



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

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Co. Carlow,  
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#### 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.*

31<sup>st</sup> August 2016

Dear Parents,

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

It is very important 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 black plimsolls (indoor shoes) as part of their uniform. Teachers will shortly 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 note that older pupils in particular play on the grass which is often wet. You might consider providing your child with a clean spare pair of socks which they can keep in their bag and use if necessary.

Please pay any outstanding bills immediately, in particular the €30 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. Remember to care for books that you have rented and it is important that children keep any drinks in a separate pocket in their bags. Spilled drinks mean damaged books and extra cost. We assure you that we make every effort to keep costs as low as possible. Thank you and a big thanks to Ms. O'Connor for her work in organising the book rental scheme.

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). Junior Infants will finish at 12:30 until Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September. 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.

Swimming for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes will commence next week on Friday morning (9<sup>th</sup> September) 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 by the Parents Association and kept to €6 per pupil. Please pay €12 the first week and €6 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 €60 even if your child misses sessions. All lessons will take place during school hours. No aerosols are allowed. Swimming will begin for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes in October with details to follow.

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 fifth 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. We ask the pupils to take all lunch waste 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 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.

It is 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 attached. Please note that this applies to all days of the week.

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.

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. This is for Health & Safety and Child Protection reasons.

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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Weadon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Principal