

*St. Patrick's Boys' N.S.  
Dublin Road,  
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**September 2019**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Ar son foireann na scoile, ba mhaith liom céad míle fáilte a chur roimh gach éinne agus sinn ag teacht ar ais tar éis an tsamhraidh. Ag tús na bliana, ba mhaith liom fáilte speisialta a chur roimh na Naoináin shóisearacha agus na daltaí nua ar fud na scoile. I would like to welcome you all back to school after a summer holidays. I especially would like to welcome our new Junior Infants who started with us for the first time last month and to the children who have entered into other classes throughout the school. Could you please read the following information carefully.

**Healthy Eating policy:** Can you please read our school's healthy eating which is available online and was emailed to you last week. It is important that you read it carefully to ensure that you are complying with school rules but more importantly that your child is eating a healthy and balanced diet. A small treat on a Friday is permitted but this should be a fun-sized treat only. No biscuits of any kind are permitted during the week. Attached is a summary sheet of what is and is not acceptable.

We have discontinued our breakfast provision at our 10.30am break as we found that almost all children brought in sufficient food and we were sending back excessive amounts of snacks and fruit. We appreciate the efforts that you go to, to provide a healthy lunch for your children.

**Visit from the community Garda:** We were delighted to welcome Garda Tom Dilleen for his annual visit to our senior classes in relation to cyber-bullying. He spoke about the dangers that exist online, on gaming, and all other platforms. Having interacted with the pupils, he reported to me his concerns around the amount of unsupervised access children have online and recommended that this be reviewed and reduced by parents as a matter of priority. This was also spoken about at our recent assembly where the number of sports clubs and activities that are available on our doorstep were highlighted as a healthy alternative to the sedentary lifestyle of gaming.

**Football:** Our U11 and U13 footballers are participating in their school leagues at present. We played Corpus Christi in both competitions last week. We lost out in the thirteens by four points but had more luck in the u11, which was played in our pitch in Garryowen. It is great to see so many boys getting involved in the football team. Keep it up boys!

**After- school activities:** Currently there are a number of activities that are taking place after school available to your children. There is football on a Monday for 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, speech and drama on Tuesdays and art class on Wednesdays. Limerick Youth Service also provide an after school club in senior classes once a week. Unfortunately, without additional numbers, the infant drama class will be discontinued. It is provided by an accredited Drama school called Creative Concepts and offers an excellent opportunity to further develop your child's competence and confidence in using language. I would highly recommend enrolling your son in the class, if you are in a position to do so. For further information, please contact the school office.

**Child Protection Policy:** It is important to be reminded of the school obligations to under the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017. The schools Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment also reflect our responsibilities under the procedures and these can be found on our website. The school takes its duty of care extremely seriously and we encourage you to make yourself familiar with all of these documents.

**Teacher meetings:** A new year brings new challenges and opportunities. It can be overwhelming for pupils and parents alike. Your children have moved on to new classes, new classrooms and most have new teachers. I would like to assure you that all members of staff have the best interests of your children at heart and are available to discuss any worries you may have. **Please make an appointment to see your child's teacher should you have any concerns.**

**Homework Policy:** Please note the following key features of our homework policy that will be important for you to support your child.

- Ideally homework should be done soon after school while it is still fresh in the mind, in a quiet area free from TV and other distractions etc.
- You must sign your son's journal every night
- The time spent on homework needs to be recorded on the diary beside your signature
- Learning off and reading are vital parts of homework and need to be given as much attention as written work

**Arts and Craft/Swimming/Allianz Money:** We are continuing to collect money this week. Many thanks to those who have paid. **I would ask anyone who has not, to please do so as soon as you can.** There will be a €5 reduction for your second child and a €10 reduction on your third child's payment should you have three children attending the school. These funds go towards the cost of purchasing classroom materials that will be required by your son during the year. Also, please be aware that only children who have paid for their swimming will be permitted to go.

**School rules:** If you have not done so already, could you please read the rules that are included in your child's homework journal and sign where appropriate. Among them include:

- **Please wear the correct school uniform neatly** (trousers, shirt, tie, jumper) apart from P.E. days when the school tracksuit is worn. Infant children wear the school tracksuit only.
- Haircuts are to be kept simple **without any symbols, lines, colour or decoration.**
- A note is to be provided to the class teacher **explaining all absences** on the day of return to school.

**Pupil information forms:** Presently, we are updating our database with pupil personal information. Please return them by Friday. **If at any stage during the year you change address/phone number etc., it is really important that you inform the school.**

**Back Gate:** Please be aware that the back gate onto Kilmurray Road is closed at approximately 9.20am each day and is reopened again at 1.20pm. For security reasons, the gate is locked between these times. **If you need to access the school during this time, access will only be available via the Dublin Road entrance.**

**Parking, drop-off and collection times:** I ask all patrons of the school to observe the rights of local residents and not to block their driveways. **Also, for health and safety reasons, please do not park in front of the school gates at any time.** This area is marked with a very clear yellow box and we ask you to respect this at all time.

School starts at 8.50am each morning. The doors open at 8.35am. Will you please ensure your child is on time every morning. Equally, school finishes at 2.30pm each evening and it is your obligation to have your child collected on time.

We look forward to your cooperation throughout the year and wish you and your child the very best for 2019/2020.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

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**Anthony Liddane, Príomhoide**