

COGAR!

Friday 08th April 2016

School Starts At 9, Be On Time!

Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to all members of our school community. We hope that you enjoyed a restful Spring Break and took full advantage of some of the dry weather.

We are looking forward to a busy 3rd term here at Letterkenny Educate Together NS. The 3rd term is packed with events including school trips, parents' evening, sport's day and our Summer Fair to mention but a few. Please keep a close eye on Cogar each week to stay up to date with all the happenings in the school.

We will also be running our induction programme for the new Junior Infant pupils and their families and we are looking forward to welcoming another class of new pupils to the school.

Term 3 is particularly important for our 6th class pupils as they complete their primary school journey. We look forward to making the most of these last 3 months with them as we help these wonderful young adults prepare for the transition to secondary school.

Please keep a close eye on Cogar, Facebook and the school website each week to stay up to date with all the happenings in the school.

LETNS Marathon

The children and staff at LETNS will be running 1k every day in school this term (7 laps of the playground!). By the end of June each class will have completed a Marathon (42K). The infant classes are working on a half marathon. It is wonderful to see the classes

being so active in school and even Áine has brought her runners to join in. Thanks to Nakita for coming up with the fantastic, innovative way of encouraging all of us to be healthier. The classes are tracking their progress on a display beside the school office so please take a look the next time you are in school.

Home school Community Liaison (HSCL)

Hi all.

Hope everyone has settled ok after the long holiday. The children are busy doing their 1km a day and it's great to see them being active and being healthy. Maths classes will continue every Thursday.

Next week 2nd class are working on a Living Museum project. The children are choosing a famous person (past/present) and creating a project in based on that person. They will then search around their house to design a prop/costume the following week so they can show it to the class. In the final week the children will become that famous person for one hour and turn the classroom into a 'Living Museum'. Looking forward to working with 2nd class on this. On Wednesday 13th from 1.40 -2.40pm parents are invited into class for fun arts and crafts.

Have a great weekend. Máire

Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine:

Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine will return next week.

Fun Wednesday

Next week's Fun Friday is Class Choice.

Lunch Time in School

Lunch break for the children is divided between time in the classroom, where the children are encouraged to eat, and time for playing on the yard.

As with all other areas the time taken to eat lunch varies greatly from child to child! Any child who has not finished eating in class is encouraged to take their lunch out onto one of the benches to finish eating. Some classes have introduced a quiet time of 5/10 minutes inside to allow for more eating (and less chatting!) to take place.

If you feel that your child is not eating enough in the classroom please have a chat to them about taking lunch outside too.

Relationships and Sexuality Education:

RSE week will commence on Monday 11th of April. The lessons will run each morning from 9.30am - 10am. Information was sent home this week with each child. We would ask that you would take some time to discuss this information with your child before Monday so that they are prepared for the lessons in school.

Crossing safely at Ballyraine Halls

If your child crosses the road at Ballyraine Halls to meet you in the car park please remind them about the importance of crossing safely. Catherine and Áine do their best to supervise the children at home time but this may not always be possible. This is a very busy time and unfortunately the children do not always check carefully before stepping out onto the road. We would also like to remind parents to be aware of pupils crossing at this time and to take extra care.

Positive Behaviour Policy

We will be conducting a whole school review of our Positive Behaviour Policy this term and would appreciate feedback from as many parents as possible. To begin the process we would ask that parents would read our current policy, which is available on the school website, and email any feedback to

letnspolicies@gmail.com

Our aim at all times is to have the views of the entire parent body represented during our policy reviews and we understand that it can be difficult for large numbers of our parents to attend meetings. Therefore, we have created this new email address to allow more parents to become involved in the policies that are in place for our school.

The positive behaviour policy is one of the most important policy for our school community. Ideally we would like parents to discuss this policy at home with their children and the children will also be working on this in school over the course of the term ahead. We

look forward to reading all your responses over the coming weeks. As with all school policies a copy is also available on request from the school office.

A draft copy of the recently revised homework policy is also available on the school website and the Board of Management hopes to ratify this policy at our next meeting.

Update on the new school

Áine continues to work daily with the Department of Education and Donegal County Council on the new school building. At the moment the school is still in the planning permission stage. Donegal County Council has requested further information from the Department with regard to the planning application and the Department is currently compiling this. While we had hoped that the building would have started by now delays at the planning stage are extremely common and we are confident that once the planning application is granted the building works will commence quickly.

We are increasingly mindful of the need for a new school building as our waiting lists for each class continue to grow. Please remember that our current enrolment policy is on a strictly 'first come first served' basis and there is no guarantee of places for siblings. Therefore, we would encourage any families with younger children to enrol them as soon as possible to avoid any potential disappointment.

Note from Nakita and 5th Class

Welcome back,

I hope you all had a lovely spring break. We are now into our final school term. 5th class would like to invite all of you wonderful parents into our classroom on **Friday 15th April**. We will have a guest speaker (Local Businessman - Michael Murphy) in attendance and the children will showcase their shop projects between 11 am- 12.20 pm.

We really hope you can make it.

