



Scoil na Mainistreach - Cinnlinite 160 - Meán Fómhair 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome back to school to all our boys and families. I have lots of news and a few important reminders for you at the beginning of the school year. We are most fortunate once again this year to have three small infant classes. **In order to keep our small infant classes into the future we need to maintain our enrolment numbers in the next few years.** Do you know of any parent(s) who haven't enrolled their son yet for future years or who have just moved into the area? Please contact the office if you can be of any assistance to our school.

HOUSEKEEPING

1. **School Opening Times** - The school gates are open to receive pupils at 8.50am. All pupils should be in school for classes commencing at 9.20am. They should line up at their class assembly points when the first bell sounds. Please remind your son that once he enters the school grounds in the morning he is not permitted to exit again. **N.B. Pupils are only supervised between the times of 9.20 and 3.05. There is no supervision outside of these times. On mornings when the weather is bad** pupils will be admitted through the double glass doors into the reception area at 9am. At 9.10am they will be sent to their classes and supervised. In the interest of health and safety football is not permitted in the morning.
2. **School Charges Reminder** – If you haven't paid your son's school charges please do so as soon as possible. Staged payments can be arranged by contacting the office.
3. **School Uniform & Dress Code** – All of our boys look great in their new school uniforms. The school uniform dress code was agreed by our Board of Management and Parents' Association. It keeps "return to school" costs down for parents and promotes a positive school identity. **The boys must wear full school uniform every day. On PE days they must wear a navy school tracksuit** i.e. a navy sweater top with the school crest and plain navy track suit bottoms. Stripes or logos on any part of the track suit are not acceptable. **Plain black shoes/runners every day except on PE days. Toys, loom bands, wristbands, earrings, studs and neck chains are not permitted in school.** Certain hair styles such as highlights, designs, skinhead, partial shaving, mohican type hair styles etc are strongly discouraged by the school as it can distract your son and others from learning. It can also cause unnecessary problems for your son on the yard and/or in the classroom. We greatly appreciate your co-operation with all of the above. We are now entering the cold and wet days of Autumn / Winter. **Please ensure your son brings a warm raincoat to school.**
4. **Unwanted School Uniforms** - if you have any unwanted school uniform items in excellent condition please consider donating them to our school. Items can be left at the school office.
5. **Names on School Uniform** – please write your son's name or consider putting nametags on your son's school jumper etc. Iron on nametags can be purchased online from www.MyNametags.ie
6. **Attendance**
 - **Attendance** is recorded electronically daily in each class before 10am. **Please note that pupils arriving after 10am are marked absent** and entered in the "latecomers / early leavers" section.
 - **School Absences** – we are required to report absences of 20 school days or more in a school year to Túsla in accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2002. Parents seeking to take their son(s) on holiday during the school year must inform the Board of Management in advance. The relevant form is available from the office.
7. **Mobile Phones** should not be brought to school unless absolutely necessary. Please remind your son that if a phone is brought into school it must be off before entering the school grounds and then handed up to teacher. Phones may

not be turned on again until pupils **have exited the school grounds**. Our school *Code of Behaviour* sanctions regarding mobile phones are as follows; *for a 1st offence in a school year, a one week confiscation by the school will ensue. For a 2nd offence in a school year, the pupil cannot take a phone to school for the remainder of the school year.*

8. **Collecting Children (Child Safeguarding)**

- In compliance with our *Child Safeguarding* all parent(s) / designated pick up persons leaving children late to school or collecting their child during the school day must report to the school office. If arriving late they can drop their child at the school office or go the classroom accompanied by a vetted member of staff. If picking up during the day your child will be brought to you at the school office.

Collecting Infants at home time

- Parents should collect infants no later than 2.05pm. Enter via the back yard double glass doors and then proceed to the infant yard. The teacher will bring your child out onto the yard in the same order every day.
- On wet days you may remain in the entrance foyer of the double glass doors and enter the infant yard as normal just before the bell. We appreciate your cooperation with this system.
- **While you wait in the infant yard for your son to exit his classroom please ensure that any accompanying toddlers / children using our infant yard equipment are closely supervised.**
- In the interest of health and safety please **accompany your son the whole way out of school. Do not allow him to “run ahead” unsupervised towards the school gates / railings / road.**
- ***Designated Person(s) Other Than Immediate Family Collecting Infants – In the event of a person(s) other than immediate family members collecting your son a form must be completed prior to the pickup time.*** You can get this form from the office or complete it over the phone. The teacher will only release your son at the end of the school day to the designated person. **N.B.** Parent(s) need only complete the form once where children are being picked up on a regular basis by family, Crèche staff etc.

Collecting boys from senior classes (1st to 6th)

- Parents are responsible for collecting their children no later than 3.05pm.
- Remind your son to use the **lollipop persons** at the front and rear of the school when crossing main roads.

Collecting boys for appointments during the school day – All children who are leaving / returning to school during the day must provide a note from their parent(s)/guardian(s). **They must also be signed out / signed in at the office by an adult before exiting the school or returning to class.**

9. **Contact Details** – Please inform us if you have moved house or changed your telephone/mobile number.

10. **The Book Rental Scheme** – All pupils in the BRS have now received their books in school.

11. **School Calendar** – A copy of the school calendar is available in the parents' section of our website.

12. **Pupil Personal Accident Insurance 2019 / 2020** - We have attached the **Pupil Personal Insurance Form** for your attention. We strongly recommend that all parents avail of at least “School Day Cover” for €6 or strongly consider “24 Hour Cover” for €9. **The deadline for returning completed forms and payments to the school office is Thursday, September 19th.** Please return completed slip and money in an envelope with your son's name on the outside.

13. **The School Mini-Credit Union** will resume after Halloween Break on Wednesdays and membership will be open to all classes. Parents will be able to open a new account on behalf of their child at the school office.

14. **Enrolment of Pupils**

- If you are enrolling your son in Junior Infants in the next few years contact us for an enrolment application form or download it from our website. Please ignore this if your son is already enrolled.
- **If you think that your infant son may have special needs and require support in September 2020, it is vitally important that you make early contact with our school.** A considerable amount of work is required to apply for and put in place the necessary supports for your son and we will also assist you.

- **When is a child ready for school?** Parents often feel that keeping a child back a year before entering school is the right thing to do. However age alone should not determine if a child is ready for school. If a child displays signs of “school readiness” whether they are 4 or 5 years old, then they are ready to go to school and should not be held back. If you are unsure about your son’s “readiness for school” contact Monastery NS. We can assess your son and advise you accordingly.
- 15. **Birthday Invitations** cannot be distributed in class by teacher and in accordance with data protection we cannot give a list out of children’s parents’ names or contact details.
- 16. **Altar Servers** – We urgently appeal to parents of boys from 3rd to 6th classes who would be interested in having their son serve mass. We have a severe shortage of altar servers who are needed to serve mass for the whole community. Please consider helping your school and parish.

HEALTH & SAFETY REMINDERS

- 17. **Personal Hygiene Reminders** - As our pupils return to school we see a gradual increase in stomach bugs, viral infections, colds, flu etc. Help us to combat the spread of these illnesses in school by ensuring your son practices good hand hygiene after using the toilet and good sneezing / coughing etiquette at home and in school.
- 18. **Reminder regarding Inhalers / Adrenalin pens / Medication** - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) who have any of the above stored in school for their son should now contact the office to check that they are full and in date. **Inhalers cannot be kept in school bags and must be kept centrally in the school office. All parents must complete an “inhaler form” available from the office as soon as their son requires inhaler intervention in school.**
- 19. **Allergies / Medical Conditions** – If your child has developed an allergy or medical condition since initial enrolment please inform Monastery NS as soon as possible. **Reminder – all classes are nut / peanuts / Nutella / fish / eggs / beans free zones.**
- 20. **Head Lice** are a common problem during the school year. All it takes are a few steps to treat and defeat head lice. For more information visit www.hse.ie/eng/health/az/H/Head-lice/
- 21. **Healthy Eating in School** - Lunches provide around one third of our daily nutritional needs, so it’s important to put some thought and planning into them. We are a “Health Promoting School” and encourage healthy eating at all times. Please note the following;
 - **Fizzy drinks, chocolate, crisps, sweets, cereal bars and chewing gum are not permitted in the school.**
 - **Friday is a “One Small Treat Day” where pupils must have and eat their normal healthy lunch but are allowed one treat in their lunchboxes i.e. one bag of crisps, one small bar of chocolate, one cereal bar, one small packet of sweets.**
 - **We strongly discourage the buying and eating of fried deli foods \ sweets before school in the morning.**
 - **A healthy lunchbox should contain;**
 - **Bread** - 2 slices / medium roll / tortilla wrap / pitta / 4-6 crackers or breadsticks / 1 small bagel.
 - A savoury filling which provides **protein** – 2 slices of cooked meat / 4 tablespoons of chickpea spread as a dip with carrots or celery / etc.
 - **At least one portion of fruit per day** – 1 medium apple, orange, banana, pear or similar sized fruit / 2 small fruits – kiwis, plums (seedless) etc / small box of raisins or sultanas, small bunch of grapes (seedless), 3-4 dessertspoons of vegetables – chopped or grated carrots or a small salad.
 - **A suitable drink** (unsweetened juice / water / milk (low fat or semi-skimmed) / diluted sugar free.
 - **One portion of dairy products** – a pot of natural or low fat yogurt, 2 triangles of spreadable cheese, 2 processed cheese slices, a matchbox size of cheese such as cheddar, edam or gouda varieties.
 - See healthy eating in school advice and brochure at www.monasterynsardee.ie/infant_info.html
- 22. **Parking Reminders** – In the interest of the health and safety of our boys please note the following;
 - **The school car park is for staff use only.** Please do not block the entrance or enter / exit on foot via the staff car park with your son.

- The cycle lane / tarmac area at the front of the school field gates must not be parked on. **Please do not block it.** We had several “near misses” in this area last year.
- Parents **should not drive into Gaynor’s Lane at our back gate to drop off / collect children.** This is a **PEDESTRIAN ZONE** during school opening / closing times for parents and children.
- Dogs are not allowed in the school grounds or in the school field.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT MONASTERY NS THIS TERM?

23. Our **Annual Sponsored Walk** fundraiser will take place early this term weather permitting. Full cards will be entered into a draw for two bicycles. All funding raised is spent on our boys’ education. **This is our one big fundraiser of the year and we ask parents to support our school.** More information will follow.
24. Mr McCoy’s **Homework Club** for pupils from 2nd to 6th started on Monday September 2nd from 3.05pm to 4pm and is now full.
25. **Helping My Child with Their Learning at Home**
 - Check out the literacy and numeracy tips in the parents section of our website at www.monasterynsardee.ie Also learn together online at www.helpmykidlearn.ie/
 - **Maths** – Check out our “*Problem Solving Strategy*” in your son’s school diary and tables.
 - Have you used your **free home access to Worldbook encyclopedia?** When you need fast, reliable information for homework, reports, or just a lingering question, World Book Online is the place to go. Visit www.scoilnet.ie, scroll down the Scoilnet page and click on the **Worldbook** link.
26. The **Infants Playground Equipment and Go Kart rota** begins this week. We like to keep our boys fit and active!
27. **Gaelic Football**
 - Gaelic Football coaching for 3rd & 4th classes starts this term.
 - We have at least 6 matches in the under 13 Gaelic Football league, Corn Mhic Ardail, before Christmas.
 - We will be entering Quiz teams in the Cumann na mBunscol Tráth na gCeist competition.
28. **Soccer** – A *Lunchtime Soccer League* for 3rd & 4th classes will be organised this term. We are also entering the FAI FUTSAL competition for pupils from 4th class. A league for 5th & 6th takes place later in the year.
29. **Rugby** – rugby coaching will start on Friday September 13th for 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th classes and runs for 6 weeks.
30. **Swimming** will start for 5th and 6th in October and for 3rd and 4th in early January 2019. Further details will follow.
31. **Green Schools News** – We will be harvesting pumpkins, runner beans, tomatoes, onions, courgettes and carrots from our Polytunnel for our Halloween Assembly. We have a bumper harvest! Remember our Green Schools’ theme is *Global Citizenship – Marine Environment*. Keep an eye on the Green Schools’ section of our website.
32. **Music Generation Recorder classes** will commence for 2nd and 3rd classes on Thursday, September 20th and run for 28 weeks A letter will issue next week.
33. **Tin Whistle Classes** start with Ms Corr on September 27th for pupils from 3rd to 6th. Class numbers limited to 10.
34. **Choir** for boys from 4th to 6th class will commence this term and we have entered the Cross Border Orchestra Ireland’s Peace Proms for 2020. A letter will issue this week. Visit <https://peaceproms.com>
35. **Friendship Week** takes place in our school next week (September 9th to 13th) and includes *Friendship Corners, Buddy Week 1st & 6th, Read for a Buddy, Friendship Table, Class Café, poster competitions, poetry & rap competitions* and lots of other fun activities. Discuss all our friendship activities with your son at home each day.
36. **Parents’ Association AGM** – Our PA is holding their AGM on **Wednesday October 2nd at 7pm** and need you to attend. I ask that each family support our school and send at least one representative to the PA AGM.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Mc Gee, Principal.