

COGAR!

Friday 08th September 2017

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.

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 2nd class meet from 9.30am - 10.00am and 3rd - 6th class from 10.00am - 10.30am. We are looking forward to our new school where we will be able to have assembly all together.

Well done to the Junior Infants who were superstars at assembly and who have done such a great job of setting into school. Well done also to the Junior Infant parents and to Verity and Maria 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. 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.

Drop off and pick-up arrangements:

In the morning all pupils may access their classroom by using the side gate to the right hand side of the building. For 1.40pm infant pick-up and 2.40pm pick-up parents should use the side gate only. Parents of pupils in 1st and 2nd classes must give their child's/children's class teacher/s a written note if they want their child/children to proceed to the carpark unattended.

Junior & Senior infant and 1st Class bus lines are accompanied to and from the bus. 2nd - 6th bus lines make their own way to the bus.

Please note that the side gate is locked directly after 9am so if your child arrives late he/she will need to use the front door. This is in the interest of the health and safety of the pupils in the school.

Cara House/LYFS

If your child/children is/are using the after school facility at Cara House or LYFS (Letterkenny Youth and Family Service) you must inform the office in writing of the arrangements.

Car Park - Please do not park on the areas marked by double yellow lines

Thank you 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 car park should be used for drop off only in the mornings.** If you need to come into the school with your child please park at Ballyraine Halls and walk over to the school. Our car parking spaces are reserved for staff. We thank the management of Ballyraine Halls for allowing us to use this facility.

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.

Our school has a healthy eating policy. We remind parents and pupils they can see more information on the school website.

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 one 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 on Monday 18th September. We are currently checking with the company if they can supply a zip up version of the hoodies.

School Website (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 begin for most children on Monday 18th September. 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.

As all schools are introducing a New Primary Language curriculum this year this will be reflected in homework for the year. There will be a focus on oral language and increasing the children's vocabulary. Class teachers will provide more details when homework begins.

Dress Code

As you are aware we do not have a school uniform at Letterkenny ETNS. However, we do have a dress code policy which we revised in June 2014. All parents were invited to take part in this. One of the main concerns for staff is the increase in inappropriate footwear that is being worn in school. The children play outside every day and we had a number of accidents last term due to slip-on shoes/sandals or shoes with heels. These types of shoes are not safe for running in and we would ask that your child would not wear them to school. 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.

Class Meetings

Over the coming weeks each teacher will hold a class meeting for parents/guardians. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to get some information about class routines and learning for the year. More details will follow in next weeks' Cogar.

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)

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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 so watch this space.....

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

hscl@letterkennyetns.ie

Happy Friday to you all!!

Lisa ☺