

LISNAGRY SCHOOL NEWS SEPTEMBER 2023



September 2023

Principal:

Mr. Michael Feeney

Deputy Principal:

Ms. Eimear Carroll

Present Staff Allocation

Aoife Conroy (Jun. Inf)
Caoimhe Ryan (Jun. Inf)
Colette Perrill (Sen. Infants)
Jack Walsh (1st Class)
Eimear McCarthy (2nd Class)
Maura Boland (2nd Class)
Kevin Raftery (3rd Class)
Eimear Carroll (3rd Class)
Colin Foley (4th Class)
Paul Colleran (4th Class)
Sandra Delaney (5th Class)
Grace Doheny (6th Class)
Jonathan Martin (6th Class)
J DeLoughrey (S.E.T.)
Marie Blake (S.E.T.)
Mary-Kate Ryan (S.E.T.)
Laura Barrett (S.E.T.)
Helen McInerney (S.E.T.)
Rachel Walsh (EAL)
Fiona Smith (Secretary)
Lorraine Duffy (SNA)
Patrick O'Neill (SNA)
Emer Mullowney (SNA)

Contact Details

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www.lisnagryns.ie

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Welcome Back

On behalf of the B.O.M. I would like to welcome you all back after the summer holidays. A special welcome to all our new Junior Infants who have adjusted to school life so well. The children are all well settled back at this stage. They have had many learning experiences since August 30th. 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.

School Times

School now officially starts for all classes at 9am so please ensure your child is



present on time so as to limit disruption to classes. Roll call is taken in each room at 10am 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 office in advance and your child will be marked present on their return.

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. Please use Aladdin to explain absences and we will then have it on file for Túsla. All absences must be explained in writing.

Supervision

Children are supervised every morning from 8.45am 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. The infants school day ends at 1.40pm. We respectfully ask all parents to ensure that the children are collected promptly and

we would appeal to you to pass on this message to childminders and creches who may be collecting your child. Likewise the general school day ends at 2.40pm and once again we request your co-operation in having children collected promptly. Many thanks in advance for your understanding.

Communication/ Appointments

All parents and visitors are requested to use the front door only and report to Fiona at reception. Please refrain from disturbing classes as much as possible. If you need to collect your child early, drop off a lunch etc. please ring the buzzer at the main entrance and Fiona will attend to your request. If you wish to contact your child's teacher, please phone the school office or email info@lisnagryns.ie. Fiona will forward your message to your child's teacher and you will be contacted at a suitable time. A note in your child's homework journal is another effective way of getting a message to your child's teacher. If you really need to contact the teacher on a sensitive matter please be mindful that they cannot answer emails during class time. For all our sakes it is important to set up good, healthy and respectful boundaries.

Parent to Parent Communication:

Parent WhatsApp groups have become increasingly popular in recent years. Similarly many parents are on social media sites and communicate with each other regarding their children—this can be great for birthday invitations, play dates etc. We remind parents that if they have a complaint or an issue they should call the office to make an appointment to meet with their child's teacher directly. A WhatsApp group is not an appropriate place to air any concerns or grievances about the school, teaching staff, teaching methods or school policy.

Allergies/Medical Conditions

Parents, please advise the school if your child has any medical issues about which you need to alert the school and for which indemnity and information forms will need to be filled out. I would also remind parents that medication already in the school may be out of date and may need to be replaced. I would also ask you to inform us about headlice or infectious/contagious illnesses.

Junior Infants Enrolments

2024: The application process and admissions notice for Junior Infants 2024 will be published on our school's website at the end of the month. The school will begin accepting applications for Junior Infants for September 2024 from Monday 2nd October 2023.

Stop and Drop

The new road safety measures and pedestrian crossing really help support safety outside our school. As always we request your co-operation to ensure our stop and drop facility operates safely. It is imperative that everyone drives to the front door end of the facility before stopping in

so far as possible. Your child should then walk inside the railed pathway when entering and exiting the school. Please **do not park your vehicle or leave it unattended** in the stop and drop. For your child's safety, please ensure **he/she exits the car on the path side of the stop and drop**. It is extremely dangerous to exit on the other side as cars will be overtaking and might not see a small child.

Emergency Contacts/Update Contact Details

If your contact details have changed in the last year please contact the school asap with the correct information. You can also update your contact details via the Aladdin Connect App. Aladdin now offers the facility to add a profile photograph for each pupil. We see this as an opportunity to help staff to know each pupil by name. We will circulate a permission in relation to this on the Aladdin App in the coming days.

Anti-Bullying

Please view our Anti-Bullying Policy on our website. We implement regular whole school education and bullying prevention strategies. This includes a pupil survey every term.

School Expenses

I would like to thank the parents who have paid the requested €60 school expenses payment. I would just like to remind those of you who have yet to do so. Should you have any difficulty meeting this payment please do not hesitate to contact the school in the strictest of confidence. Your child is insured for 24 hour personal accident from 1st September to 31st August. Claim forms are available from the school.

School Building Upgrades We are constantly maintaining and upgrading our facilities in Lisnagry. Our Board of Management and Parents Association work extremely hard planning and fundraising to allow for this. Our new activity ball wall, installed over the summer will be a great asset to our school. We have also received new cycle parking/shelters through the SRTS pro-

gramme which are hugely beneficial. Our newly painted school corridor makes our school warm and welcoming while our new fish aquarium is soothing and tranquil for pupils. We plan on surprising our junior pupils by upgrading the junior yard with playground markings. We look forward to them exploring the new games and learning opportunities presented.

School Uniform We are really proud of our uniform in Lisnagry N.S. and expect all children to wear it. The uniform is very important for the image of the school and it enforces your child's association with the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents/guardians who ensure that their children always wear the correct school uniform. Clothing with logos, branding, club gear, hoodies and GAA shorts are not permitted and defeat the point of having a school uniform. Please ensure that all your child's clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with their name and class as these can easily be mislaid. I would also ask that children wear a coat with a hood to school each day as we all know how unpredictable the weather is.

Code of Behaviour Review

Our Code of Behaviour sets out the policy, programmes, practices and procedures that together form Lisnagry's plan for helping our pupils to behave and learn well. The Board wishes to review the school's Code of Behaviour. Thankfully, Lisnagry is characterised by very strong relationships between all the stakeholders—the patron, the parents, the teachers and the wider community served by the school. These strong relationships need to be anchored in shared and unambiguous understandings as to how the promotion of good behaviour in the school is achieved and enhanced. Since we returned to school all staff and pupils have been consulted in this review. This week we invite your feedback with any comments or suggested amendments to the draft Code of Behaviour. The updated policy will then need to be approved by the patron and ratified by the Board of Management.

Wellbeing Promotion Review and Improvement Plan: Following all the data collected from our staff and pupils focus groups and parents survey results, targets and actions will be formulated to form a new wellbeing promotion plan. We will share the plan in the coming weeks.

Pupil Voice and wellbeing are of huge importance in our school and are well represented in our school. We have a student council and wellbeing committee who are so enthusiastic, energetic and actively involved in many school activities.

Cycling/Scooting to School: We would encourage parents to ensure their children have all the correct safety gear, high viz jackets, lights and helmets when cycling to school. We have been informed by insurance company Allianz, that due to the increased risk of accidents or theft, we cannot allow e-bikes or e-scooters on the grounds of the school. **We therefore ask pupils not to travel to school by this mode of transport.** We are also asking adults collecting pupils not to use e-bikes or e-scooters on the grounds of the school. In summary, the Board of Management have taken the following decision: **The Board of Management have decided E-scooters & E-bikes are not allowed at any time on the school grounds.**

Healthy Lunches: A Healthy Eating policy is in operation in our school in an effort to develop good eating habits and help obesity in the future. This policy can be viewed on our website. We ask for your support with this initiative and to provide healthy lunches for your child including fruit and veg. A funsized treat is permitted on Fridays. The "Lunch Bag" is also in operation in our school. Lunches can be ordered through their app. Details on www.thelunchbag.ie.

Mobile Phones/ Electronic Devices: Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. Children have the use of the school phone in emergencies. Should a child have an occasion to bring a phone to school, it must be accompanied by a signed parental note stating the reason for its use. It should be handed up to the class teacher at 9am and then returned at home time. If a child brings in a phone without consent, it will be confiscated and kept in school until parents collect it in person. Pupils are not permitted to bring any electronic devices or smart watches to school. They can cause an unnecessary distraction during the school day and we recognise that the enhanced functions of these devices such as the camera and recording capabilities can cause concern and are susceptible to misuse. These procedures are in place to help safeguard our school community.

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 office.

Michael Feeney (Principal)