



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](http://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.*

30<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to everybody and we hope that you had a good summer. A big welcome to our new pupils and we hope that they have a fruitful and enjoyable time here with us.

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 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes tomorrow (Friday) morning in Graiguecullen 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 has been reduced to €5 per pupil. We are grateful to the Parents Association for helping to subsidise the costs associated with swimming. Please pay €10 this week and €5 each Friday morning thereafter for the following nine weeks, with no payment required on the last week. Remember that the cost of the swimming has been calculated using the number of children in the class and therefore the cost will be €50 even if your child misses sessions. All lessons will take place during school hours. No aerosols are allowed at swimming. Swimming will begin for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes in October. Details to follow.

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.

Please remember that the internal car park is for school staff only. It does however free up extra spaces at the front of the school. 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. 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 and flying our fourth green flag! 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. We take this opportunity to encourage you to walk, cycle or "car pool" to school to keep healthy (and save on fuel costs).

Mrs. Murphy is due back from leave at the end of November. Ms. Coyle who worked in the school last year has been able to step in at very short notice. We are really pleased to welcome her back.

We use the Text-a-Parent system to help us to communicate with you. Typically you will 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.

As part of our Code of Behaviour we ask pupils (from 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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. Thanks for your cooperation.

The school calendar for the coming year is on the school website at [www.leighlin.net](http://www.leighlin.net).

Those of you who have indicated an interest in chess before the summer need not do so again, but if your child (3<sup>rd</sup> class and older) is interested in chess after school, please let us know immediately. Thank you.

The aim of the Healthy Lunch Policy is to help our children to develop good eating habits that will contribute to their general health and wellbeing. It is an impractical task to list all the foods that are acceptable and to judge each one healthy or not. It is somewhat easier to list those foods that are *not* acceptable.

All drinks are acceptable *except* the following:  
Fizzy drinks (water is allowed).

All foods are acceptable *except* the following:  
Chewing gum  
Sweets etc.  
Crisps or anything in a bag (plain popcorn is allowed)

Candy bars or any form of chocolate, cereal bars, biscuits, buns, cakes etc. are not acceptable but on Fridays – because a little of what you fancy can do you good - pupils may bring one of these items as part of their lunch.

For more information and a list of ideas for lunches visit [www.fooddudes.ie](http://www.fooddudes.ie).

*This revised policy is being implemented until the end of September 2012 on a trial basis. If you have any comments please let us know. Thank you.*

Please note the following from our Health & Safety Statement: “Persons (other than employees of the Board) entering the school premises are required to identify themselves at the office before gaining admittance to the school. Parents may enter the Junior Infant classroom in the presence of (and with the permission of) the teacher for the purpose of settling or organising their child.” From now on you will be unable to enter the front door (for security reasons) unless you are buzzed in. If you wish to communicate with a child or a teacher please wait at reception and Kathleen or myself will help you.

I hope that all our pupils have a successful school year and thank you for your support as always.

Yours faithfully,

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Principal

*“Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.” Mark Twain*