

A thuismitheoirí,

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year! We invite you to join us in support of your child's educational experience. The start of the new school year is an exciting time for students, parents and teachers alike. It is an opportunity to start afresh, to renew old acquaintances and make new friends, to celebrate past learning and acquire new skills.

In order to provide your 4<sup>th</sup> class child with an excellent climate which (s)he deserves, we will be working together to establish a positive class environment. We will respect the rights of others to learn as we conduct ourselves in school. Our personal philosophy of education values a system encompassing respect, responsibility, co-operation, honesty, fairness and friendship.

The curriculum for your child is broad and balanced and follows the Revised National Curriculum. Pupils also receive a planned programme of personal and social awareness (S.P.H.E), including, health, moral, religious and sex education. Sport, drama and music are also well catered for.

### **School Policies:**

September is a good month to reread the policies in our School Journal and on the school website: [www.scoiloilibheir.ie](http://www.scoiloilibheir.ie) . These include a Healthy Lunch Policy, Homework policy, Uniform policy and the School Rules.

**Birthday invitations are not to be handed out in school.**

### **Homework**

Parents will be encouraged at all times to play an active part in their children's homework. Please ensure your child has an area with sufficient space and which is free of distractions in which to do their homework. Time spent on homework will vary from day to day but it should not take more than 40 minutes. Please check to make sure they have completed their homework and **sign their homework journals nightly**. In general, it shall not be policy to give work at weekends. It is beneficial if your child learns mathematical tables "by heart" in order to recall them quickly and accurately.

### **Lunch**

We would advise that you give your child a reasonably substantial lunch for their break. As you may be aware, there is a healthy eating policy in the school and each child needs a good lunch to maintain concentration and energy throughout the day.

### **Tracksuit day:**

All 4<sup>th</sup> classes are timetabled for P.E. on Friday. Please ensure your child is wearing their tracksuit and suitable footwear that day. Also please label your child's uniform. If your child does not have a school tracksuit available, your child must wear their normal school uniform and can bring their runners in a separate bag.

### **Punctuality**

Once young people establish habits it is very difficult to change these habits. Good school attendance and good punctuality are, in essence, good habits - and it is important that these habits be established and maintained throughout the year. The school gates open at 8.30am and class starts at 8.45am sharp.

### **Absences**

If your child is absent, please fill the absence slip in the journal stating the reason for their absence and return it to the teacher.

### **Procedure for collection of pupils:**

If you are collecting your child during school time please inform Mrs. Quarry at the office and ensure that you sign them out.

### **Jewellery**

For health and safety reasons, the wearing of jewellery is not allowed except for watches and small stud earrings.

### **Tests/Assessments**

Tests are administered on a regular basis throughout the year. These serve to inform all partners in your child's education.

### **Educational Websites**

The following are some free educational websites that would benefit your child.

- [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)
- [www.ictgames.com](http://www.ictgames.com)
- [www.arcademics.com](http://www.arcademics.com)
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>

Lastly we want you to know that we would like to see an academically strong and enjoyable year for all students. We consider it of utmost importance that you are an active part in your child's education as nobody knows and understands your child as well as you. Please feel free to set up an appointment to talk to the class teacher; this can be done in two ways: You may choose to send a note via the Homework journal or call our secretary Mrs. Quarry and she will arrange an appointment. Parental support and involvement are important factors in your child's success.

Remember we are a team when it comes to helping your child reach their fullest potential. Tugamid Buíochas leat roimh ré as do chabhair.