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# Scoil Lios na Groí

## Lisnagry National School

Lisnagry, Co. Limerick Fón: 061 331011 Fax: 061 331062  
Email: lisnagryschool@gmail.com

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January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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.
- As per our school newsletter, **Parent Teacher Meetings** have been arranged for **Wednesday January 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup>**. This year we are using the Aladdin Connect system to schedule meeting times. This is the same system that was used to access school reports in June. Details of how you make the booking on Aladdin Connect can be found attached. Bookings will be open for families with 2 or more siblings from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, and for everyone else on 9<sup>th</sup> January. SET teachers will attend the class teachers meetings where appropriate. We would ask that younger children and toddlers not attend the meetings. Meetings are 10 minutes long and there will be no room for manoeuvre on this so that time is fairly allocated. If you need further time please speak to the class teacher who will facilitate you at another time. These meetings give you an overview of your child's academic, social and emotional progress in school.
- A Scholastic Book Fair will take place in the School Hall starting on **Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> until Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 **second and third class** will commence on Monday next, **January 14<sup>th</sup>**. 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 **27<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. As part of the celebrations, we are having Grandparents Day on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> February between 1.20 and 2pm**. They will also get a chance to visit their grandchild's classroom and see their work.
- Fifth classes are participating in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme and are presenting their ideas to the dragons this month. This programme is an entrepreneurial awareness and skills enhancement programme for primary school children and we have found it very beneficial in the last few years.
- Mr. Flannelly's fifth class has been busy preparing for the Dell sponsored VEX IQ Robotics Competition being held on 5<sup>th</sup> February. They will compete with other schools and apply all their STEM skills in a game based engineering challenge.
- We ask for your continued support and co-operation as we continue to promote Lisnagry as a health promoting school. All the initiatives introduced since we embarked on this programme have proved very successful. Following on from our Food Dudes programme last term, please keep up the healthy lunches and remember that treats are for Friday only. Fifth and Sixth class will participate in yoga this term. We will also be taking part in the "Daily Mile Challenge" and we will host a Wellness Week throughout the school.
- The Peace Proms concert will take place in the UL Sports Arena on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 8pm. Pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> class will be performing and tickets are on sale from [peaceproms.com](http://peaceproms.com). 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class will continue to participate in Music Generation this term.

- 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.
- I would respectfully remind all parents and childminders that school finishes and collection time is **3pm**. Children are supervised until 3.15pm. Many thanks to the majority of parents who co-operate with this policy. Childminding is not available after this time. On the rare occasions when you have been inadvertently delayed, please contact the school. Also the collection time for Junior and Senior infant children is 2pm. We would appreciate it greatly if the parents of junior children would leave as soon as possible after 2pm collection as the noise level can be disruptive to the learning in classes adjacent to the yard.
- Occasionally children are withdrawn from school to take holidays during term time. This is not in line with school policy. Consequently school work will not be marked in advance for these children.
- 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.
- 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 once again to refer to the parent's literacy booklet on the school website 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. Ger Brick had a number of useful tips in his internet safety presentation. This is the link [www.inetsafetytalk.com/parentinfo](http://www.inetsafetytalk.com/parentinfo).
- In accordance with our revised SPHE policy the RSE programme will be taught this term. RSE is an integral part of SPHE and must be taught in all classes. It addresses the meaning of human sexuality, relationships, growth and development relevant to social and personal skills. The policy is available to view on our school website.
- Please note the following school closures this term: **Mid-Term Break February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, (two days). Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> (St. Patrick's Day weekend).**
- Please remember to visit our website [www.lisnagryns.ie](http://www.lisnagryns.ie). There are lots of interesting posts and links to other useful topics. Also follow us on Twitter @lisnagryns and on Facebook. This is another nice way to get a flavour of what is happening in the school.

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

Yours sincerely,

**MICHAEL FEENEY,**  
Principal.