



Scoil Mhuire, Clontibret

Tullybuck, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan. Roll No. 18539A

Tel: (047) 80729 Tel: (047) 80044 Email: office@scoilmhuireclontibret.ie

September 2023 Newsletter

4th September 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As we settle into the new school year, please note the following important information.

General Information

- **Child Safe Guarding**

The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

- The **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** is **Elizabeth Moorehead**.
- The **Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP)** is **Caroline Reid**.

Scoil Mhuire Safeguarding Statement is available on the school website, www.scoilmhuireclontibret.ie or available in the school office on request.

- **School Opening & Closing Times**

The school gates are opened after the bell rings at 08:50.

The SNAs are available to escort children, as needed, to the classrooms from 09:00.

Class begins at **09:10** and finishes at **13:50** for Junior & Senior Infants and at **14:50** for all other classes.

- **Appointments**

Our school is approachable, if you wish to speak to me or any teacher; an appointment can be made by ringing the school between 9.00a.m. and 2.00p.m. The secretary is unavailable to answer the phone after this time.

- **Label Belongings**

Please **label clearly all** your child's belongings particularly **jumpers, jackets, lunchboxes, books and copies**.

It is very difficult to match children with jumpers when they are not labelled.

- **Communication**

All regular communication from the school to parents / guardians will be via the Aladdin App, however there may be occasions when emails will be sent.

Should you wish to send a message to the school, such as, "a different person collecting your child", this can be done by:

- Selecting **Noticeboard** on your Aladdin App homepage
- Selecting **Contact the School**

Alternatively, you can phone the school office, 047 80044/ 80729 between 9am and 2pm.

- **Absences**

Under current legislation, all absences of 20 days or more have to be reported to TUSLA the Child and Family Agency.

All absences, late arrivals and early collections must be recorded on the Aladdin App. These can be recorded on the App by:

- Selecting the **Attendance Note** tab on your homepage
- Your message will be received by both the class teacher and the school office.

All records must be kept in school for possible inspection by TUSLA.

Although telephone calls to the school and word of mouth regarding absences are welcomed, they are not sufficient for TUSLA. Reasons for absences must be recorded.

- **Signing in / Signing Out**

In the interest of Health and Safety:

If a pupil has to leave school early for whatever reason, the parent / guardian must call to the front door of the school. A member of Staff will get your child for you and he / she will be signed out.

If a pupil arrives to school after Roll Call, i.e. 9.30 a.m., the parent / guardian must call to the front door of the school. A member of staff will sign your child in.

- **Safety in the Car Park**

- Please be very cautious in the car park when bringing children to and collecting children from school.
- Please **DO NOT drive around the back of the Community Centre in the mornings or in the afternoons as the children use this area as their pathway.** Please ensure that relatives or friends who may be collecting your children are also aware of this.
- The Entrance / Exit adjacent to the school fencing should not be used as it too dangerous when children are arriving to and departing from school.
- Please use the dedicated Entrance at the community centre door and the dedicated Exit at the back of the church.
- Please do not park in the Bus Parking area.
- As a matter of health and safety, parents are asked NOT to drive in through the school gates or to park in the school entrance. We are very fortunate to have access from the Community Centre car park. We would ask all parents who leave their children to school to use this facility.
- Please ensure that all who escort your child / children to and from school are aware of these aspects of safety.
- Please ensure that your child/children are collected on time in the afternoon, as supervision cannot be guaranteed after school hours.

The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for children who are waiting at the school to be collected at home time.

- **Dogs/Pets**

In the interests of health and safety, please **DO NOT** take your dogs or pets onto the school grounds.

- **School Calendar 2023 / 2024**

Please find attached a copy of the school calendar.

- **Contact Details**

We are currently updating our contact details of all our families. Please complete all sections of the contact details form and return it to the school as soon as possible. Please inform the school office / class teacher in writing if you change your contact details during the school year.

- **Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Scheme**

All pupils enrolled in the school avail of Allianz Insurance. This means that all pupils are insured for 24-hour cover, 365 days a year for school activities, social, domestic and leisure activities including during school holidays. Please ensure that you avail of this insurance cover should you have expenses due to your child having an accident.

- **Rental Books**

Over the next few days / weeks, your child will receive their school textbooks and activity books.

The textbooks have already been covered with a plastic cover.

As an additional measure to prolong the life of the textbooks, we kindly ask that the textbooks are labelled and covered with a second paper covering as soon as possible.

- **Party Invitations**

Distribution of invitations to parties etc. is not permitted through the school.

In the interests of health and safety, please do not send in birthday cake/party treats as some children have allergies in the school.

- **Soccer**



Soccer training and skills for all pupils begins on Thursday 7th September. This is a six-week programme, which will cover elements of the Games strand in PE. The programme is being delivered by Euan Treanor, FAI Primary Schools Coach.

- **Stay Safe Programme**

The aim of the Stay Safe programme is to teach children personal safety skills so that they can look after themselves in situations, which could be upsetting or dangerous.

This programme is an integral part of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum, which all primary schools are required to implement.

It is based on the following core elements:

-  Nurturing children's self-esteem / Building children's confidence
-  Enabling children to be assertive / Helping children to identify and express their feelings

The children are taught age appropriate personal safety skills in the context of developing their independence.

Over the coming year, your child may bring home activity sheets, which will inform you on the topics being covered in class and how you can reinforce the message at home. These worksheets are to be signed by you. This will be an opportunity to have a chat with your child about what they are learning in school.

New Primary Curriculum

The primary curriculum is changing and will continue to change over the coming years. The new primary curriculum recognises the key role parents and guardians play in their child's education and promotes a

partnership approach which will encourage increased communication between schools and parents/guardians.

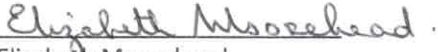
It is essential that parents/guardians are made aware of the changes to the curriculum that have taken place to date and what will be happening over the years to come. In this regard the Department, in collaboration with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) and the Professional Development for Teachers (PDST), has developed a leaflet which is designed to introduce these changes and encourage parent/guardians to engage in the future consultations seeking feedback on the draft curriculum areas and subjects of the new curriculum. This New Primary Curriculum Information Leaflet is attached.

Official Opening

It is with great delight that I can inform you that Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development will officially open our school development, buildings and grounds on Friday, 22nd September. Further details in regards to this celebration will follow.

In conclusion, I wish you and your children a happy, healthy and fulfilling school year.

Yours respectfully,


Elizabeth Moorehead,
Principal