

LISNAGRY SCHOOL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2015



September 2015

Principal:

Mr. Michael Feeney

Present Staff Allocation

Michael Feeney (Principal)
Maura Barry (L. Support)
Maura Boland (2nd Class)
Maureen Copse (4th Class)
Eimear Carroll (Jun. Infants)
Sinead Bourke (5th Class)
Sandra Delaney (Sen. Infants)
Marie Blake (L. Support)
Helen Mc Inerney (3rd Class)
Edel O' Doherty (6th Class)
Kevin Raftery (6th Class)
Shane Mc Grath (1st Class)
Niamh Egan (Jun. Infants)
Eimear Quirke (Resource)
Eve Barry (2nd Class)
Lorraine Duffy (SNA)
Fiona Smith (Secretary)

Contact Details

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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. Mrs. Bernie Kennedy retired from teaching in August after 33 years in Lisnagry N.S. She will be missed by all of us. We wish Bernie and her family every happiness in this new phase of their lives together. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Quirke and Ms. Barry who join our staff this year.

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



Class at 10:20 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. 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 must be kept on school files for Túsla. A phone call will not suffice. Please use the absence notes at the back of the new homework journal. Parents are requested not to withdraw pupils for holidays 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. Please note that the BOM cannot accept responsibility for pupils dropped off before this time.

Appointments

All parents and visitors are requested to use the front door only and to report to Fiona at reception. Please refrain from disturbing classes as much as possible. We would appreciate it greatly if the parents of junior children would leave as soon as possible after the 2 o'clock collection. We have found the noise level very disruptive to the learning in classes adjacent to the yard. 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. This policy can be viewed on our website www.lisnagryns.ie.

Please support this initiative and provide healthy lunches for your child including fruit and veg. Children are requested to take lunch wrappings and uneaten food home in an effort to encourage green awareness as part of our SESE curriculum.

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.

School Contribution

I would like to thank the parents who have paid the requested €50 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 1/09/2015 to the 31/08/2015. Please keep expense receipts in event of accidents. Claim forms are available from the school

School Photographer

Eamonn Andrews will visit the school on Monday 14th September should anyone wish to get their child's photograph taken. Forms will be sent out next week. Class photos will also be taken so it is very important that full school uniform is worn on that day.

P.T.O »»»

Homework

I would urge you to start as you mean to continue and check your child's homework diary every night. Only sign off on homework if you are happy it has been completed satisfactorily

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. Those nominated by parents as people whom we can contact in the event of an illness or an emergency must be contactable during the school day please. It can be most distressing for children when contact cannot be made in such circumstances.

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 have the facility of a stop and drop area with safety barriers all around. We also have speed ramps 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 co-operate with this strategy.

Aistear

This year we are hoping to further implement Aistear in all infant classes. Aistear emphasises the importance of play based methodologies in supporting children's learning and development.

School Improvement Plan

Our school improvement plan for literacy is developed and we are now commencing Year 1 of it. The focus is on improving the different writing genres throughout the school.

Literacy Lift-Off

Our Literacy Lift Off reading initiative will commence again this September starting with 1st Class.

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.dca.gov.ie

School Calendar

The 2015/2016 School Calendar is available to download from our school website. Please take a look at the dates for this term.

New Classrooms

As mentioned in our June newsletter we have been granted funding for two mainstream classrooms. Planning permission was granted last week. We hope to commence building works early in the new year.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not allowed in school. Children have the use of the school phone in emergencies.

If a child brings in a phone, it will be confiscated and kept in school until parents collect it in person.

Library Donations

Due to restrictions on space, we will not be accepting any books for our library this year.

Book Rental Scheme

I am pleased to inform you that the Book Rental Scheme is up and running in all classes. This should result in considerable savings for you the parents particularly from 3rd-6th class where there are less workbooks. Most of the textbooks your child will receive are new programmes just recently published and therefore these would not be available second hand. We have also purchased additional levelled readers for English and Irish along with other interactive resources. We feel these will prove very beneficial and help improve standards. As mentioned previously there are two schemes which we would like to use as supplementary textbooks: Bun go Barr Gaeilge 3rd-6th and Reading Zone English Textbook 3rd-6th. We would be grateful if you could donate these to the school if you have not already done so. I would like to express our sincere thanks to all the parents and staff who assisted in setting it up. Details of the scheme are available to view on the school website.

Stay Safe Programme

As per our school policy, the stay safe programme is taught in every classroom during September. The programme seeks to enhance children's self-protective skills by participating in lessons on safe and unsafe situations, bullying, inappropriate touch, secrets, telling and stranger danger.

Anti-Bullying

Please view our Anti Bullying Policy on our school website. We implement regular whole school education and bullying prevention strategies.

Lisnagry National School Website

Keep up to date with the latest school news and events on our School Website www.lisnagryns.ie

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.

Gach dea-ghuí

Michael Feeney (Principal)