

August 31<sup>st</sup> 09

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Céad Míle fáilte ar ais-and a special welcome to all those who are joining us for the first time. We hope that you all settle in happily to Scoil an Linbh Iosa and that the time you spend with us will be a time full of friendship, learning and fun.

We are delighted to welcome Kathy Casey to our teaching staff. Kathy will be teaching 4<sup>th</sup> class.

We have been very busy over the holidays with school improvements. We have installed CCTV cameras and extended the staff carpark. We are working on our IT system and we are delighted to announce that we now have interactive whiteboards(IWBs) in 13 classrooms. Our thanks to the William Power Trust who made this possible. We are also grateful to the PTA for their contribution. Looking ahead it is our hope that we will be able to raise sufficient funds this year to install IWBs in the remaining 5 classrooms. We will, as always be looking for more people to join our fundraising team. If you are interested, please contact us here in the school.

### **Tús Maith Leath na hOibre**

It is good to start the new school year with a positive attitude and a commitment to doing the right things.

- Please make sure that your child is on time.
- Follow up on homework
- Encourage your child to adhere to the school rules and healthy eating policy.
- Promote walking and always park away from the school, never on the footpath
- Contact the office if you have not yet paid office sundries
- Remember to access the school website for updates
- Come to the AGM of the PTA towards the end of the month
- Follow the guidelines re swine flu as outlined overleaf
- Only the Junior Infants are to be accompanied into the school building for the first couple of weeks. It is important to allow all others to find their own way and to be independent.

### **School Lunches**

In as far as it is possible please try to ensure that your child brings his/her own lunch every day. Late lunches can be left at the admin office and will be collected by the children, not delivered to classrooms by the office staff.

## **Good Practice in relation to Pandemic(H1N1)2009 (Swineflu)**

Be aware of:

### 1. Symptoms

Dry cough, sore throat, aches/pains, headaches, runny nose, severe weakness/fatigue, vomiting, diarrhoea

### 2. How it spreads

Coughing/sneezing

Touching something that has been contaminated and then touching eyes/nose/mouth

### 3. Protection

Most important is Good Health Habits to stop the spread of germs. Teach children to:

- cover mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing
- use tissue once and dispose of it (dustbin is fine)
- wash hands frequently with soap and water (alcohol hand gel is required only when there is no access to hand washing facilities)
- use paper towels
- stay 1 metre away from someone who is sick

Here in Scoil an Linbh Iosa we will be reinforcing those good habits. We will also be taking the following measures:

- engaging the children in an SPHE lesson appropriate to their understanding
- encouraging/monitoring of handwashing / drying
- Demonstrating good hand washing and drying
- Affirming good behaviour
- Paper towels will be used, soap is available in all classrooms
- boxes of disposable tissues will be available in all rooms, bins will be emptied daily
- alcohol hand gel will be available
- door handles will be leaned daily

## **Dates for your calendar**

- *Parents/Guardians of Junior Infants: Thursday , September 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m*
- *Staff Meeting: Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> : Children will be going home at 2p.m*
- *Referendum Oct.2<sup>nd</sup>(school will be closed)*

Calendar for the year will be issued shortly.

## **Medical Concerns**

Please let us know if there are any special requirements in relation to your child's health.

If you have any concern at all in relation to your child's learning or welfare, please make an appointment and come and talk to us. We are here to help and we share your concerns.

Mary Kavanagh

