



Scoil Naomh Laisrian,
Leithghlinn an Droichid,
Co. Ceatharlach,
Uimhir Rolla 19784S

Leighlinbridge N.S.,
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30th August 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to everybody and we hope that you had a good summer despite the weather. A particular welcome to our new pupils and we hope that they have a fruitful and enjoyable time here with us. Junior Infants have had their photos taken so keep an eye out for smiling faces in the local papers!

Lots of work has been done in school over the holidays thanks to our very active Board of Management. The large area of tarmac to the rear of the school that was in poor condition has been replaced. Ramps have been installed at strategic locations around the building. Attic insulation has been installed which should help the classrooms to feel warmer and reduce heating costs. The corridors, toilets and hall have been resurfaced with high quality flooring. I would like to thank the members of the Board for their involvement in these projects and in the continued development of the school.

Please pay any outstanding bills immediately, in particular the €15 or €20 for school requisites. Collection and counting of money take away teaching time so the sooner we can settle accounts, the better for everybody. Thank you. It is very helpful to have your **child's name** on his/her belongings, particularly items of clothing so please check this immediately. Please note also that all pupils from 1st – 6th Classes are required to wear a pair of slippers or indoor shoes.

Swimming commences for 4th, 5th and 6th Classes on Tuesday 4th September in Kilkenny pool. The lessons will continue for ten weeks. Each pupil must wear their P.E. uniform and please make sure that your child has a swimming cap. Cost per week is €6 per pupil. Please pay €12 on Monday morning (3rd) and €6 each Monday morning thereafter for the following eight weeks, with no payment required on the last week. Swimming will begin for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes on Friday 7th September in Graiguecullen pool. The lessons will continue for eleven weeks. Each pupil must wear their P.E. uniform on the day and please make sure that your child has a swimming cap. Cost per week is €6 per pupil. Please pay €12 on Thursday morning (6th) and €6 each Thursday morning thereafter for the following nine weeks, with no payment required on the last week. Please send payment to the appropriate class teacher in an envelope with your child's name and marked Swimming. Thank you. All lessons will take place during school hours.

Gymnastics will commence on Monday, 24th September, further details to follow. YogaBugs for Infants and 1st Class will begin on Friday, 7th September. The yoga is paid for by funds raised for the Parents Association so be sure to help out when they come looking for support!

We are proud of being a Green School. As part of this we encourage you to use a proper reusable lunchbox for your child that will reduce the amount of waste we have to deal with. Any lunch waste that we can't put in our compost bin we ask the pupils to take home with them.

The school opens to receive pupils each day at 9.20 and finishes at 3 o'clock (2 o'clock for Junior and Senior Infants). The Board of Management would like to remind you that it does not provide for supervision of pupils outside of these hours. Pupils and guardians are requested to wait inside the front wall until school begins. If it is raining then pupils and guardians have permission to wait in the shelter at the back of the school. Please make sure that your children are collected on time after school. Thank you.

The feedback from you on the “Text-a-Parent” system has been very positive. Typically people receive two or three texts per month on school-related matters. If you don’t receive a text in the next few weeks and would like to, please contact the school. We will use one mobile number per family from our records and if you think we may not have the correct number for you, please contact us. If you would prefer not to be contacted by the school in this way, please let us know and we can easily remove you from the list.

While we are aware that it may be inconvenient we are requesting you not to issue birthday invitations on the school grounds or ask teachers to do so. This is to avoid a situation where a child or children in a class feel “left out” when invitations are issued. Anything that is organised in school involves all pupils being treated equally and issuing selective invitations is contrary to this. Thanks for your cooperation.

Last year a committee comprised of teachers, parents and members of the Board of Management reviewed our Code of Behaviour. We are all agreed that a high standard of behaviour is what we expect from our pupils. The full code can be viewed on our website in the parents section. As part of the review it was agreed that we would ask pupils (from 1st Class upwards), parents and teachers to sign a “Behaviour Contract” at the beginning of each year to remind everybody of the standards we expect and the importance of good behaviour. Junior and Senior Infants will do this in their own way in their classrooms. Please discuss the school rules with your child before you sign and return the contract. Teachers and parents working closely together in this way ensures firm and consistent discipline which is essential for a child’s emotional and psychological development. Thank you.

The teachers will be having a meeting on **Friday, 7th September** so all pupils will finish at **12.30** on that day. Halloween break is from Monday, 29th October – Friday 2nd November inclusive. The school will close for Christmas on Friday, 21st December and reopen on Monday, 7th January 2008. We will be closed for midterm on Thursday and Friday, 14th & 15th February. We will close for Easter on Friday 14th March, reopening on Monday, 31st March. We will close for a week from Monday, 5th May – Friday, 9th May inclusive. These are the main closures for the coming year.

Finally, please wait for Kathleen or myself if you need to speak to a teacher or drop something into a classroom. While it may only take a few seconds, the cumulative effect of interruptions to teaching and learning can be very frustrating! So again, please wait at the office and Kathleen or myself will be with you as soon as possible. Thank you and we wish you all a happy and successful school year.

Yours faithfully,

Principal