
Scoil Lios na Groí

Lisnagry National School

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January 9th, 2020.

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. We hope that the year ahead is full of happiness, health and peace and that 2020 is a great year for everyone involved with the school and our community. There are a number of issues which I want to bring to your attention.

- Our Christmas choral afternoon was a great success. Well done to all our pupils who performed so well and behaved impeccably.
- Well done to our school choir who raised €775 for the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation, carol singing in the Crescent Shopping Centre. They also sang at Riverbrook Nursing Home.
- As per our school newsletter, **Parent Teacher Meetings** have been arranged for **Wednesday January 22nd and Thursday January 23rd**. Once again this year we are using the Aladdin Connect system to schedule meeting times. Bookings will be open for families with 2 or more siblings from Tuesday 14th January, and for everyone else on 15th January. 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. **Please note that school will finish at 2.50pm on both of these days.**
- Our Split the Pot school fundraising initiative continues this week. We thank you for your continued support.
- Swimming lessons for **first and third class** have commenced on Monday last, **January 6th**.
- Catholic Schools Week takes place from **26th January to 2nd February**. As part of the celebrations, we are having Grandparents Day on Friday the 31st January. 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 31st January between 1.20 and 2pm**. They will also get a chance to visit their grandchild's classroom and see their work.
- In accordance with our revised SPHE policy the Stay Safe programme will be taught this term. Stay Safe is an integral part of SPHE and must be taught in all classes. The Stay Safe programme is a personal safety skills programme for primary schools. The aim is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of personal safety education. Home school links on the topics will be sent home throughout the programme so that you can reinforce the messages at home. The policy is available to view on our school website.
- Mr. Flannelly's fifth class has been busy preparing for the Dell sponsored VEX IQ Robotics Competition being held on 28th January. 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. The HPS committees monthly initiatives are proving very successful. This month is "Junk Free January" and it encourages all our school community to eat healthy at home and at school. Please keep up the healthy lunches and remember that only small treats are permitted on Fridays. Fifth and Sixth class will participate in yoga this term. We will also be taking part in the "Daily Mile Challenge".
- Our newly elected Student Council are already working away on behalf of the entire student body in Lisnagry. They ran a very successful Christmas Jumper colouring competition and we look forward to their new ideas and their inspiration.

- 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.
- After school supervision is only directly in front of the school. We are aware that some children have been told to wait to be collected at the roundabout. There is no supervision once the child leaves the front of the school and parents need to be aware of the risks involved in leaving children unsupervised.
- I appeal to you to abide by the previously outlined safety guidelines in using our stop and drop facility. The health and safety of our school community is of utmost importance and it is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that this safety is maintained. **We would also urge you to display courtesy to our neighbours and local residents by refraining from obstructing the entrances to their properties. This is totally unacceptable.**
- 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. 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.
- Please note the following school closures this term: **Mid-Term Break February 20th and 21st, (two days). Monday March 16th and Tuesday 17th (St. Patrick's Day).**
- Please remember to visit our website 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.