

### Green Schools

#### **WEEE Battery Recycling Pledge**

This programme encourages school communities to recycle waste batteries in blue WEEE Ireland battery boxes supplied to the school.

We are entering year 2 of the theme Global Citizenship – Marine Environment to receive our 8th Green Flag.

### Homework

Our homework policy is under review. 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.

### School Buses

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

### ATTENTION PARENTS: Late Arrivals/Early Leavers

Please sign **Late Arrival/Early Finisher** forms in Mrs McGourty's office in the event of your child arriving late or having to go home early for any reason. If a child arrives **after 9.30a.m** they are deemed **late**. If they arrive **after 10.30a.m** they are considered absent unless the school has been informed beforehand. **Our roll call is now completed on our upgraded computerised system.** Please be advised that this **cannot be altered** once filled in each day.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Rachel Keane, Nicola Heslin, Fidelma Glancy, Michéal McKiernan, Gearóidín Ní Chonghaile, Sinead Beirne, Noelle Igoe, Claire O'Reilly, Geraldine McWeeney, Mary Scott, Iolanda Gaffney and Christina McGourty.

### Change of Numbers/Addresses

Please contact Mrs McGourty (School Secretary) between **9.30 a.m** and **3.00p.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. This is very important in the event of an accident or unforeseen event.

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 to Mrs McGourty. These folders are given to the oldest of each family. Other communication will be written in children's journal regarding individual class or teacher's business so please check your children's journals when signing their homework.

### Athletics

Ballinamore Athletic Club training resumes Monday October 2nd @ 7.00pm in Sports Hall, St Felim's grounds. Further details and membership application form available at ballinamore-lass@gmail.com

## St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Newsletter Sept 2017



Phone (071) 9642315

Email: [drumcongns@eircom.net](mailto:drumcongns@eircom.net)

Website: [www.drumcongns.ie](http://www.drumcongns.ie)



Dear Parents/Guardians,

September is here again! We welcome all staff, parents and pupils for the new academic year 2017/2018. We extend a special welcome to our 20 new Junior Infants – Céad Míle Fáilte do: Eli Ballintine, Rachel Bohan, Keelan Breeze, Samuel Conroy, Ava Foley, Niamh Harte, Leah Keaveney, Rían Mahon, Liam Meehan, Ethan McCrann, Anthony McGovern, Ruairi McKiernan, Cian McNabola, Sean McWeeney, Éabha O'Donoghue Byrne, Michael Prior Kellegher, Alesha Ruddy, Amelia Scollan, Danny Scollan, Lily-Mae Scollan We wish you all well as you begin your academic journey through primary school

### 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.

#### **A date to be added to calendar:**

The school will close for In -service training for the implementation of the Oral Language Primary Curriculum on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

### 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 colour 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.

### Student Council

A new council will be elected in the coming week and a representative will be elected from each classroom except the infants. The infant teachers will convey the concerns of the infants to Ms McGowan.

The council will meet once a month 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.

### **Staffing Arrangements for 2017/2018**

Mrs A White: Administrative Principal  
Ms F. McGowan: (Deputy Principal) Support Teacher  
Ms O. McHugh: (Special Duties Post-Holder) Support Teacher  
Mrs G Flynn (Shared Support Teacher)  
Ms S.Beirne 6<sup>th</sup> Class  
Mrs N. Heslin: 5<sup>th</sup> Class  
Mr M. McKiernan: 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class  
Mrs N Igoo: 2nd/3rd  
Ms F. Glancy: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Mrs R Keane /Mrs C O'Reilly: Senior Infants/1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Ms.G Ní Chonghaile: Junior Infants  
Mrs McGourty: Secretary  
Mrs G McWeeney, Ms I Gaffney and Mrs M. Scott (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 missing for more than 20 days, the school is obliged to report this to Tusla- The **Child and Family Agency**.

### **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

### **NEPS Psychologists' Assessments**

Please note: The school is given one free assessment every year. The school in turn prioritises a pupil, which is usually a senior pupil before they leave for secondary school. If a parent has been advised to have a child assessed and want to do so privately, please contact the school and we can help to arrange it.

### **Leitrim Observer Photographer**

Willie Donnellan visited our Junior Infant room on Monday Sept 11th. A supplement with photographs of all new Junior Infants in Co. Leitrim will be published in the coming weeks.

### **Fundraising**

The support for the regular School Raffle has gone into decline. At the staff meeting it was decided to have a dress- up day and a cake sale at Hallowe'en. A notice will be sent prior to this event. We will hold a big raffle at Christmas for all pupils. The monies raised will subsidise as many events as possible throughout the school year.

### **School Policies**

All updated policies will be available on the school website at [www.drumcongns.ie](http://www.drumcongns.ie) having been ratified by the Board of Management.

### **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.

### **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 open. 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, parents will understand that 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, Child Protection and Data Protection it is **NOT** possible to provide names or other details of pupils. Teachers **will not** give out names, address or contact details of pupils.

### **Stay Safe/R.S.E and Social Personal and Health Education**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September we had a visit from Ms Lisa Noone who is a facilitator with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). She modelled lessons on aspects of teaching children to deal with feelings and emotions through talk and discussion and games. Teachers were presented with the new revised Stay Safe Programme in the afternoon.

### **School Insurance**

Thanks to all who returned insurance slips and monies. Please ensure that all families have submitted slips & money to Mrs McGourty in the next few days. Closing date has been extended to Wed Oct 4th

### **Sport**

Congratulations to our past pupil Michaela Judge who was selected to play in the Exhibition Game in Croke Park on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. She wore the red and green colours of her club Kiltubrid and Mayo proudly on that day.

Training with **Pat O'Toole (Leitrim Sports partnership)** will take place for 6 consecutive weeks starting on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3rd class upwards.

### **Heritage Week**

This year we will have a heritage specialist Mr Aidan Dockery come visit us for 5 days over a 2-week period. All the children will be given the opportunity to discuss local history and geography and this will be developed through story, recitations and language. He will bring his collection of World War 1 artefacts that belonged to his granduncle and discuss this with the senior classes.

### **After School Activity for Children**

Piano Lessons are available in The Piano Centre in Ballinamore, –Contact Gerarda ALCM 087 7828573 Junior-Senior Level taught.

### **The Dock –Youth Workshops and Events**

There are a number of different art/music making workshops starting in The Dock and running from the end of September through to November. Contact the Dock @071965028 or log onto [www.thedock.ie](http://www.thedock.ie) for more information.

### **Maths Week**

Each year we celebrate Maths week in our school. This year it takes place from October 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Mol an óige agus tóicfaidh sí!!

### **School Photographer**

The school photographer will visit on **Tues, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **Morning and After-noon Supervision**

We wish to bring to your attention the morning yard supervision commences @ 9.05am and in the evening from 3.00-3.25pm. If raining, children are asked to go into the shelter. The supervising teacher will take them into the hall @ 9.05. **Evening supervision is intended only for children who are awaiting buses.** We request that children who are collected by car are picked up promptly.

### **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 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. A special congratulations to the following children who missed no days last year: Niamh McWeeney, Katie Scollan, Daniel Houghton, Emma McWeeney, Layla Lupton, Leona Meehan, Sennan Lee, Ella Gilmartin & Jamie Jack Mitchell Norman. Well done to all!!

### **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](mailto:info@mynametags.ie)

We have a collection of good coats and hats left from last year. Please ask your child to go to Mrs White and claim any items mislaid from last term, otherwise they will be given to the local charity shop.

### **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.

The parking areas outside the school are intended as set down areas only. This is particularly true at the side gate. Parking here obstructs the traffic from Naomh Bríd Estate.

From time to time the school may have to close early for staff meetings and we request that parents **do not park or obstruct** the bus lanes at any time as happened on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept last. (day of staff meeting)

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

These will take place on **Tues 21<sup>st</sup> & Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov from 7-9pm**. Notification will be sent to parents/guardians as to times and dates to attend closer to the time.

### **Sean Nos Dancers.**

Congratulations to Nathan, Katie and Niamh who came first in the National Community Games recently. Comhghairdeas libh!!

### **Youth Mental Health Talks for Parents, Leitrim.**

1. Communicating with Pre-teen/teenager.

Talk by Alan Gregory (NEPS Psychologist)

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> Oct in Carrick-on-Shannon Ed Centre from 7-9pm

2. Cyber Bullying: Talk by Mary Hough

Date 12<sup>th</sup> Oct in Carrick-on-Shannon Ed Centre from 7-9pm

To book a place use online booking system@ [www.carrickedcentre.ie](http://www.carrickedcentre.ie) or phone 0719620383 or email [info@carrickedcentre.ie](mailto:info@carrickedcentre.ie)

**SEE LEITRIM OBSERVER FOR MORE DETAILS**

### **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 in full by the end of the month. 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.

### **Cyberbullying**

As part of our anti bullying policy we are addressing issues that arise from time to time and following from our cyberbullying workshop for children and parents last April we are bringing to your attention [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) On this site you can log onto the parent's page and find the latest updates and information about keeping your children safe on the internet.

