



Scoil Naomh Laisrian,
Leithghlinn an Droichid,
Co. Ceatharlach,
Uimhir Rolla 19784S

Leighlinbridge N.S.,
Co. Carlow.
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Mission Statement

As a Catholic school, our mission is to develop the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of each child and encourage everyone to respect themselves and one another.

We value each person while working to provide a supportive environment for all pupils to learn and play in harmony together.

1st September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school. I hope you all had an enjoyable break and are ready for a busy year ahead! A special word of welcome to our new students and their parents. I hope you will have many happy years here in Leighlinbridge N.S.

As the new school year begins, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all sincerely for the warm welcome I have received here in Leighlinbridge. I would also like to thank Mr Threadgold for his help and advice over the summer months. I wish him all the best as he begins a new school year in Ballylinan.

I am delighted to be joining the staff of this lovely school and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and to working with you, your children and the wider community over the coming years. As a parent, I recognise and value the importance of a strong connection between home and school. I believe that working together is the key to meeting your child's social, emotional, and academic needs. No one person has all the answers but working collaboratively we may. As the saying goes 'it takes a village to raise a child.' My goal is to ensure that all children learn in a happy and safe environment. We will work to ensure that every child has the best possible experience while here at Leighlinbridge N.S. With this in mind; there are a couple of things I would like to draw your attention to:

➤ Policies:

- ✓ As part of our Code of Behaviour we ask pupils (from 1st Class upwards), parents and teachers to sign a 'Behaviour Contract' at the beginning of each year to remind everybody of the standards we expect and the importance of good behaviour. Junior and Senior Infants will do this in their own way in their classrooms. Working closely together in this way ensures the firm, consistent and fair management of behaviour, which is essential for a child's emotional and psychological development.
- ✓ The school Anti-Bullying Policy was revised towards the end of last year. Please contact the office should you wish to have a copy.
- ✓ Similarly, a copy of the revised Child Protection Policy can be obtained from the office.

➤ Housekeeping:

- ✓ Please remember also that all pupils from 1st - 6th Classes are required to wear a pair of black plimsolls (indoor shoes) as part of their uniform. Teachers will shortly make clear to pupils on which days they are required to wear their tracksuits (this may or may not be different to last year). Please note that most pupils play on the grass which is often wet. Please leave a clean pair of socks in your child's bag, which they may use if necessary.
- ✓ It would be extremely helpful if you could put your **child's name** on his/her belongings, particularly items of clothing. Several unclaimed items of clothing were found in the school over the summer - all of which have been placed in

the 'Lost and Found' boxes outside Kathleen's Office. Any unmarked items of clothing that are found in school will be placed here going forward. Please check these boxes if your child has misplaced something.

- ✓ Please remember that the internal car park is for school staff only. The Board of Management is aware that traffic can become congested near the school at the beginning and end of the school day and asks you to be careful and courteous when parking. If possible, please reverse into your parking space so that you can drive forward on to the road when leaving and please leave space between your car and the front wall so that pupils won't need to walk near the road. Thank you for your cooperation.
 - ✓ We would appreciate if all outstanding bills could be settled as soon as possible in particular, the €30 for school requisites. **Please remember to pay each teacher separately for each child and to do so in the mornings** - this facilitates us in collecting and counting money which is very time consuming at this time of the year.
 - ✓ We are very mindful of keeping costs as low as possible so please take good care of rented books. Spilled drinks mean damaged books and extra cost, so please keep drinks, yoghurts, etc in a separate pocket of your bag or in a zip-sealed plastic bag. Thanks to Ms. O'Connor for her work in organising the book rental scheme.
 - ✓ While we are aware that it may be inconvenient we are requesting you not to issue birthday invitations on the school grounds or ask teachers to do so. This is to avoid a situation where a child or children in a class feel left out when invitations are issued. Thanks for your cooperation.
 - ✓ We use the Text-a-Parent system to help us to communicate with you. If you didn't receive a text to draw your attention to this newsletter and would like to receive one, **please contact the school**. We will use one mobile number per family from our records and if you think we may not have the correct number for you, please contact us. If you would prefer not to be contacted by the school in this way, contact us and we can easily remove you from the list.
- Attendance:
- ✓ Your child's attendance at school is very important for their progress. Please remember to send a note to the teacher if your child is absent. These notes will be kept in an absentee file in school.
 - ✓ It is now mandatory to report absences of pupils in excess of 20 days in the year to Tusla - Education Welfare Services, so we would ask parents to ensure that pupils are absent from school only when it is absolutely necessary. If your child reaches the 20 day cut-off it is important that we have retained written notification for each absence on file.
 - ✓ A copy of the school calendar which outlines the days on which school will be closed will be sent home shortly. We appeal to parents, if at all possible, to arrange weekends away or holidays to coincide with school closures, thus keeping absenteeism to a minimum.
- The school will open to pupils each day at 9.20 a.m. No responsibility is accepted by the Board of Management for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will end each day at 3 p.m. (2 p.m. for Junior & Senior Infants). Junior Infants will finish at 12:30 until Friday, 8th September. Parents should make their own arrangements to have their children met at the school gate and the person collecting them should be at the school

not later than 3 p.m. (2 p.m. for Infants) as the Board cannot accept responsibility for the children after that time.

- Swimming for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes will commence next week on Friday morning (8th September) in Graiguecullen pool. The lessons will continue for ten weeks. Each pupil must wear their P.E. uniform and please make sure that your child has a swimming cap. Cost per week has been subsidised by the Parents Association and kept to €6 per pupil. Please pay €12 the first week and €6 each Friday morning thereafter for the following nine weeks, with no payment required on the last week. Remember that the cost of the swimming has been calculated using the number of children in the class and therefore the cost will be €60 even if your child misses sessions. All lessons will take place during school hours. No aerosols are allowed. Swimming will begin for 4th, 5th and 6th Classes in October with details to follow.
- We are proud of being a Green School and flying our fifth green flag! As part of this we encourage you to use a proper reusable lunchbox for your child that will reduce the amount of waste we have to deal with. We ask the pupils to take all lunch waste home with them. In keeping with our Healthy Lunch Policy, we would ask that all pupils bring a healthy lunch to school every day (no crisps, fizzy drinks or junk food)
- Please note the following from our Health & Safety Statement: "Persons (other than employees of the Board) entering the school premises are required to identify themselves at the office before gaining admittance to the school. Parents may enter the Junior Infant classroom in the presence of (and with the permission of) the teacher for the purpose of settling or organising their child." If you wish to communicate with a child or a teacher please wait at reception and Kathleen or myself will help you. This is for Health & Safety and Child Protection reasons.

Once again, thank you for your support and I hope that all of our pupils have a successful school year.

Yours faithfully,

Órfhlaith Mealy

Principal