

Scoil Náisiúnta Chaisleáin Uí Liatháin

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Issue 07/2019

Nuachtlitir

(Tús na Scoilbhliana - 2019 / 2020)

- **Fáilte ar ais:** Fáilte romhaibh ar ais ar scoil tar éis saoire an tsamhraidh. We would like to welcome everyone back after the summer holidays and we look forward to working closely with you, as partners in the education of your child, during the coming school year. A special welcome to all the new pupils who are starting in Castlelyons NS this year and to our new teacher, Mr Alan Baragry (Rang 5) , who replaces Mr Smith. Tá súil againn go mbeidh tú sona sásta i Scoil Náisiúnta Chaisleáin Uí Liatháin, Alan.
- **Comhbhrón:** We extend sincere sympathy to Ms Cummins (Teacher) and the extended Murray Family on the recent death of her grandfather, Frank Murray RIP (Castlelyons). Also, to John McCarthy (Caretaker) and the extended McCarthy Family on the recent death of his aunt, Mary McCarthy RIP (Youghal). Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha dílse.
- **Comhghairdeas:** We extend our congratulations to Mr Smith on his appointment as principal to South Abbey National School, Youghal. John started here in Castlelyons NS, coming from Castlelack NS, in November 2011 due to a large increase in pupil numbers at the time. During his time here, Mr Smith taught in mainstream classes (mainly Rang 2) and also in the support teacher setting. John was a highly organised, quiet-spoken teacher with a relaxed amicable disposition and was very well-liked by pupils, parents and staff alike.
I wish, on behalf of the entire school community, to thank John sincerely for his contribution to the school during his eight years here and also to wish him every success in his new school and role as principal. Guimís gach rath ort, a John sa todhchaí. Go n-éirí go geal leat!
- **Comhghairdeas:** We extend our heartiest congratulations to Miss Forde (teacher Rang 2) who got engaged recently. Best wishes to you both on your engagement. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh is go n-éirí an grá libh is má éiríonn an grá libh, beidh an t-ádh libh!
- **Seoladh//Uimhir Ghuthain:** Please inform Carmel in the office immediately if you made any changes to your contact details and/or your emergency contact details during the summer. Thanking you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.
- **Seoladh e-phost Nua:** We are in the process of phasing out our ias@eircom.net e-mail address (due to problems with Eir). While the ias@eircom.net address is still in operation, we encourage you to use our new address castlelyonsns@gmail.com in future. Go raibh maith agaibh.
- **Aifreann Thús na Bliana:** - We will attend a Beginning of the School Year Mass in the church (9.45am) next Tues. 3rd Sept. weather permitting. (Fáilte roimh chách/All welcome).
- **Foirgneamh Nua:** After a long wait, we are delighted that we have finally moved into our new extension today with Mr Cremin's Rang 6 occupying the mainstream classroom, Miss Barry's "Le Cheile" occupying one of the special classrooms and Ms Feeney occupying the new support teacher room. The other special class remains unoccupied at present but we hope to open the second special class next September, (2020). We will also have the sensory equipment installed in our new sensory room in the very near future. Please feel free to pop into the school over the next couple of days, either first thing in the morning (i.e. 9.30 – 10.00) or between 2.00 and 3.00 pm to see the extension.
- **Child Safeguarding:** The Board of Management has reviewed, adopted and fully implements, without modification, the Department of Education's "Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools", in relation to Child Safeguarding as per the terms of Circular 0081/2017. Consequently, if there are matters of concern in relation to abuse of children, we are obliged to report this to Tusla (Child & Family Agency) and /or An Garda Síochána.

- **Evening Echo Women’s Mini Marathon School Fundraiser:** We are asking parents and pupils (past and present) and the wider Castlelyons community to support the school by participating in this year’s 5K Mini Marathon in Cork on **Sunday 22nd September at 1.00pm**, and fundraise to purchase equipment for all special needs children in the school as well as the construction of an enclosed soft-surfaced play area with equipment. Details of how to register etc. are outlined below.

Although it’s a *women’s* mini marathon, lads, ye can get involved also!

I’d like to thank Elaine Millar (SNA) setting up the “gofundme” page on our school blog.

* Registration (€16) on-line at www.minimarathon.eveningecho.ie (This registration fee does not support the school).

* You can donate / fundraise by requesting a Sponsorship Card from the school or preferably by the “gofundme” link on our school blog at www.castlelyonsns.com . So hurry and register asap.

- **Anti-Bullying:**

The Board of Management has reviewed the school’s Anti-Bullying Policy in accordance with the Department of Education’s “Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary/Post-Primary Schools” and Circular 0045/2013. All instances of any form of bullying behaviour that are witnessed or reported to the staff will be dealt with in accordance with this policy. Let us all promote our School Motto / Anti-Bullying Code: “The Golden Rule – Always treat others as you would like them to treat you”.

- **Fiche lá as láthair / School Attendance and Punctuality:** We wish to remind parents of the school’s obligation under the Education Welfare Act 1998 to report to Tusla, (Child & Family Agency), any child’s absence from school of 20 days or greater , for whatever reason, over the course of the school year. Under the terms of Department Circular, 0028 / 2013, any child absent for 20 *consecutive* days will have his/her name struck off the Roll Book. It is necessary that a note, **signed, dated** and giving the **reason** for absence is forwarded to your child’s teacher in the event that your child is absent from school. Please use the notes at the back of your child’s School Diary (Rang 1- 6). Remember, every day counts.

Along with regular school attendance, we also remind parents and pupils of the importance of **punctuality**. All pupils should have assembled in the school yard by the 9.20 a.m. bell. We will continue to monitor pupils who ***arrive late for school regularly*** and will contact parents of individual pupils where a pattern of late arrival develops.

Underneath is an extract from our School Attendance Strategy which parents need to be mindful of when taking children out of school during term time for family holidays. We ask that the procedures outlined in such circumstances be followed.

- * **Extract from: “School Attendance Strategy” re. children’s absences**

* Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child is at school on every day that the school is open unless there is a genuine reason for absence, (The Education Welfare Act, 2000 – Section 17).

Consequently, we strongly disapprove of parents taking children on holidays during term time.

* Parents are encouraged to:

- i) Set high standards for their child in relation to attendance and punctuality;
- ii) Engage with the school if there is a problem about their child’s attendance and support plans to address the problem;
- iii) Ensure that their child regularly attends and arrives at school on time;
- iv) Avoid taking their child out of class unless there is a serious / genuine reason;
- v) Avoid taking their child on holidays during term time.

* In the case of a child being absent from school, parents are required to explain the absence by way of, (i) a phone call or text message for brief absences, giving the *reason* for absence or (ii) a written note for prolonged absences, again, giving the *reason* for absence. The school may request confirmation in writing of a phone call/text message.

* *If a parent decides to take their child out of school for holidays during term time, a letter must be forwarded to the principal in advance of the absence, stating that the child will be absent and specifying the dates and reason for absence and that the parents are aware of the educational implications for their child.* Parents need to be aware of the educational and potential legal impact of removing children from school for regular holiday absences.

- **Rialacha na Scoile (School Rules and Expectations):** I would ask parents to please revise the school's Code of Behaviour and Discipline with your child and also make your child familiar with "Rialacha na Scoile / School Rules and Expectations". These are printed in your child's School Diary (Rang 1- 6). We'd like in particular to bring to your attention point (2.3), which states, "It is essential that the children be on time for school every day. The school will open to receive pupils at 9.20 a.m. (Assembly). Classes commence each day at 9.40 a.m.

Classes end each day at: (a) 2.00 p.m. for Infants.

(b) 3.00 p.m. for all other classes.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their child is delivered at 9.20 a.m. and collected at the appropriate time as (a) and (b) above. The school cannot accept responsibility for children before or after these times. In the case of children travelling by the school bus, the school cannot accept responsibility for escorting them from the bus to the school or from the school to the bus. Those parents who feel that their children need to be escorted on these occasions should make arrangements to ensure that some escort is provided". **It is important that children are not dropped off too early to school and so remain unsupervised in the school playground and collected at the appropriate time, (i.e. 2 pm or 3 pm).**

- **Bainne:** The subsidised school milk scheme will cost €15.00 this term. If you wish your child to avail of milk at school please forward the money **on or before next Thursday, 5th September.** **All monies should be put in a sealed envelope with the child's name, class and amount clearly marked.** Please note that **no orders** can be taken for milk **after this date.** We encourage children to avail of this scheme as part of our Health Promoting School.
- **Éide Scoile:** Please ensure that your child wears **full uniform** on **Mondays and Tuesdays.** The **school tracksuit** can be worn on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.** (Classes going swimming during this term can wear their tracksuit on that day).
- **Pearcáil:** We ask parents to leave the wheel-chair designated parking slot, (and the bus / Taxi parking slot at the front gate), **accessible at all times.** Your co-operation in this is much appreciated. Also, in the interest of children's safety, please use the community car-park when dropping / collecting children **and please do not park on the road by the entrance to the teachers' car-park / Fr Ferris Community car-park when collecting children in the afternoon** as this causes an obstruction to others' view entering/exiting the car parks.
- **Obair Bhaile / Homework / Supervised Classes**
 - i) **Supervised classes (Rang 1-6)** will commence next **Monday, 2nd Sept. (3 – 4 p.m.)**
 - ii) Please refer to our Homework Policy (along with the tips on the back inside cover of the Homework Diary, Rang 1-6), regarding your child's homework. If you find that your child is having difficulty with homework, please make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the matter, **as soon as you notice a *pattern* of difficulty developing.**
- **Fadhbanna Sláinte:** If your child develops a medical condition which we weren't aware of previously, it is vitally important that you inform your child's class teacher **immediately.**

- **Lóin Shláintiúla:** We renew our request that parents are vigilant regarding food with nuts/nut traces as well as white fish and shell fish in your child's lunch, as we have children with severe allergies in the school, which could be life-threatening. We respectfully renew our request for your support and co-operation in this matter, throughout the **entire school**.
We intend to continue with our drive on healthy eating in the school this year as part of our Health Promoting School Policy but we can only achieve this with your support encouragement and. **We request that treats are not given to children in their lunches, but instead, more nutritious food.** Thanking you in anticipation of your co-operation. Bí sláintiúil le bia sláintiúil!
- **Scoil Ghlas:** We will continue with our Green School initiatives and encourage all parents and pupils to support our campaigns of (i) Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, (ii) Conserve water, (iii) Conserve energy, (iv) WOW – Walk on Wednesday, (v) Biodiversity and Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste. We intend to develop a school garden during the coming year from funds received from the 1916 Commemoration Committee.
- **Cuirí Breithlaethanta:** Please do not ask teachers to distribute Birthday Party Invitations to children. We suggest that such invitations are distributed **privately and not in school**. Go raibh maith agaibh.
- **Iasacht Leabhar:** Book Rental notes will issue shortly. Please forward money in a **sealed envelope with child's name, class and amount clearly marked by Friday, 27th September**. Alternatively, you may pay in instalments of €10.00 per week over a number of weeks.
- **Garda Vetting:** As we seek parental support regularly for such things as station teaching / swimming pool supervision / travelling to matches etc. etc. in the school, it is now compulsory to have any adults involved in any school related activities Garda vetted for child safeguarding reasons. Therefore, we would encourage and appreciate as many parents as possible, who would be willing to be Garda vetted for the purposes of assisting in school-related activities, would apply for Garda Vetting through the school. Unfortunately, vetting for another organisation (e.g. GAA etc.) is not acceptable for the school, as per government legislation. We would encourage parents to apply for vetting for the school. Application forms are available from the school on request. Thank you to all those parents who have already completed the vetting application process.
- **Meáchan na Málaí Scoile:** Please ensure that your child doesn't carry any *unnecessary* items, (e.g. magazines etc.), in his / her school bag and so reduce its weight.
- **Nuachtlitreacha eile:** Further Newsletters throughout the year (except for the final Newsletters in June) will issue on our school blog (www.castlelyonsns.com), in order to meet our commitment to being a Green School. We will issue a text to alert parents each time a new Nuachtlitr has been published on our blog.
- **Bord Bainistíochta:** The Board of Management is charged with the running of the school for the Department of Education and the school Patron, Bishop William Crean. The Board is comprised of eight members, namely:

Dónal O'Connell (Chairman/Patron's nominee);	Marie Murphy (Community nominee);
Fr Gerard Coleman PP, (Patron's nominee);	Claire Quirke (Community nominee);
Elaine Murphy (Parents' nominee);	Fiona Murphy (Teachers' nominee);
Allen Cotter (Parents' nominee/treasurer);	Nelius de Róiste (Principal/Secretary to BoM).

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Nelius de Róiste (Príomhoide)