
Scoil Lios na Groí

Lisnagry National School

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January 7th, 2015.

Dear Parents,

As we begin another school term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy new year. There are a number of issues which I want to bring to your attention.

- I wish to thank you for your generosity in responding to our St. Vincent DePaul and homeless appeals at Christmas. Your contributions were overwhelming. Congratulations are due to our carol singers who sang in the Crescent and Parkway shopping Centres. Also well done to a group of third class girls who showed great initiative in selling lumebands and raising a significant sum of money. In total €400 was raised for Focus Ireland and the homeless. Thanks also to everyone for supporting our Cash for Clobber Recycling scheme which will be ongoing until Easter.
- As per our school newsletter, **Parent Teacher Meetings** have been arranged for **Wednesday January 21st and Thursday January 22nd from 3 pm to 5 pm**. Please check with your child's class teacher regarding a suitable time, (this can be done using your child's homework journal). Parents of children in Junior Infants please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange a mutually suitable time. **School will end at 2.50 pm on both of these days**. While we will do our best to accommodate you, unfortunately we cannot guarantee your chosen time. These meetings are brief meetings to allow you and your child's class teacher to exchange information about your child. If you feel you need a longer meeting, please arrange one over the next few weeks as, due to the fact that your teacher will need to meet the parents of over 30 pupils in some classes, it would be impossible to deal with a major concern on these days.
- A Scholastic Book Fair will take place in the School Hall starting on **Monday the 19th until Friday the 23rd January**. The children will visit the Fair during school. We invite all parents to visit the Book Fair when you are in School for the Parent Teacher Meetings. The Book Fair will help to promote literacy by making books and reading more fun. We also hope to update our Library with any free books earned.
- Swimming lessons for **Ms. Cahill's first and Ms. Boland's second class** will commence on Monday next, **January 12th**. Payment for same should be made to your child's class teacher on or before Friday next, January 9th. **Please remember your swimming gear on Monday morning**.
- Our Annual School Mass for staff and students will take place this Thursday during school time.
- Catholic Schools Week takes place from **26th January to 30th January**. As part of the celebrations, we are having Grandparents Day on Friday the 6th February. This is to show appreciation for the contribution they make to their grandchildren's lives. To mark this occasion, we would like to invite the grandparents of the children in Junior and Senior Infants in for a cup of tea and a chat on **Friday 6th February between 1.20 and 2pm**. They will also get a chance to visit their grandchild's classroom and see their work.
- Our Fifth Classes will embark on the Junior Entrepreneur Programme in January. This ten week programme is an entrepreneurial awareness and skills enhancement programme for primary school children. The programme aims to help children recognise enterprise and entrepreneurialship and to foster an awareness and understanding of the entrepreneur's role in the community, therefore empowering the child to start to think and act with the initiative, creativity, independence and ideas that are invaluable in the modern world. For more information, please log on to www.juniorentrepreneur.ie
- We once again ask for your support and co-operation to help implement our healthy eating policy in the school. We always promote the health of all our pupils and try to provide a foundation for healthy living in all its aspects. This term we are participating in the **Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme**. The Programme is comprised of positive role models, repeated tastings and rewards and has been proven to increase children's consumption of fruit and veg in the long term.
- As stated in our Healthy Eating Policy, nuts and any foods containing nuts are not allowed in school. We have a number of pupils who have life threatening nut allergies and we are asking for your help to ensure that the school is a safe environment for all.

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- Children leaving the school to attend appointments, i.e. dentist, doctor, etc - **PLEASE NOTE** it is necessary to sign your child out of school and if returning to **sign your child back in**. **The Sign In and Out Book is available at Reception. If your child is late for school in the morning it is also necessary that he/she is signed in at Reception.** I would also like to remind you that school begins at **9.20 am sharp** and while the majority of pupils attend on time, there is still room for improvement. Training your child to be punctual is an important life skill. If your child is absent from school for any reason, please write an explanatory note in your child's journal or inform the school directly.
- You will receive the new Term 2 schedule for After School Activities this week. The date each activity will commence is on the schedule. **It is very important that you collect your children promptly after these activities have finished.** We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.
- We will be asking for your assistance this month in completing a questionnaire on literacy and writing as part of our school self evaluation process. More details will follow.
- As we begin a new school term, I'd like to remind you about the importance of supervising your Child's homework. It reinforces the work of the school day and is an important link between home and school.
- As many of the children have received smart phones and tablets this Christmas, we urge you to be extra vigilant of the dangers of unsupervised internet access. While in school we educate the children through the S.P.H.E. programme and webwise lessons, you their primary educators also need to take responsibility. We advise you to be aware of your children's privacy settings and filtering software. The website www.webwise.ie has great advice for parents and we have many internet safety links under the parents tab on our school website. Safer Internet Day is being celebrated on **10th February**.
- This letter has also been sent via e-mail. If you have not received it, please notify the school as we always send correspondence via e-mail also. If you have not already given your e-mail details to the school we would appreciate it if you could do so as soon as possible. Please remember to visit our new website www.lisnagrins.ie You will get up to date information on recent events, activities and so on. You can also download important documents and forms and there are links to other useful and interesting topics.
- Please note that the 2015 U.L. Sport Kids Run is now open for registration. This is part of the Barringtons Hospital Great Limerick Run 2015 and will take place on **Saturday 2nd May**. You can register your child on www.greatlimerickrun.com The cost of entry is €12.00 per child and €5.00 of each entry fee will be donated to the participants primary school.
- Once again I wish to highlight how fortunate we are to have the facility of a stop & drop area. For the stop & drop to work efficiently however, **patience and courtesy** are essential. I would urge the following as always to ensure the safety of everyone. Please do not park your car in the stop & drop area or the designated bus parking area. Do not park your car and leave it unattended. Should you need to enter the school building, please park your car outside the school wall. As previously requested, please do not park your car outside the Post Office. Do not reverse at any time. Instead please wait for traffic to move. Three-point turns in a congested area are extremely dangerous. For your child's safety, please ensure he/she exits the car on the path side of the stop & drop and walks behind the barrier into school. It is great training for older siblings to walk in with their younger brothers and sisters. Please do not partially park across the entrance to the staff car-park or the stop & drop area, (this is a serious safety hazard which some drivers are continuing to ignore).
- Please note the following school closures this term: **Mid-Term Break February 19th and 20th, (two days). Monday March 16th and Tuesday 17th (St. Patricks Day weekend).**
- The Department of Education and Skills have requested that all schools complete a new online pupil database. We have most of the information since you enrolled your child. However some additional information is required. In order to assist with the gathering of this data, we will be sending you out a form in the post during the next week, which fully explains all that is required. It is of the **utmost importance** that you complete this form accurately. We would ask that you bring it with you to your child's teacher **on the day of the Parent Teacher meeting**. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your co-operation in all of the above.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL FEENEY,
Principal.