



Newsletter September 2018

On behalf of all the staff I would like to welcome back the children for a new school year and hope it is a happy and productive one for all.

An especially warm welcome to our new pupils who begin their journey with us in Coolanarney.

Tullamore Show:

This summer we again had a fund raising venture at Tullamore Show when parents volunteered for car parking duties. Many thanks to those parents whose help has meant we have an additional €1000 which is used each year to supplement book rental costs.

Front Gate:

In response to concerns regarding child safety, the Board of Management decided to block the stile access at the front gate. This was completed over the summer.

Data Protection/ Child Protection

Just a reminder that in keeping with our data protection and child protection policies, photos taken at any school event are for parents' personal use and images of children other than their own may not be shared on any social media platform.

Green Schools:

The school will continue this year to partake in the international environmental education programme Green Schools. Work will begin this year on working towards our third green flag for water conservation.

Music

Ms. Majella Killeen, our music teacher, will continue her programme of work with all classes from Junior Infants to 6th.

The payment for the remainder of the year is now due. The cost is as follows: 1 child €25
2 children €40, 3 or more children €50. If paying by cheque please make cheques payable to Ms. Killeen. If the cost of these lessons is causing difficulty with any family, please contact the school and we will endeavour to help as best we can.

Voluntary Insurance

As in previous years, there is an optional insurance scheme in place to cover children for medical / dental expenses that cannot be recouped from any other source. An application form giving full details is attached. Each family can include all children's names on one form. The closing date for entry into this scheme for this year is **Friday 15th September** and it is important to return all forms by this date if you wish your child / children to avail of the scheme.

School Opening /Closing Times

Class starts for all children at 9.20a.m. The school is open to receive pupils from **9.10 a.m.** and we are not insured to have children on the premises before this time. We have been reminded by our insurers to reiterate this point.

Homework

We are very conscious of and grateful for the support parents give to their children by ensuring that homework assignments from school are completed each day. Every child has a

journal in which his/her homework is written at the end of class. Please sign off on your child's homework after you have ensured that it has been completed satisfactorily. If your child experiences any problem with the assignments, please let his/her teacher know by writing a note in the homework journal.

Car Park

As you can see the car park operates in a one-way system. Please park in a parking space near the path so that the children can enter the car from the path. Alternatively there are 4 parking spaces in the centre of the yard. A pedestrian walkway is marked out to allow the children to reach the cars safely. In order for those drivers who are attempting to exit the car park safely **please do not park anywhere on the roadway from the school gate up to the laneway, or on the laneway itself.** It would pose a serious hazard and reduce visibility considerably.

We would ask those collecting the children to be patient and aware of others at all times. The electronic are programmed to open from 8.40 to 9.40 in the mornings and from 1.30 to 3.30 in the evenings.

School Attendance

Under The Educational Welfare Act, the school is obliged to inform the National Educational Welfare Board if a child has been absent for more than 20 days in any school year. If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, the school must be informed in writing. To make this easier for you, there are absence note forms in your child's homework journal.

School Uniforms

Many thanks to you all for your adherence to the school uniform rules. Anyone wishing to order extra jumpers / skirts etc., should fill in the enclosed order form and return it to the school with the appropriate money before **Friday 14th September**. This will be **the only extra order** submitted in this school year.

Healthy Lunch Policy

The lunch policy that was agreed four years ago has been successful in encouraging the children to be conscious of the value of eating healthily. Just a reminder that a small treat for break-time on Friday's was agreed and we would ask that all adhere to this.

School Calendar

Enclosed is a copy of the school calendar for 2018/2019.

Ploughing Competition 2018

The Ploughing championships will once again take place in Screggan in Sept. 2018. Following on advice from An Garda Síochana, the school will remain closed for the week 17th-21st September.

Contact Details

Please inform the school of any change in contact details - phone / mobile numbers, emergency contacts etc. The school has set up a database of mobile numbers to "text-a-parent". This enables us to contact families by text at short notice if necessary, so it is important that parents inform the school of any change in mobile number.

Kind regards,
Frances Lynch

