



# Cliffoney National School

## Nuachtlitir

### Meán Fómhair 2016

www.cliffoneyns.scoilnet.ie

0719166578

#### Fáilte ar ais!

Welcome back to everyone in our school community after what I hope was a restful and enjoyable summer break.

As the Irish seanfhocal says "Tús maith leath na hoibre" (a good start is half the battle) and indeed a good start is important in making sure your child has a productive and fulfilling year in school. Ensuring that your child has a proper diet, gets sufficient sleep and takes plenty of exercise can contribute greatly to his/her readiness and capacity to learn. Regular attendance is also crucial to your child's continued development and we would ask you, as much as possible, to avoid unnecessary absences. Please read carefully the practical points noted in this nuachtlitir which will help in the smooth running of the school and assist in the creation of the best possible learning environment for all pupils.

I would like to welcome our new teachers, Ms. Walsh and Ms. McNulty to Cliffoney N.S. We are delighted to have you with us this year.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Management of Cliffoney National School, I would like to wish pupils, parents, staff and everyone associated with our school an enjoyable and successful year of learning together.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

*Louise Kerins*

#### New Pupils

A very warm welcome to the six Junior Infants who have joined our school this September. They have settled very quickly into their new surroundings. We extend this welcome to Soma and Flynn who have joined 6th class and to Lucas who is in 3rd class. We hope that you have many exciting and enriching experiences during your time in Cliffoney N.S.

#### Parents' Association

All parents in the school are automatically members of our Parents' Association. The P.A. committee for this year is: Caroline Leonard Taylor (chairperson), Sarah Gallagher (secretary) and, Evelyn Blanc and Mary Barry (treasurers). The first meeting of the P.A. will take place in the school on **Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> September** at 8pm. All Welcome.

#### Dátaí don Féilire

Mass for Opening of School Year	Thurs. 29th Sept. 10:00am
Midterm Break	Mon. 31st Oct. — Fri. 4th Nov.
Parent / Teacher Meetings	Tues. 22nd Nov. & Thurs. 24th Nov.
Christmas Holidays	Closing Thurs. 22nd Dec. — Re-opening Mon. 9th Jan.

#### Staffing 2016/2017

- Junior/Senior Infants - Ms. Kerins
- 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> - Ms. McNulty
- 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> - Mr. McTiernan
- Learning Support - Ms. Lang & Ms. Walsh
- Resource Teacher - Ms. Longworth
- 2 SNAs - Bernie Maguire and Caroline Carney

#### P.E.

Your child's teacher will inform you of P.E. days. A reminder that the school uniform for P.E. days is navy tracksuit, navy bottoms and blue polo shirt only. Please ensure that your child's name is on all his/her clothes, jumpers, jackets etc.

#### Sport

The annual SuperValu Primary Schools Athletics Fest took place at I.T. Sligo on Friday 23rd September. It was a cold and miserable day but all children from 3rd-6th class participated and did themselves and our school proud. Maith sibh! A big bualadh bos to our senior boys team who made it to the finals. Comhghairdeas!

Hurling coaching with Benny Kenny resumed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes. We are very lucky to have Benny working with us again this year.

## Important Points of Information

### The School Day

School starts at 9.10am and finishes at 2:50pm (1:50pm for Junior/Senior Infants). **For insurance purposes, children are not admitted into the building until school begins as they are not supervised by teachers.** The Board of Management does not accept any responsibility for children before 9.10am and after 1:50pm for infants and 2:50pm for all other classes. **Children will enter the school in the morning via the side doors on the yard and must be collected from the yard at home-time.** Parents must notify the school in writing if there is any change in arrangements for children going home.

### Pupil Absences

**A written note must be furnished in the event of your child being absent for any reason.** This note can be written in your child's homework journal (appropriate pages in the middle) or put in a note to the teacher. Parents are reminded that under the provisions of the Education Welfare Act (2000), principals of all schools are obliged by law to inform the authorities in the case of any pupil who misses 20 or more days during the school year, for any reason. Missing time from school is a significant factor in educational performance. **Pupils, however, should not be in school if they are unwell.**

### Parent-Teacher Communication

If you wish to meet your child's teacher, you are asked to make an appointment. An appointment system ensures that teaching is not interrupted and that classes are not left unsupervised. Day-to-day communication with the teacher can be made through the school journal. Formal parent-teacher meetings will be held in November.

### Medicines

**Please notify us if your child has any allergies or medical condition that you feel we should know about.** Staff do not give medicines to pupils. Pupils are not permitted to have or use medicines on the school premises unless the school has been informed of this in writing. Any parent who feels that their child needs medication in case of emergency should contact the principal to discuss procedure. As we apply plasters for minor cuts and grazes, please inform us if you **do not want us** to do this for your child for any reason e.g. child allergic to plasters etc.

### Contact Information

Please notify Anna, the school secretary, of any changes in contact numbers, addresses etc. so that our database can be kept up to date. It is important to have a backup system in place in the event of your child becoming unwell during school.

### Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Scheme

Every year parents are offered the opportunity to avail of the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Scheme. While participating in this scheme is **not obligatory**, it is recommended that parents of children participating in school sporting activities/competitions would consider availing of this scheme. All children are currently covered by the school's insurance policy but claims will only be paid out on, if negligence can be proved. Further details are available from the school office.

## A Gentle Reminder!

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their contribution towards the **book rental** scheme and **art/craft and photocopying**. If you have not done so already, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

### No Party Invitations

Birthdays are a source of great excitement and celebration in the life of a child, and rightly so. However, we ask that if you wish to invite pupils to your child's party, please do so privately. **Please do not send birthday party invitations into the school. We are very concerned about the distress caused to individual children who are not invited.** We appeal to you to co-operate with us in this matter. Míle Buíochas.

### New Language Curriculum

Later this year, our school will close for one day to facilitate training for all teachers on the new language curriculum. You will be advised of this date as soon as we are made aware.

### Lunches

Pupils are encouraged to eat nutritious food and their lunches should be as healthy as possible. We strongly advise against sending sweets, chocolate, crisps & similar snacks and fizzy drinks to school.

### Child Protection Information

All schools are obliged by law to follow 'Children First' Child Protection guidelines. All teachers, GAA coaches, Youth Sport west coaches and any adults involved in delivering school activities must be garda vetted before being involved with children in a school environment. **Garda vetting forms are available from the school office.**