

e-mail – castlelyonsns@gmail.com / Blog – www.castlelyonsns.com

- **Fáilte ar ais! / Welcome back!:** Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar ais ar scoil. We welcome everyone back to school after, what we hope was, a good summer break for all. You should all have received our Logistics Plan for Reopening our School by now which is quite similar to the procedures we had in place prior to the summer holidays. Unfortunately, as the threat of Covid-19 still remains a reality, we have to remain vigilant in our efforts to suppress the virus. So I'm sure you will bear with us and support us in every way possible in adhering to the details of the plan. Our common goal should be to ensure that the school remains open to pupils and that your child's continued 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, please follow public advice on the DE/HSE websites or take advice from your family GP. We, for our part, will do our utmost to make the return to school as pleasant and productive an experience as possible for your child.
- **Slán / Fáilte:** I wish to inform you that Ms Phil McGrath (SNA) has left us to take up a new position in Blackwater Community College, Lismore. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Phil sincerely for all the help and support she gave to the children in her care and to all in the school during the past year. We wish Phil all the best in her new school. Go raibh míle maith agat Phil agus go n-éirí go geal leat. I'd like to extend a "Céad Míle Fáilte" to Ms Samantha Costigan (SNA) who has been appointed to replace Phil. We hope you will be very happy in our school, Samantha. We also extend a "Céad Míle Fáilte" to Mr John Barry who will teach Rang 1 on a shared basis with Ms Ó Tuama this year and we hope you too will be 'sona sásta' in our school during the year. Tá fáilte romhat agus go n-éirí go geal leat.
- **Fáilte:** A special welcome to all our new pupils, both in Junior Infants mainstream and "Sonas" (special class) and to pupils starting in other classes for the first time this year. Tá fáilte is fiche romhaibh, a pháistí.
- **Uimhreacha Teangmhála / Contact Details:** Please ensure, if you haven't done so already, that you update your *own* contact details, your *emergency* contact details and your *family GP* contact details on Aladdin *immediately*, if any of those details have changed during the summer. It is **vitaly important** that parents/guardians and/or your nominated emergency contacts **are contactable during school hours**, in the case of an emergency or in the event that your child displays symptoms of Covid-19 while at school. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

- **Teangmháil trí Aladdin / Communication through Aladdin:** As we will be using Aladdin Connect to communicate with parents during the coming school year, we encourage you 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
- **Naíonáin Nua / New Entrants:** We welcomed our new Junior Infants and their parents to the school last Friday to meet their teacher, Miss Barry and see their classroom before starting school today. It was great to see them all so happy and excited about coming to school. Míle buíochas to Miss Barry for the preparation she put into organising the visit and making everybody feel so welcome. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.
- **Bainne:** There will be no school milk available for the first term at least this year. We will inform you if this changes at any stage in further Newsletters.
- **Snámh:** Swimming lessons will not take place for pupils either this term due to Covid-19. However, we will be placing an emphasis on physical education (PE) as a means of promoting pupil well-being.
- **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 (The 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".
- **Rialacha na Scoile (School Rules and Expectations):** I would ask parents to please revise the school's Code of Behaviour and Discipline (available on our School Blog) with your child and also make your child familiar with "Rialacha na Scoile / School Rules and Expectations". These are also printed in your child's School Diary (Rang 1- 6). School starting and finishing times, as outlined in the Logistics Plan for Reopening our School which you received last Friday, have changed due to the Pandemic and the amended arrival / finishing times will remain in place for the foreseeable future. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that your child is delivered and collected at the appropriate times as outlined in the Reopening Plan. The school cannot accept responsibility for children before or after these times. In the case of children travelling by school bus, the school cannot accept responsibility for escorting them from the bus to the school in the

morning or from the school to the bus in the afternoon. Parents who feel that their child needs to be escorted on these occasions should make arrangements for some escort to be provided.

Pupils / parents (except those travelling by school bus / taxi) should **enter the school grounds only through the upper gate from Fr Ferris car-park and should not enter the school grounds in the morning until the gates are opened** by a staff member.

Only pupils travelling by bus/taxi may enter through the front gates.

- **Iasacht Leabhar / Book Rental:** Book Rental / Other School Expenses notes will issue shortly through Aladdin. We ask parents to **pay through Aladdin** please, as promptly as possible following receipt of the expenses note but not later than Friday 1st October. Alternatively, you may pay in instalments of €10.00 per week over a number of weeks if you wish. Thanking you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.
- **Lóin Shláintiúla / Healthy Lunches:** We respectfully renew our request that parents do *not* give food with nuts/nut traces, white fish or shell fish to your child in his / her lunch as we have children in various classes throughout the school with severe allergies which could be life-threatening.
Also, we intend to continue to promote 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 not to give treats to your child in his / her daily lunch but instead, more nutritious food.** Thanking you in anticipation of your cooperation. Bí sláintiúil le bia sláintiúil!
- **Pearcáil / Parking:** We ask parents to leave the wheel-chair designated parking slot outside the upper gate of the school and the bus / taxi parking slot at the front gate, **accessible at all times.** In the interest of children's safety, please use Fr Ferris car-park when dropping / collecting children **and please do not park on the road by the entrance to the teachers' car-park or Fr Ferris car-park when collecting children in the afternoon,** as this causes an obstruction to others when entering /exiting.
Also, please **fill the car-park from the back** and *reverse* into your parking slot. Always be mindful of children crossing to the upper side of the car-park as you enter and exit or children walking behind your car as you reverse. Your co-operation in this is much appreciated.
- **Cóineartú / An Chéad Chomaoineach:** We wish the pupils in last year's Rang 6, along with their families and Mr Cremin, their teacher, every good wish as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Fr Coleman PP next Saturday 4th September. Go n-éirí go geal libh go léir.
Pupils in last year's Rang 2 and their families will also be busy preparing for the celebration of First Communion on Saturday 18th 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!
- **After- school Study (Rang 1 – 6):** Ms Ó Tuama will issue a Questionnaire to parents of pupils in Rang 1 – 6 shortly to ascertain the level of interest among those classes in After-school Supervised Study. Further information on this will issue in due course.

- **Éide Scoile / School Uniform-Tracksuit**: Please ensure that your child wears his / her school uniform on Tuesdays and Thursdays and school tracksuit on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- **Cuirí Breithlaethanta / Birthday Invitations**: Please do not ask teachers to distribute Birthday Party Invitations to children in school. We suggest that such invitations are distributed **privately**. Go raibh maith agaibh.
- **Fadhbanna Sláinte / Health Issues**: If your child develops a medical / health condition during his / her time in school which we weren't aware of previously, it is vitally important that you inform the school / class teacher **immediately**.
- **Scoil Ghlas / Green School**: We 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.
- **Meáchan na Málaí Scoile / Weight of School Bags**: Please ensure that your child doesn't carry *unnecessary* items, (e.g. magazines etc.), in his / her school bag and so reduce its weight.
- **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 (Parent nominee)
Gareth Clegg (Parent nominee)

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

We look forward to working closely with you over the course of the coming school year for the benefit of your child.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Nelius de Róiste (Príomhoide)