



September Newsletter

12/9/12

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and we hope that your child has settled in well to their class. We welcome the new Junior Infant classes and other pupils that have joined our school. For pupils that have moved on to secondary school we wish them well.

- 1. DROP -OFF AND COLLECTION** Please note that school opens at 9 am and finishes at 2.40 pm (1.40 pm for infant classes). Please ensure that your child is dropped off and collected at these times as our school does not accept responsibility before and after these times. If you have an arrangement with someone else to collect your child it is important that you bring this information to their attention.
- 2. MEETING WITH A TEACHER** It is important that you make an appointment with the teacher through the school Secretary or Principal if you wish to meet your child's teacher in order that the teacher and you can discuss an issue properly. If your child avails of the services of an SNA the class teacher must be contacted first if you have any queries regarding school or your child.
- 3. PUNCTUALITY, ATTENDANCE, SCHOOL DAY & PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS.** Our school opens for 183 school days. There will be no half-days this year. Parent Teacher meetings will take place outside of school time usually in November. It is so important that your child attends school regularly and punctually. We are obliged by law to notify the National Education Welfare Board of all absences. We have no discretion in this. If your child is absent you as parent under the Education Welfare Act must send in a note to the class teacher explaining the absence. New school diaries will issue shortly with attendance explanation notes to be used by parents for all absences.
- 4. LEARNING SUPPORT/ RESOURCE** There have been cutbacks in all schools in the country in the amount of learning support/resource help that a school can provide. We have two less resource teachers this year compared with last year. This will mean that fewer pupils will be able to avail of learning support. There are clear guidelines in our learning support policy as to how pupils are prioritised for learning support. Some pupils that were receiving learning support last year may not qualify for out of class support this year but some may benefit from in-class 'Team Teaching'.
- 5. TEAM TEACHING** Our resource teachers will be working with class teachers in the classrooms more for what is called 'Team Teaching'. Team teaching involves the class being divided into groups with the class teacher and resource teacher teaching groups on rotation. We have been doing this in some classes on a small scale. Our resource teachers will also be teaching children outside of the class setting.
- 6. ASSISTANCE WITH BOOK COSTS** The cost of school books is considerable for families attending our school. We have reduced the number of books on some class lists and kept change to the minimum. Financial assistance is available from the school for families experiencing financial hardship etc by returning the attached form to the school in a sealed envelope to the office. All applications treated in strict confidence and refunds will be posted to parents from the school.
- 7. SCHOOL DIARY.** A new free school Diary will issue shortly to all pupils. This will include our schools Discipline Policy, Bullying Policy and Acceptable Use Policy (Computers) for all parents.
- 8. PHOTOCOPYING AND ART SUPPLIES.** Our school requests €20 per pupil and €30 per family to assist with these costs which are considerable. If you haven't paid this please send it in an envelope to the secretary.



- 
9. **DISCIPLINE.** School uniforms to be worn at all times. Other items of clothing that are not part of the school uniform are not to be worn. Soccer T-shirts are not part of our school uniform. No streak / highlighted / Mohican hairstyles permitted. Pupils line up in the morning when the bell goes.
 10. **HOMEWORK.** It is important that you get an opportunity to know what work your child is doing in school. Support and encourage your child with their school work and homework. Homework allows pupils to learn and develop facts and skills learned in class. Homework reinforces work done in school during the day.
 11. **SCHOOL SHOP.** The school shop opens from 9 am to 9.30 am. Please make sure that your child has the pencils. Pens
 12. **INFORMATION NIGHTS.** The Junior Infant teachers, the Principal will hold an information night for parents of pupils in Junior Infants who have commenced in our school. This will take place next Tuesday 18th at 7.30 pm in school staffroom. It is important that parents attend this night to find out how best you can help your child progress in Junior Infants. It is also an opportunity to get to know other parents in the class.
 13. **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.** Our staff is highly committed to teaching and learning in our school. Many Extra Curricular activities in Music, Drama, Quiz, Sport are organised by teachers in our school much of which is on a voluntary basis. As Principal and as parents I know that you appreciate these extra efforts and we thank you for your co-operation and support in all these matters. It is important therefore as part of that appreciation that pupils are dropped off and collected promptly for these extra curricular events.
 14. **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION.** We have a very supportive Parents' Association in our school and parents are encouraged to join. They add greatly to the school life and community feel that is evident in our school.
 15. **SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS.** If there are any school readers, library books belonging to the school at home by accident after the holidays please return to the class teachers. Our school buys a significant number of books each year and some get forgotten about at home in error. We would be very grateful if you could check and return them to the class teacher.
 16. **RED & GREEN DAY.** We will be having a 'Red and Green Day' in aid of the Mayo GAA this Friday where pupils wear red and /or green clothing of their choice. Where pupils already have any Mayo Jersey they may wear it but parents are encouraged not to buy a new jersey unnecessarily. Any red or green clothing acceptable. Pupils to contribute €2 per pupil which will be given to the Mayo Training fund. We wish our past pupils Seamus and Aidan O'Shea success in the All- Ireland.
 17. **ALL -IRELAND FLEADH.** Three pupils got an All- Ireland title in their Grupa Ceoil in August: Gearoid Herraghty, Heather Fadden and Enda Moran.
Well done and congratulations!

