



Scoil Naomh Laisrian,  
Leithghlimm an Droichid,  
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Uimhir Rolla 19784S

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**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Leighlinbridge N.S.**  
1964 - 2014

8<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Parents,

We had a very pleasant celebration recently to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I know many of you were happy and excited to see your children "in the wild" in their classrooms and I know that most (!) of the children enjoyed seeing you there. Thanks to all those who attended and particularly to those who helped out in any way. Hopefully those who will be around for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will enjoy it just as much!

Thank you for attending the parent/teacher meetings held a couple of weeks ago. These meetings provide a chance to talk about how your child is progressing in school. The teachers welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your attendance is a sign of your interest in your child's education.

We also recently held our annual anti-bullying week which is part of our strategy to help to prevent bullying in the first instance and how to deal with it if it becomes a problem. The pupils learn what bullying is, that it is forbidden in our school, that if bullying happens we speak out, that there are things we can do if we are being bullied and that bullying can happen anywhere, not just in school. It's important that everybody realises that there are strategies that we can teach our children to handle difficult situations when they arise.

As in previous years we are encouraging the children not to give Christmas cards to all others in their class. It involves thousands of cards which is a lot of paper and expense. We realise of course that children like to give a card at this time so the teachers will arrange for some form of communal card or gift giving in class before Christmas, keeping it simple but meaningful.

On a similar theme while teachers like to receive presents at Christmas and children like to give them there is absolutely no need and no one should feel under any pressure in this regard. The teachers would be perfectly happy with a homemade card if a child really does want to mark the occasion but it is not necessary at all. Working that little bit better in school would be a great present though, a gift that would keep on giving not only to the receiver but also to the giver!

We will be holding a carol service for Christmas in the school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10 o'clock. If you are around you are very welcome to join us that morning, we would love to see you there. The service should only take about 20 minutes.

Before things get too busy I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody associated with the school - but particularly you the parents - a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for your support as always.

The school will close for the Christmas holidays at 12 noon on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December** and will re-open on **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015**. Other planned closures are detailed on the school website.

Yours faithfully,

Principal