



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

Leighlinbridge N.S.,
Co. Carlow,
Phone: 059 - 9721796
email: school@leighlin.net

Visit Us Online: www.leighlin.net

Mission Statement

As a Catholic school, our mission is to develop the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of each child and encourage everyone to respect themselves and one another.

We value each person while working to provide a supportive environment for all pupils to learn and play in harmony together.

31st August 2009

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!

It is very helpful to have your **child's name** on his/her belongings, particularly items of clothing so please check this immediately. Remember also that all pupils from 1st – 6th Classes are required to wear a pair of slippers or indoor shoes as part of their uniform. Teachers this week will make clear to pupils on which days they are required to wear their tracksuits (this may or may not be different to last year).

Please pay any outstanding bills immediately, in particular the €15 or €20 for school requisites. Please note that for this year this amount includes Pupils Personal Accident Insurance (24 hour cover) for all pupils in the school. **Please remember to pay each teacher separately for each child and to do so in the mornings**, this facilitates us in collecting and counting money which is very time consuming at this time of the year. We are aware that times are more difficult and assure you that we make every effort to keep costs as low as possible. Thank you.

Swimming commences for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes this Friday morning in Graiguecullen pool. The lessons will continue for eleven 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 this week and €6 each Friday morning thereafter for the following nine weeks, with no payment required on the last week. Swimming will begin for 4th, 5th and 6th Classes in October in Graiguecullen pool also. Details to follow. All lessons will take place during school hours. No aerosols are allowed at swimming.

The school will open to receive pupils each day at 9.20 a.m. No responsibility is accepted by the Board of Management for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9:30 a.m. No pupils should arrive later than 9:30 a.m. Classes will end each day at 3 p.m. (2 p.m. for Junior & Senior Infants). Parents should make their own arrangements to have their children met at the school gate and the person collecting them should be at the school not later than 3 p.m. (2 p.m. for Infants) as the Board cannot accept responsibility for the children after that time.

The Board of Management is aware that traffic can become congested near the school at the beginning and end of the school day and asks you to be careful and courteous when parking near the school. If at all possible please reverse into your parking space so that you can drive forward on to the road when leaving and please leave space between your car and the front wall so that pupils won't need to walk near the road. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 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 didn't receive a text to draw your attention to this newsletter and would like to receive one, 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, contact us and we can easily remove you from the list.

Yoga for our younger pupils will recommence on Thursday of next week (10th).

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.

As part of our Code of Behaviour we 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. 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.

Congratulations to Ms. Joyce who was married over the summer. She will be known from now on as Mrs. Murphy! We wish her and her new husband a long and happy married life together.

The audio visual equipment has been upgraded in the school during the summer. This project was funded in partnership between the Board of Management and the Parents Association. Every classroom now has a large display, projector and sound system to help the pupils to learn in this age of information technology and multimedia.

The teachers will be having a meeting this **Friday, 4th** September so all pupils will finish at **12 noon** on the day. The main closures for the coming year are listed on the school website at www.leighlin.net.

The school has put in place careful precautions to minimise the spread of the H1N1 (Swine Flu) Virus. Please note these precautions below, in particular items 8, 9 and 12. Further details are available on the school website, just follow the link on the home page.

1. All pupils, parents and staff of Leighlinbridge N.S. have been advised of the precautions.
2. Pupils have been taught to minimise the threat - "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it".
3. Pupils, staff and visitors have easy access to hand sanitisers or soap and water.
4. Electric hand dryers are used in communal toilets.
5. Disposable paper towels are available in the classrooms.
6. Posters have been placed in prominent locations around the school.
7. Door handles are sanitised at breaktimes.
8. Pupils are being asked to bring a supply of their own tissues to school.
9. Parents are being asked to ensure their child is not sent to school if they are sick.
10. School staff are being vigilant for signs of illness.
11. If staff suspect that a child is ill, parents will be contacted as soon as possible.
12. People in higher risk groups are asked to contact their doctor.
13. The whole school community is encouraged to be careful but calm.

Finally, please wait at the office 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 disruptive. Thank you and we wish you all a happy and successful school year.

Yours faithfully,

Principal