



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

Leighlinbridge N.S.,
Co. Carlow,
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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.

2nd September 2013

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 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 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 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes has commenced 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 subsidised and kept to €5 per pupil. We are very grateful to the Sisters of Mercy for helping to subsidise the costs associated with swimming this year. Please pay €10 the first 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 4th, 5th and 6th 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).

We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Eadaoin Fitzhenry to our school. Ms. Fitzhenry will teach Senior Infants until Ms. Denieffe returns from maternity leave.

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 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.

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. Please note that as the referendum on the abolition of the Seanad has been scheduled for Friday, 4th October, it is likely that the school will be closed on that day.

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

Following consultation last year it was the clearly expressed wish of parents to have the support of the school in helping the children to eat healthily. It is for that reason that we have a healthy lunch policy which is enclosed. Please note that this applies to all days of the week (including Fridays!).

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." 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,

Principal