

- **Fáilte ar ais! / Welcome back!:** Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais ar scoil. We would like to welcome everyone back to school after a very long break due to the Coronavirus pandemic and we look forward to working closely with all parents, as partners in the education of your child, during the coming school year.

You have all received and read by now I'm sure, the Logistics Plan for Reopening our School. We hope you understand that there is a certain element of trial and error around the reopening of all schools this year. While a lot of time, consultation and planning, on behalf of the staff/Board of Management (BoM) went into drawing up this plan, we will not know how well the plan works until we put it into practice and therefore, aspects of the plan may need to be changed.

As we are all in this together, I'm sure you will bear with us and support us in every way possible in adhering to the details of the plan as after all, our common goal is to ensure that the school remains open and that your child's re-engagement with education is successful.

If you're in any doubt as to whether your child should attend school or not due to Covid -19 family situations, please follow the public advice on the DES/HSE websites or take advice from your family GP/HSE.

- **Mrs O'Regan (SNA) / Mrs Foley (SET) ag éirí as:**

I wish to inform you that Mrs Angela O'Regan (SNA) has announced her intention to retire on Friday 11th September. Mrs O'Regan is with us since 2007 and has assisted pupils with special needs in achieving their full potential in our school since then. Not alone that, she has also given willingly of her musical talents to school events such as Communion & Confirmation ceremonies, Christmas Carol Services etc. to name but a few. I wish, on behalf of the entire school community, to thank you Angela sincerely for your work, help and support of our pupils and our school down through the years and we wish you a long and happy retirement for many years to come. Go raibh saol fada sona agat i dteannta Anthony, d'fhear céile agus do chlann sna blianta atá romhainn.

I also wish to inform you that Mrs Foley (special education teacher -SET) has also announced her retirement at the beginning of October. (More details on Mrs Foley's retirement in the next Nuachtlitir).

We intend to mark both occasions when the pandemic restrictions are eased at a later stage.

- **Fáilte:** A special welcome to all our new pupils, both Junior Infants and pupils starting in other classes and new staff members who are starting in Castlelyons NS for the first time this year. We extend a "Céad Míle Fáilte" to Miss Jennifer Cahill, new teacher of Rang 4. Jennifer's appointment is based on the allocation of another teaching post due to the opening of a second special class in the school this year. We also extend a "Céad Míle Fáilte" to Ms. Phil McGrath (SNA) who will replace Mrs O'Regan when she retires on 11th September and another "Céad Míle Fáilte" to

Miss Róisín McLaughlin (teacher) who will replace Mrs Foley when she retires at the beginning of October. Tá súil againn go mbeidh sibh go léir sona sásta i Scoil Náisiúnta Chaisleáin Uí Liatháin.

- **Comhbhrón:** We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs O'Regan and to all members of the Hegarty & O'Flynn families on the death of her brother Fr Pete Hegarty recently and also on the death of her brother-in-law, Ted O'Flynn recently. Beannacht Dé lena n-anamnacha uaisle.
- **Meabhrú / Gentle Reminder (Extract from Logistics Plan)**

Staggered arrival / finishing times will apply for **all** pupils, (except for those children travelling by bus / taxi), for the purposes of physical distancing, from Tuesday 1st September until further notice, as follows:

Arrival Times:

- a) Family Surnames: A – G arrive at 9.00 am & have moved off from carpark by 9.10am
- b) Family Surnames: H – N arrive at 9.15am & have moved off from carpark by 9.25am
- c) Family Surnames: O – Z arrive at 9.30am & have moved off from carpark by 9.40am

N.B. Families with double-barrel surnames will arrive / leave at times outlined based on the second surname

* Pupils must not arrive in school before 9.00am

* All pupils, (except for those travelling by bus or taxi who will enter through the front gate), will use the upper gate from Fr Ferris Community Car-park when entering & leaving the school.

* Families of two or more children should enter and leave together as a family unit.

* All pupils should be encouraged, as far as possible, to come into school by themselves from the upper gate, keeping to the left side of the pathway, following the ground signage.

* In exceptional circumstances, if an adult *must* accompany a child into the school yard, please:

- (i) keep to the left side of the pathway as you enter, following the ground signage;
- (ii) leave your child at the corner where the pathway opens out into the front yard;
- (iii) do not stop or wait at that point and;
- (iv) leave immediately, going out the way you came in, keeping to the left side of the pathway, following the ground signage as you leave.

* All pupils will go straight to their classroom on arrival (where they will be supervised by a teacher).

* All pupils will be required to use hand sanitiser (provided) on entering their classroom each morning as well as at various intervals throughout the day along with regular handwashing (soap provided) throughout the day also, guided by the teacher / SNA where necessary.

Finishing Times:

- a) Family of Surnames: A - G to be collected at 2.40pm
- b) Family of Surnames: H - N to be collected at 2.50pm
- c) Family of Surnames: O – Z to be collected at 3.00 pm
- d) Junior Infants to be collected at 1.50pm
- e) Senior Infants to be collected at 2.00pm
- f) Pupils travelling by bus / taxi will leave at their usual time of 3.00pm

Collection of Children During the School Day / Forgotten Items:

If a child has to be collected from school during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply:

The parent / guardian collecting the child should inform the school (i.e. class teacher and / or secretary 025-36220 / 086-4112889) at the earliest possible opportunity of becoming aware that the child has to be collected.

- When the adult collecting the child arrives at the school, they should phone the office from their car to alert us that they have arrived.
- The child will be brought from their class to the main front door area by a staff member to meet the adult collecting the child.
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out at the main front door area (outside if it's dry / immediately inside if it's wet).
- No adult, (other than school staff), should enter the school building unless invited to do so and / or by prior appointment
- If a pupil forgets some item and a parent/guardian has to deliver it to the school, the same procedure as above will apply, (i.e. phone the school from the car to alert us that you have arrived outside and we will make arrangements for delivery / collection).
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email, or by phoning the school office.

• **Personal Equipment:**

- It is *absolutely essential* that all children bring their own pens, pencils, crayons / colours, rubbers, toppers etc. to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. They will be required to leave their pencil case & its contents in school and so should have another supply at home.
- All items should be labelled with the child's name for ease of identification.
- For children in Junior and Senior Infants, the school will provide a container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons, etc., and which will be labelled with their name. Pupils in these classes will also leave these items in school and so will need a second supply at home.
- It is also essential that all children (including Junior and Senior Infants) bring a small hand towel and tissues to school in a plastic bag (e.g. zip-lock bag / bumbag etc.)

each day for the drying of hands after handwashing. Please ensure this towel is changed on a daily basis. Each child should have a second plastic bag (zip-lock / bum bag etc.) to store and take home any tissues etc. used during the school day.

- Ideally, lunch boxes should be stored in children's school bag if possible and all lunch wrappers etc. must be taken home in lunchboxes.
- Children will wear the school uniform / school tracksuit on alternate days, as follows:
Tracksuit - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Uniform - Tuesdays & Thursdays

(Note: Daily washing of uniforms/tracksuits is not a requirement of the DES at present. However, having alternate days for the wearing of uniforms/tracksuits, may facilitate this for parents who wish to do so).

N.B. Children should not wear their school clothes in shops etc. and should change out of their school clothes immediately after arriving home from school every day.

- **Uimhreacha Teangmhála / Contact Details:** Please insure, if you haven't done so already, that you update your personal contact details, emergency contact details and your family GP contact details on Aladdin immediately. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.
- **Teangmháil trí "Aladdin" / Communication with parents through Aladdin:** As we will be using Aladdin Connect to communicate with parents during the coming school year, we encourage you all to download the Aladdin Connect App on your mobile device. You may also access Aladdin on your internet browser. General information like Newsletters etc. will also be posted on our school Blog which can be accessed at www.castlelyonsns.com
- **"Sonas" - Second Special Class:** We have just opened "Sonas" (meaning "Happiness"), a second special class with Mr Baragry as their teacher for children with moderate learning needs, similar to our existing special class "Le Chéile" (meaning "Together"). Miss Barry will continue as teacher of "Le Chéile".
Go n-éirí go geal libh, a mhúinteoirí agus a pháistí.
- **Bainne:** There will be no school milk for the first term at least this year due to Covid-19. We will inform you if this changes at any stage in further Newsletters.
- **Snámh:** Swimming lessons will not take place for pupils either this year due to Covid-19. However, we will be putting an emphasis on physical education (PE) in school as a means of promoting children's well-being.
- **Rang 6 – Cóineartú / Graduation Ceremony / Slán:** Our pupils in Rang 6 were confirmed by Fr Gerard Coleman PP on Friday 14th August. Comhghairdeas libh, a pháistí. A special word of thanks to Fr Coleman, Mr Cremin (class teacher) Mrs O'Regan (music), John McCarthy (caretaker) and Carmel in the office for all your help and support in making the day a special occasion for the children. We also held a Graduation Ceremony for Rang 6 and their parents on Tuesday 18th August where they were presented with a Certificate and a lovely book of written articles, photos and illustrations by the pupils themselves and members of staff. We'd

like to thank our Parents' Association, particularly Andrea Quirke (chairperson) for spearheading the organising of this publication. Well done! I'd also like to say a special word of thanks to staff members, John and Gráinne McCarthy, Carmel, Andrea Quirke, Jim Delea, Paul Murphy (sound) and anybody else who helped in any way with organising the lovely send-off for Rang 6. Go raibh míle maith agaibh. We wish all of you the very best of luck as you move on to your respective secondary schools. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh, a pháistí.

- **Naíonáin Nua:** We welcomed our new Junior Infants and their parents to the school last Friday to meet their teacher, Ms Cummins and see their new classroom before starting school today. It was great to see them all so happy and excited about coming to school. A big “Thank You” to Ms Cummins for the preparation she put in to organising the visit and making everybody feel so welcome. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.
- **An Chéad Chomaoineach:** The children in Rang 2 and their families will be busy preparing for the celebration of First Communion on Saturday 19th September. We wish them all, along with their teachers, Miss Forde and Ms O'Connor, the best of luck in their preparations. Go n-éirí go geal libh!
- **Supervised Classes:** Supervised classes for Rang 1-6 from 3 - 4 pm will not take place at present, as previously notified. Parents will be informed if this changes at any time throughout the year.
- **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.
- **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”.
- **Pearcáil:** We ask parents to leave the wheel-chair designated parking slot at the upper gate and the bus / taxi parking slot at the front gate, **accessible at all times.** Your co-operation in this is much appreciated.
- **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 cooperation 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 and encouragement. Therefore, **we request that treats are not given to children in their lunches, but instead, more nutritious food.** Thanking you in anticipation of your cooperation. 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.
- **Bord Bainistíochta:** The Board of Management is charged with the running of the school on behalf of the Department of Education & Skills (DES) and the school Patron, Bishop William Crean.

The Board is comprised of eight members, namely:

Anne Fay (Chairperson / Patron's nominee)
Fr Gerard Coleman PP, (Patron's nominee)
Martina O'Callaghan (Parents' nominee)
Gareth Clegg (Parents' nominee)

Patrick O'Regan (Community nominee)
Mary Fenton (Comm. nominee / Treasurer)
Sarah Cummins (Teachers' nominee);
Nelius de Róiste (Principal/Secretary to BoM)

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Nelius de Róiste (Príomhoide)
