Plus readers the programme uses. These are specifically graded, highly intensive readers but very expensive. This programme is proven to be very successful and beneficial to pupils of all reading abilities. We believe strongly that early intervention is the key to successful reading and writing.

School Self-Evaluation

As you are aware the Minister of Education obliged all schools to engage in self evaluation in Literacy and Numeracy.

We are now starting our second year in this process. We have put in place a three year Numeracy Improvement Plan. This involved a review of current practice, the setting of new targets, putting in place an action plan, the continuous monitoring of progress, with on going and end result evaluation. A full review involving teachers, (a comprehensive questionnaire regarding strengths and concerns), parents, (an anonymous survey of satisfaction levels and attitudes) and a second, third/fourth, and fifth class pupil survey were completed. The perceived strengths and concerns arising from this process have been incorporated into a Whole-School Numeracy Improvement Plan – 2012-2015.

During the evaluation the following Numeracy strengths were noted:

Pupils are performing above the national norm in Standardised Maths tests.

Performing computations and understanding concepts and facts are well taught and understood by pupils.

From the parents survey 76% felt they were aware of their children's strengths, 52% report knowing their child's difficulties. 76% of parents report that they try to link maths to everyday activities at home.

From the children's questionnaires it emerged that 78% of the pupils liked maths with 64% reporting they find maths easy.

The following areas were prioritised for improvement– A school wide focus on the area of problem solving, mental maths to be encouraged across all the strands, the creation of an environment where talk and discussion is an integral part of the learning process with an emphasis on the process of problem solving as well as finding the answer. Targets have been set to address our priorities and measures have been put in place to support these targets. It is an on going process and we will report on the outcome.

After-school Activities

Our after school activities will begin again next week after the summer break. You will receive a schedule for this term.

I look forward to liaising with you all during the coming year and if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Michael Feeney (Principal)