
Scoil Lios na Groí

Lisnagry National School

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January 11th, 2017.

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 Novas appeal at Christmas. Your contributions were overwhelming. Congratulations are due to our carol singers who sang in the Crescent shopping Centre before Christmas. In total €771 was raised for Pieta House.
- As per our school newsletter, **Parent Teacher Meetings** have been arranged for **Wednesday January 18th and Thursday January 19th from 3pm to 5pm**. You will receive your appointment time from your child's class teacher. Should this time be unsuitable for you please contact your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative time. However, please be mindful that the class teacher cannot accommodate everyone at their chosen time and so we would ask that you try your best to make it at the time allocated. For parents with more than one meeting to attend, we have arranged times as close as possible. **School will end at 2.50pm on both of these days**. 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 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 16th until Friday the 20th 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 **first and fourth class** will commence on Monday next, **January 16th**. Payment for same should be made to your child's class teacher or by epayment. **Please remember your swimming gear on Monday morning**.
- Catholic Schools Week takes place from **29th January to 4th February**. As part of the celebrations, we are having Grandparents Day on Friday the 3rd 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 3rd 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 have just begun the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. 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 entrepreneurship 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 ask for your support and co-operation as we embark on our health promoting schools programme. We are already an active school and have a healthy eating policy that provides a foundation for healthy living. We need your continued support with this. This year already we have introduced yoga in the senior classes and we are currently undertaking a whole school meditation initiative. We wish to remind you about the Parents Talk entitled "Manage your life by managing your mind – creating resilience in tough challenging times" by Dr. Fergus Heffernan on **January 24th at 7.30pm**. He is renowned for his excellent workshops and I would encourage you all to attend.



- The Peace Proms concert will take place in the UL Sports Arena on Sunday 5th March at 8pm. Pupils from 5th and 6th class will be performing and tickets are on sale from peaceproms.com. 3rd and 4th class will continue to participate in Music Generation this term. They will work with a musician and create their own unique piece of music.
- 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. LD Golf will run an after school programme commencing next Monday 16th January.
- 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. I urge you to refer to the parent's new literacy booklet sent home before Christmas and spend time doing shared reading with your child. In particular the use of questioning before, during and after reading can really aid a child's comprehension.
- As many of the children have received smart phones, tablets, gaming consoles or other connected devices this Christmas, we urge you to be extra vigilant re 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 need to ensure that they can enjoy technology without putting themselves and others at risk. We advise you to be aware of your children's privacy settings and filtering software. Most devices come with technical settings that can be used for instance, to control what type of content can be viewed or what apps or games can be used or downloaded. By doing a google search on the name of the device and "parental control" you can be advised on how to apply these. 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 **7th 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.lisnagryns.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.
- Once again I wish to highlight how fortunate we are to have the new stop and drop facility which greatly enhances our school. When used correctly it is proven that the traffic flows smoothly and your child's safety is secured. Please observe the clear signage and don't take unnecessary risks or make dangerous manoeuvres. Patience and courtesy are required from everyone as the whole process takes only ten minutes at each collection time.
- Please note the following school closures this term: **Mid-Term Break February 23rd and 24th, (two days). Friday March 17th and Monday 20th (St. Patrick's Day weekend).**

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

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL FEENEY,
Principal.