

# COGAR!

Friday 06th September 2019

## Fáilte Ar Ais

**CUIREANN MUID FAILTE ROIMH AR  
NDALTAI NUA, A DTUISMITHEOIRI UILIG  
AGUS AN FHOIREANN NUA AGUS  
CUIREANN MUID FAILTE AR AIS ROIMH  
SEAN CHAIRDE FOSTA.**

***(We welcome all our new pupils, their parents  
and new members of staff and we welcome  
back old friends too!)***

We hope that everybody enjoyed the holidays and had a good rest. We look forward to working together again in the coming school year.

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## Assembly

Áine held our first assembly of the school year this morning. She welcomed everyone back to another school year and chatted about some of the exciting events taking place this year.

Áine holds assembly every Friday morning. Junior Infants to 1<sup>st</sup> class meet from 9.30am - 10.00am and 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> class from 10.00am - 10.30am.

Well done to the Junior Infants who were superstars at assembly and who have done such a great job of settling into school. Well done also to the Junior Infant parents and to Verity, Nakita and Mairéad who have worked together to make the first week so enjoyable for the children.

## Our Weekly Newsletter

All school news is communicated with parents on a weekly basis in our school newsletter COGAR. As part of our on-going Green school initiative, and to reduce printing costs, Cogar will be available on line on our website - [www.letterkennyetns.ie](http://www.letterkennyetns.ie). Or on our Facebook page. However, if you do not have access to the

internet a copy of Cogar can be made available to you in the school office. Please let Edwina know if you wish to receive a paper copy.

This newsletter contains important information about your child's life at school and opportunities for you to become involved in school life. Please read Cogar every week to keep in touch with what is going on in your school.

## Well Done:

A big thank you to the fantastic time keeping on our first week back! The huge effort from parents and pupils is much appreciated. Please remember the yard is supervised from 8.50am and all classes begin at 9am. It is important that your child is in class for 9am each morning so that they do not miss important teaching and learning time.

**Please note: Pupils should not be left unattended at the school before 8.50am as there is no supervision at this time. Pupils are the responsibility of their parents/guardians until 8.50am.**

## Arrival at School

Pupils are expected to arrive at school for 9am and roll call is taken at this time. Department of Education and Skills rules re late starters are very strict. Even ten minutes late every morning adds up to almost an hour of missed learning time in the school week.

If there are particular reasons why your child/children arrive/s late for school on a regular basis you need to speak to us about this matter and we will do what we can to support you. Lisa is available in our Work Together Room to offer support in this regard. Getting your child/children to school on time is keeping our High 5 rule of "come to school". Our High 5 rules are for the whole school community.

If your child is late for school please sign in with Edwina at the school office. A staff member will walk them to their classroom as teaching and learning time will already have begun.

September. Parents will receive their log in details next week.

### **Car Park - The safety of our pupils is our first priority!**

Thank you to our parent volunteers and for your co-operation in ensuring our car park is a safe place for our pupils. We ask for your continued help in the weeks ahead. The drop-off only areas are in place to ensure the safety of the children. We would also ask that the children cross the road at the designated crossing point. Again, this is to make sure that all pupils arrive safely to school at this busy time.

Just a reminder that our parent volunteers are doing their best to keep traffic moving safely in the mornings so please follow their directions.

### **Positive Behaviour Month**

This month is positive behaviour month at our school. Teachers will use this opportunity to draft class rules with the pupils in each class. As parents you can support the school in this work by taking a day a week to discuss each of our high 5 rules. A reminder that the rules are as follows;

- Come to school
- Be respectful
- Be Safe
- Do your best
- Work together

These rules are for everyone in our whole school community. As adults it is our job to model them for the children in our care and as part of our Learn Together Curriculum and ethos. Áine will be visiting all classes next week to talk about the high five rules.

### **School lunches & Healthy Eating**

The school lunch scheme is up and running again in the school. We have received very positive feedback so far and hopefully the minor teething problems will all be ironed out by next week. Please remember that your orders must be placed before Friday for your child to receive their choice of lunch for the following week. Children may still bring in their own lunch or additional snacks if they wish. Junior Infant lunches will commence on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of

September. Parents will receive their log in details next week.

### **Nut Free School**

**As you are aware we are a Nut Free school. Please do not send any nut products into the school.**

**This is a life threatening allergy for some of our pupils so your cooperation with this matter is very important.**

### **School Hoodies**

School hoodies are once again available providing we have sufficient numbers. Order forms will be available from Edwina for anyone who is interested in ordering a hoodie.

### **School Website ([www.letterkennyetns.ie](http://www.letterkennyetns.ie))**

Cogar will be posted on the school website and Facebook page each Friday. The class teachers will also be posting information and pictures of the work that the children are doing in classes. Please let us know if you do not wish your child's photo to appear on the website.

### **Book Rental**

Thank you to all families who have contacted us to arrange payment of book rental for the coming year. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the Book Rental scheme please contact Áine.

### **Homework**

Homework will have begun for most children by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September (some classes may begin before this). The homework that is given reinforces in the learning that takes place in class and is an important part of your child's education. If you feel that your child's homework is not at an appropriate level or if your child is experiencing difficulty with homework, or you have any other concerns about your child in school, please contact the class teacher. Open communication between the school and the parent body is of utmost

importance to the staff and is always in the best interest of the children.

Happy Friday to you all!!

Lisa ☺

### **Dress Code**

As you are aware we do not have a school uniform at Letterkenny ETNS. However, we do have a dress code policy. Runners and flat shoes with straps/laces that can be securely fastened should be worn to school. Reminder notes will be sent home with the children during the school year in line with our 'Be Safe' rule.

A separate note will be sent out by each class teacher in the coming weeks to let parents know on which day P.E. will be held and appropriate clothing to ensure that every child can fully participate in P.E.

### **Contact Details**

If you have changed any of your contact details please let Edwina know ASAP. It is important that we are able to contact a parent/guardians in case of an emergency.

### **Home School community Liaison (HSCL)**

A big hello and welcome back to all of our school community. I hope you have all settled back into the school routine. It's great to see all the boys and girls back at school again! As some of you might know **I (Lisa) am the HSCL teacher.**

Over the course of the year I will be putting any information I receive relating to courses, home visits, in-class activities and whole school initiatives into Cogar weekly. I also put lots of information on the school **Facebook page** **'Letterkenny Educate Together'** or the **school website** [www.letterkennyetns.ie](http://www.letterkennyetns.ie) so watch this space.....

### **Home visits:**

I will be starting my home visits on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of September and I am looking forward to meeting all of our new families! I'll be making some phone calls to make arrangements in the next week, so I'll talk to you then.

If you have any queries regarding specific courses or concerns regarding school policies or attendance you can contact me at

[hscl@letterkennyetns.ie](mailto:hscl@letterkennyetns.ie)

### **Welcome**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Shauna who has been appointed as 3<sup>rd</sup> class teacher to cover Mary's maternity leave. We also welcome back Ciara, Annie, Maria and Robert as they begin their new roles in the school. Kieran and Sharon will also be joining the SNA team for this school year.