

Green Schools

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School Buses

Seats are allocated on the buses for children for the year. These cannot be changed for any reason. Children are asked to sit in their allocated seat, wear their seatbelt and place their bag on the floor in front of them.

Change of Numbers/Addresses

Please contact Mrs McGourty (School Secretary) between 9.30 a.m. and 3p.m daily if you have any queries or wish to make an appointment with a teacher or the principal. Please forward any **change of address** or **mobile numbers** so contact lists can be updated. It is very important for the school to have your correct details.

Please check your child's bag daily for notes in folder. Remove notes, return anything that requires your signature and please ensure to return folder with family name on it. These folders are given to the oldest of each family. Other communication will be written in children's journal regarding individual class or teachers business so please **check your children's journals when signing their homework.**

ATTENTION PARENTS: Late Arrivals/Early Leavers

Please report to secretary's office to sign **Late Arrival/Early Leavers** forms in the event of your child arriving late or having to go home early for any reason. The rolls are called between 9.40 a.m. and 10a.m. Children arriving after this time are deemed absent unless the teacher or Mrs McGourty is informed. Roll books cannot be altered after this.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Rachel Keane, Nicola Heslin, Fidelma Glancy, Michéal McKiernan, Gearóidín Ní Chonghaile, Lorraine McKiernan, Geraldine McWeeney, Mary Scott, Joan Tiernan and Christina McGourty.

St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Newsletter Sept 2016



Phone (071) 9642315

Email: drumcongns@eircom.net

Website: www.drumcongns.ie



Dear Parents/Guardians,

September is here again! We give a very warm welcome to all staff, parents and pupils for the new academic year 2016/2017. We extend a special welcome to our 18 new Junior Infants and children who have joined various classes throughout the school – Céad Míle Fáilte do: Noah, Eve, Conor, Brian, Jamie Jack, Iarlaith, Jessica, Ryan, Evan, Grace, Orla, Oran, Eoin, Caoimhe, Caleb, Emre, Ben and Jodi. Welcome to Arthur (4th class). We wish you all well as you begin your academic journey through primary school and to Arthur we hope that you feel welcome and at home in our school.

Attendance

Every year we remind parents that it is very important that children attend school daily unless they are sick or that some unforeseen family business or event happens. An attendance record is sent home at the end of each quarter (End of September, end of December, Mid April-Easter Holidays and end of June) to be signed and returned to the school. This is a means to keep you informed of your child(rens) attendance and is kept on school record. Children who have full attendance receive a certificate and a trophy for their achievement and those who missed 1 or 2 days receive a certificate.

Uniform

Our school uniform is a bright green jumper, white blouse/shirt; white polo shirt and **plain navy blue** skirt/trousers. Please avoid stripes or coloured logos. Jumpers are available in 'The Magnet' in Carrick-on-Shannon. For younger children it is advisable to send in a spare pair of socks/underwear or tracksuit bottoms in their bags in the event of accidents/spillages. Also if the school supplies your child with socks, trousers etc. please wash and **return** as promptly as you can.

Damage to Rental books

Rental books damaged in any way must be paid for in full. Children are asked to keep drink bottles out of bags. Some books have already been destroyed.



Staffing Arrangements for 2016/2017

Mrs A White: (Principal) 6th Class
Ms F. McGowan: (Deputy Principal) Learning Support Teacher
Mr J Molloy: Shared Learning Support Teacher
Ms O. McHugh: (Special Duties Post-Holder) Resource Teacher
Mrs N. Heslin: 4th/5th Class
Mr M. McKiernan: 3rd/4th Class
Ms F. Glancy: 2nd & 3rd Class
Mrs R. Keane & Mrs L McKiernan: Senior Infants/1st Class
Ms G. Ni Chonghaile: Junior/Senior Infants
Mrs McGourty: Secretary
Mrs G McWeeney, Mrs M. Scott & Mrs J. Tiernan, (Special Needs Assistants)
Caretaker: Mrs P. Doran

Absences

If your child is absent for a day or a number of days Mrs McGourty will send an absent sheet home on the **child's return**. The parent/guardian writes a brief explanation for the absence, signs and dates form and returns sheet to school. This sheet records up to 6 absences. This system is in place to ensure that all parties involved in your child's education is aware of reasons for absences. If a child is absent for more than 20 days the school is obliged to report this to Tusla- **The Child and Family Agency**, (formerly N.E.W.B).

Leitrim Observer Photographer

School Visit
Willie Donnellan visited Junior Infant room on Tues 13th Sept. A supplement with photographs of all new Junior Infants in Co. Leitrim will be published in the coming weeks.

Board of Management

Mr F Gilmartin (Chairperson)
Very Rev Fr T. Flynn
Mrs A White (Principal)
Ms F McGowan (Deputy Principal)
Mr Patricia Lee
Mr Dessie Easterbrook
Mr Sean Scollan
Mrs Nollaig Carroll

Safety and Parking

Please refer to the policy on parking from the Board of Management regarding arrangements for parking outside school premises. It is the responsibility of each individual using the school services to abide by the guidelines. We request full co-operation with this.

Write Book Competition 2016

This was omitted from our newsletter in June and we apologise to our pupils for this error. Congratulations to former pupil Eadaoin Lee and present 6th class pupil Ciara Ferry who received a Merit Award in the write a book competition. They attended a presentation evening in the Landmark Hotel on Tuesday June 14th 2016.

Well done to the following children whose books were Highly Commended – Sadie Harris, Helen McLoughlin, Marc Gannon, Caoimhe Rogers, Leah Lynch and Jack Foley.

Health and Safety

We would like to remind parents/guardians/pupils that wearing makeup and nail polish is not permitted. We also advise that children only wear **stud earrings** and avoid wearing chains and necklaces. This will be strictly enforced for safety reasons at all times.

Healthy Eating Policy

We thank you for your co-operation in implementing this policy down through the years. We encourage children to eat sandwiches, fruit and vegetables, cheese and have a non-fizzy drink or water/cordial, juice/milk etc. Please do not send screw top/glass bottles or wide screw top beaker cups that young children find difficult to manoeuvre. The following items are not permitted in line with our healthy eating policy: chewing gum, crisps, biscuits, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks, yoghurts. We have noticed that items such as yoghurts are difficult to open for the younger children. They are messy and this causes distress to the child. We **ask you not** to send them into school and rather have them as a snack before or after school if your child enjoys them.

Birthday Parties/Social Occasions Outside of School

We understand that parents like to invite their children's friends along to birthday parties. However this can cause upset to other children who may feel excluded. For this reason it is the **policy** of the school **not to allow invitations** to be distributed in school. It is also important to understand that for reasons of confidentiality and Child Protection it is **NOT** possible for school staff to provide names or other details of pupils.



School Insurance

Thanks to all who returned insurance slips and monies. Please ensure that all families have submitted slips to Mrs McGourty.

Sport

Congratulations to the U-12 girls and U-14 boys on their win at the beginning of September.

Well done to the Kiltubrid Ladies on winning the Ladies County Final against Aughavas. It was a pleasure to welcome you here to share in the celebrations.

Training with Pat O'Toole (Leitrim Sports partnership) will take place for 6 consecutive weeks starting on Thursday September 22nd from 2nd class upwards. Please ensure your child has their runners on that day as it will take place in G.P in the event of rain.

Fundraising

The support for the School Raffle has gone into decline. We intend to hold **4 Monster Raffles** at Hallowe'en, Christmas, Easter and Summer. Your support and cooperation is appreciated greatly. The monies raised will subsidise as many events as possible throughout the school year.

After School Activity for Children

“Compass Club by Coillte run after school clubs to help children freely explore and learn outdoor skills and discover their strengths in a magical woodland setting”-
Contact their local representative in Leitrim Donal Kennedy at 0870966024 or e-mail donal.kennedy@compassclub.ie for further information.

Sean Nos Dancing.

This takes place in Aughnasheel-in Hall on Sat mornings from 10-11am. All ages and levels welcome. For more information contact Julie @ 0863400086 or julie0813reynolds@gmail.com

Parent Teacher Meetings

These will take place on **Tues 15th & Wed 16th Nov.** Notification will be sent to parents/guardians as to times and dates to attend closer to the time.

Maths Week

Each year we celebrate Maths week in our school. This year it takes place from October 15th - 23rd 2016.
Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí!!



School Photographer

The school photographer will visit on **Tues, Oct 18th**

Labelling of Personal Property

Please ensure you label children's jumpers and coats and personal property. Labels for all these items can be purchased online by contacting **info@mynametags.ie**

Morning and Afternoon Supervision

This takes place from 9.05 – 9.20a.m & 3.00 – 3.25p.m (approx) or when the last bus load leaves. **This is intended only for children who are awaiting buses.** We request that children who are collected are picked up promptly.

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School Policies

All updated policies will be available on the school website at www.drumcongns.ie having been ratified by the Board of Management.

Talk Sense – Empowering Parents-Enabling Children

We bring to your attention a workshop for parents facilitated by an occupational therapist Tanya McGarry and Helen Ruane a speech and language therapist.

Where: The Creggan Court Hotel, N6 Centre, Athlone

When: Saturday October 1st 2016 10a.m-4p.m (Lunch is provided)

Cost: €150 (limited number of concession places available)

Contact: Tanya McGarry OT 0857252579

Helen Ruane SLT 0871235497

E-mail: talksensetherapy@gmail.com

Booking is essential to guarantee a place.

School Calendar

A copy of this was sent to all families, bus drivers and staff at the end of June. Please ensure you check it from time to time to keep informed of school closures. If changes occur Mrs McGourty will inform you by text message.

Parent's Association

Any Parent wishing to become a member of the Parent's Association, please contact the committee by email: saintbrigid-spa@gmail.com. The role of the Parent's Association is of benefit to the enhancement of the school community.

Book Bills

Thank you to everyone who has paid so promptly for the rental books supplied – it is very much appreciated. As usual our supplier has to be paid by the end of the month in full and we request payment at your earliest convenience. As you are aware we have changed our system and the school will no longer supply books that children will write in. We are very grateful for your cooperation.

Homework

Our homework policy is under review and we will ask you for your opinions and suggestions to help us update this. Homework is given as a link between school and home and should not be viewed as a burden. We notice that **homework is not** being completed or presented to a standard acceptable especially in the upper classes. Please check your child's homework and sign it.

Confirmation

This will take place on Sunday March 12th @3p.m in St Brigid's Church for pupils in 5th and 6th who are to receive this sacrament.

Student Council

The student council will have their first meeting of the school year on the 7th of October. Two children from each classroom represent the views of their peers. The infant teachers will convey the concerns of the infants to the Student Council. The council will meet regularly to discuss any issues of concern to the children. The student council contributes to the welfare and happiness of all pupils. The recurring concern that comes up at these meetings is the use of bad language and bad behaviour in the yard and on the buses. Thus the student council will bring ideas of how they may support and promote good behaviour among their peers

Summer works 2016

Each Summer Mrs White organises the upgrade and maintenance of the school. This year we returned to a building with fresh paint on the windows and the doors to most classrooms painted, new brightly coloured notice boards in all rooms. We have our General Purpose room back with a freshly sanded floor. It is all our responsibility to help maintain this and not damage school property. The children and staff are delighted with the new look. Thank you to Mrs White and your team of elves. Thanks to our caretaker who had the place sparkling clean on September 1st. This work does not go unnoticed.

Music

We welcome back Mr. Pádraig Sweeney who gives tin whistle lessons in our school. Music takes place on Wednesdays so please ensure your child has their tin whistle and note copy with them for music.

Other Dates for your Diary

Texts are sent out to inform and remind you of these events

The school will close for In-service training for the implementation of the Primary Language Curriculum **Monday November 14th 2016.**