



## **SCOIL PHÁDRAIG, CLAONADH, CO. CHILL DARA**

St. Patrick's Boys N.S., Clane, Co. Kildare, W91 FC97.

Principal: Mr. Cathal Carr

Deputy Principal: Mrs. Maria Tully

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### **Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to Scoil Phádraig and wish you all the best for the school year. It has been lovely to see the boys walking through the gates of the new school for the first time. We are delighted to be finally in, and I hope that the new building will provide us with many years of happiness as we start a new chapter in the history of Scoil Phádraig. The boys have settled really well into our new routines, especially those navigating the stairs for the first time. I want to thank all our staff who worked extremely hard before we opened to get the school ready for us.

- I would like to welcome our new junior infants to Scoil Phádraig and I wish them and their parents all the best as they start their journey with us.
- I would also like to welcome all our new pupils throughout the school.
- I would like to welcome all the new pupils who have joined us throughout the school.
- Welcome back to all our teachers and SNA's, to our secretaries, Rachel & Zoe, our caretakers, Michael and PJ, our cleaners Marta and Ewelina and to the members of our Board of Management and our Parents' Association.
- We have some new faces teaching with us this year and I welcome them and wish them all the best for the year. We also have some teachers returning after leave and we are delighted to have them back.

#### **Junior infants:**

The boys have really settled in well into junior infants. It has been fantastic to see the boys walking independently in from the gate in the mornings and I wish them, Ms Fennessy, Ms Behan and Ms Kyne all the best for the year.

#### **Attendance and Absences from School:**

- In general, if your child is sick he should stay at home.
- We would ask that you record all absences on the Aladdin app with the reason for the absence.
- **Attendance at school is very important. "EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS". I am obliged to report absences over 20 days to the Education welfare officer. I will also be in contact if there are more than 5/10 days unexplained absences. If an absence is not recorded, the reason for the absence will be recorded as "unexplained".**

#### **Late Arrivals**

If your son is late for any reason please ensure that he comes in the front door beside the office. As required by the Department of Education, children who are not in school before 9.50am will be marked absent.

#### **Weekly Lotto fundraiser**

A huge thank you to all our parents who are supporting our Lotto fundraiser for the Astro Turf. We currently have 136 members and a total of 275 lines in the draw each week. This is

jackpot is currently €3,000 and there is a guaranteed prize of €50 if the jackpot is not won! There are some members who have joined but didn't take any lines as of yet. There are also some who did not renew their support. If you would like to join please do so at the following link <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/clanebns/>.

Best of luck to all!!

#### **Medical Conditions**

If your child has a medical condition that requires the administration of medicine during the school day then please let us know in the office. Medication is not allowed to be kept in the classroom and cannot be taken without the supervision of a staff member.

**We must have written permission from a parent in order to administer medicines, including inhalers, in school. Forms are available in the office. Please ensure that all medications we have already in school have not expired.**

#### **Accelerated Reader:**

A big thank you to Ms Dunlea who has set up our Accelerated Reader Programme once again for the year. We are really encouraging the boys to read as much as possible which is of huge benefit to them. We would ask all our parents to encourage the boys to read as much as possible at home. Ask them about their books and please sign their reading log.

#### **Communication:**

Our main form of communication with you will be through the Aladdin Connect app. Please ensure that you have downloaded the app and if you are having difficulties please email the office at [office@clanebns.ie](mailto:office@clanebns.ie)

All absence notes can be entered and explained through the Aladdin App.

**NB: Please make sure that we have the most up to date contact details for you, including emergency contacts, all of which can be uploaded on Aladdin.**

#### **School Fees**

Thank you to all our families who have paid the school fees. For those who have yet to do so, can you please pay through Aladdin at your earliest convenience.

#### **Walking/cycling/scooting home**

Can I ask all parents to remind the boys about the importance of being safe on the way home from school. Between ourselves and the Girls' school, there are a lot of people on the paths at home time. I would ask anyone cycling or scooting to be particularly mindful of other people on the path and want to avoid accidents all costs. It is important to respect others who are walking on the path

#### **Parking**

Can I remind parents that there is no parking in front of the school. We appreciate your support in this matter.

#### **Butterstream**

I would once again remind parents not to park in Butterstream in the mornings, particularly those blocking driveways and double parking. Please respect the residents.

#### **Astro Turf Buy-a-Brick**

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed by buying a brick or making a donation. We are about 2/3 of our way to our total. This facility is vital to ensure that all pupils can play on the yard together on the one break and have an outdoor facility that can be used all year round. We will be closing the fundraiser shortly and if you would like to contribute please do so at the following link: <https://clanebnsfundraiser.ie/>

#### **Uniforms**

- Jnr infants-1<sup>st</sup> class: Tracksuit and white polo shirt

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes: Full school uniform including grey shirt and tie. **Full school uniform to be worn every day except on PE or swimming days**
- **We also require the boys to wear long trousers from 1<sup>st</sup> November until after Easter.**

#### **Enrolment for junior infants starting September 2025**

The enrolment application process for junior infants starting in September 2025 will begin on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. Application forms will be available on our website from this day. Earlier applications cannot be accepted. Our Admissions Notice and Admissions Policy are also available online.

#### **Bus Escort**

I am urgently looking for someone to cover a bus escort on a temporary basis. This will involve meeting at the school at 2.30pm and escorting a student on a bus to his home. You will then return to the school on the bus. The bus escort will need to be Garda Vetted. If you, or someone you know, might be available please contact the school on 045 868620 as soon as you can.

#### **The Lunch Bag**

We have many families availing of The Lunch Bag Company which is a website where you can order lunches for the pupils online and they will be delivered to the school. If you wish to avail of this service, or find out more, go to <https://www.thelunchbag.ie/>

#### **Cumann na mBunscol**

Our schools GAA is back up and running. Our U11 footballers have won two out of their 3 group games and play in the Semi final tomorrow in. Our U11 hurlers played really well but lost their two games. Thanks to Mr Kane and Mr Doherty who are coaching the u11 footballers and to Ms Hurley who is with the hurlers.

Basketball has started with Ms Faughnan and Ms Melia

#### **Book Fair**

After a long break our Book Fair is back. Ms Dunlea will be organising the Book Fair with the help of our Parents' Association. It will take place from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Further details will be given through Aladdin closer to the time.

#### **Christmas Cards**

A huge thank you to all those who have bought Christmas Cards. This is an important fundraiser for our Parents' Association and if you would like to order please do so as soon as possible. Our orders will be going in on Wednesday.

#### **Swimming**

Swimming has started for our 5<sup>th</sup> classes. I would like to remind parents that swimming is part of the curriculum and all pupils who are able to attend should do so.

#### **Mobile Phones:**

- The use of "picture-phones" and Smart watches that can take pictures, make phone calls, send messages etc is completely forbidden on school property or during school trips (Health and Safety concerns).
- If a pupil brings a phone or Smart watch to school, it must be turned off when entering school grounds.
- Phones and Smart Watches must be turned off and handed up to teacher immediately on entering the classroom.
- They will be stored in teacher's secure cabinet and will be returned at "going home" time.
- If a child uses a phone or Smart watch in the yard or classroom it will be confiscated.
- Inappropriate use of a "picture phone" or Smart Watch will be deemed as serious misconduct and result in disciplinary action.

**Child Protection:**

The Board of Management of Scoil Phádraig follows all Procedures and Guidelines, as set out in "Children First" (Department of Health and Children). **Reporting of disclosures of Child Abuse/Neglect is Mandatory** – The Principal, Mr Carr, is the Designated Liaison Person (D.L.P.) and he reports such matters to the Duty Social Worker in Tusla. Ms Nuala Tuthill is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

**Pupils with Nut Allergy:**

We have a number of children who have a severe nut allergy, therefore we are a **"Nut Free School"**. As regards "Treats on Friday" we have been informed that the following items are safe and nut free.

- Rolos : Munchies : Kit-Kat : Wagon Wheels : Maltesers and Malteser Bar : Buttons : Starburst : Chewits : Jellies (Haribo, Natural Confectionary, etc).
- Biscuits – Jaffa Cakes (McVities) Jammie Dodgers (Burtons Biscuit Co.).

Thanks again for your co-operation.

**Child Collection Procedure:**

If a child is being collected by a different adult than usual or is going home with another parent, written notification must be sent to the school in advance.

**If there is a change in after school care arrangements please let the teacher know or let us know in the office.**

**N.B.:** Children will not be handed over to an unknown adult without a note.

**Birthday Invitations/Party Bags. etc.:**

As requested every year, we again ask that children do not distribute birthday invitations/party bags etc., during school time.

**Lunch Boxes:**

I would like to remind parents of our healthy eating policy. The boys can bring in a **small treat on a Friday only**. In line with environmental awareness and care, the boys will also bring home their packaging and waste in their lunchboxes.

**Forgotten Lunch, Gear, etc!**

- Please drop item(s) into box outside office window.
- Fill out details on the provided label.
- Put label on lunch box/gear bag, etc.
- If Rachel or Zoe is not in the office, please wait.

**N.B.:** For safety reasons, we cannot allow adults to proceed throughout the school.

**Label everything**

Can I ask parents to please label all clothing that comes to school? Our lost property is growing by the day with jumpers, coats etc with no names on them.

**Public Health Issue:**

On Health and Safety grounds, dogs (except Guide Dogs) are not allowed on the school premises. Please observe this rule.

Thanks for your support and co-operation and best wishes for the year!

Yours sincerely,



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**Cathal Carr**  
Principal