

Scoil an Linbh Íosa News (Sept 2015)

Prosperous, Naas, Co. Kildare

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Fáilte

Céad míle fáilte ar ais ar scoil and a very special welcome to all those who are joining us for the first time –our new pupils, their families and staff. A special welcome to Fr. Bill Kemmy who will be working closely with us in the year ahead. We hope that he is happy in Prosperous and enjoys his time with us.

We hope that you all, adults and children alike, are all settling in well and that you already have a sense of belonging to a school that is warm and welcoming .We are very pleased that we managed to have the whole school freshly painted and thoroughly cleaned over the holidays. We are very grateful to all those involved and, on your behalf, I would like to thank all the staff who cut short their holidays to ensure that the whole school was ship shape for the start of term.

All the children are adjusting to their new classes. Change is not always easy and transitions can be challenging. We do our best to make the transitions as smooth as possible and if you have any concern in relation to your child, please come and talk to us. If it matters to you, then it matters to us.

Relationships are important to us and we want to build positive relationships with you and your children. For this to happen we need to be open with each other and to share our knowledge and our experiences. Shaping the lives of children is an awesome responsibility and can be most easily accomplished when school and home work together.

Ar Scáth a Chéile a Mhairimid

*I dreamed I stood in a studio
and watched the sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind,
and they fashioned it with care.*

*One was a teacher;
the tools he used were books, and music, and art.
One, a parent with a guiding hand,
and a gentle, loving heart.*

*Day after day the teacher toiled,
with touch that was deft and sure,
While the parents laboured by his side
and polished and smoothed it o'er.*

*And when at last their task was done,
they were proud of what they had wrought.
For this thing they had molded in the child
could neither be sold nor bought.*

*And each agreed he would have failed
if he had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school
and behind the teacher, the home*

Good Practice

Punctuality:

It is important that we are all on time for school. It is understandable that we can be occasionally late, but it is not good practice to be consistently late. It can be very upsetting for children and can impact negatively on the rest of the day. Sometimes, it can be difficult to get children out on time and their behaviour might be telling us something. If it's an issue for you come and talk to us.

Healthy Eating: One small treat on Friday.

WOW and WOF : Walk when you can, park away from the school

Road Safety: Promote the safe cross code and be sure that your child knows how to cross at the pedestrian crossing.

Attendance: Good attendance promotes learning and friendships

Homework: Please read the policy. We do not want homework to impact negatively on your evening.

Reading: Please make reading a priority- read to your child or have your child read to you.

Mobile phones: There is an increasing number of young children bringing a mobile phone to school. This is not something that we encourage. Even though we collect them in the mornings, we are not taking responsibility for them. We are merely trying to minimise distractions. Should a phone go missing, we will not be following up on it. We recommend that mobiles be left at home, except in exceptional circumstances.

Screen Time

The findings of the Growing Up In Ireland (2013) show that:

- Higher levels of educational achievement were associated with less screen time
- There was a clear relationship between the amount of screen time and the BMI status of the 5 year olds
- A child's behavioural difficulties was linked to long periods of 'screen-time' (television, video games or on the internet).

Board of Management

The current Board of Management is now at the end of its 4 year term and in October we will begin the process of selecting a new board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our present board for both their individual and collective contributions. Being a board member is an onerous position, demanding both time and commitment. It is also very worthwhile and it allows those involved the opportunity to play a very active role in the life of the school.

This board accomplished a lot over its term. As well as managing the school and its resources and promoting and supporting the school ethos, the board were also instrumental in the building of the new classrooms and providing the astro play area.

As principal I have been blessed to have had the support of such a talented and dedicated group of people who showed such generosity of spirit and such kindness. I would like to say a sincere thank you to Declan O'Brien (Chairperson), Conor Carmody, Michael Garry, Fergal Crehan, Rosarii Naughton, Ger Ennis and Mary O'Shea. There will be more about setting up the new board later.