
Scoil Lios na Groí

Lisnagry National School

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January 11th, 2016.

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 Christmas Toy appeal at Christmas. Thanks also for supporting our Christmas concerts and raffles. It was a tremendous experience for the children and a great occasion for the whole school community. Our next Parent's Association fundraiser is 'Give a Gúna' which will be held in the Castle Oaks Hotel on March 3rd from 7-10p.m. All dress donations should be sent into the school and we hope that this fundraiser will be greatly supported.
- As per our school newsletter, **Parent Teacher Meetings** have been arranged for **Wednesday January 20th and Thursday January 21st from 3 pm to 5 pm**. Today 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 2.50 pm 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, 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.
- Swimming lessons for **Mr. McGrath's first and Ms. Copse's fourth class** will commence today, **January 11th**. Payment for same should be made to your child's class teacher on or before Friday next, 15th.
- Catholic Schools Week takes place from **31st January to 6th February**. As part of the week's celebrations, Friday 5th February is dedicated to grandparents in order to appreciate their contribution 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 5th 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 take part in an exciting entrepreneurial workshop called 'Bizworld'. They will learn what it takes to start and run a business and will learn valuable and important, collaborative communication and team building skills. It builds on their knowledge and experience of enterprise, money management and critical thinking. 5th class will also participate in a learn robotics workshop which introduces the pupils to the exciting world of robotics.
- 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 it's aspects. 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.
- I would respectfully remind all parents and child minders that school finishes and collection time is 3pm. Children are supervised until 3:15. Many thanks to the majority of parents who co-operate with this policy. Child minding 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 the 2' o'clock collection. We have found the noise level very 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 today. 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 Gaeilge as part of our school self evaluation process. We are putting a three year improvement plan in place for Gaeilge. We would encourage you to speak some Irish at home and to foster a positive attitude towards it. More details will follow in the coming weeks. We are reaching our targets in numeracy with improved mental maths and problem solving. We have started working on our literacy plan with our focus on writing genres.
- 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 **9th 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.
- As I detailed in the December newsletter building will commence on our two new classrooms in the coming weeks. While we will do our utmost to minimize the disruption and have little impact on teaching and learning, certain areas of the school site will be out of commission for the duration of the build. Undoubtedly these restrictions will present us all with a certain level of inconvenience. I ask in advance for your patience and understanding and I am sure that the huge benefits offered to us by this work will outweigh the short term disruption.
- Please note the following school closures this term: **Mid-Term Break :February 18th and 19th, (two days). Easter Holidays :School Closes on March 16th.**

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

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL FEENEY,
Principal.