

Dear Parents,

As we commence our first full week back in school it appears the Indian summer we had hoped for has not materialised! I would like to thank you for your cooperation with our reopening procedures last week. Our Junior Infants are settling in well and we hope they will enjoy many happy years in Cloonakilla. We request parents to drop them to their line in the morning and leave. Congregating in playground leads to congestion in the carpark which we cannot afford. As outlined in a previous email we need all other parents to leave small carpark free for new Junior Infant parents for the next 2 weeks.

In order for school life to run as efficiently as possible I would like to draw your attention to the following matters:

School Carpark

You have received an earlier email explaining best practice in our school carpark. It is of vital importance that you observe the carpark rules. Please note again that the outside lane in the drive through area is for circulation only. Under no circumstances should children exit car while the car is in the outside lane Please drop your child and leave promptly from the set down area. Parents are not permitted to park and leave their car unattended in the setdown area. If you wish to enter the school please park in the carpark to the left of the school entrance. **Please ensure that anyone collecting your child is aware of the carpark rules because too often this is not the case.** Please do not walk through the staff carpark or enter/exit through main school gate as it is too dangerous. This gate is for cars only. Congestion will occur at 3pm. The children are supervised until 3.10pm so it is always an option for parents to delay pick up times. Another option would be for older children to meet their parents at designated points along the way.

Art & Crafts

Each child is required to pay €25.00 towards the cost of Arts & Craft materials and photocopying paper. This should be given to the class teacher as soon as possible. Due to the rising costs it is vital that **all** parents pay this fee as soon as possible.

Aladdin Connect

Please use Aladdin Connect to communicate with the class teacher or the school office. Alternatively, you can email the school directly. Please use Aladdin Connect to update your personal details e.g. change of phone no, email address, address etc. It can also be used to record reasons for absences.

School Calendar

Please see attached.

Homework

Homework will be assigned in accordance with our Homework Policy. We will strive to ensure that school bags are kept as light as possible. If you need to send a teacher a message regarding homework please do so via Aladdin Connect.

Code of Discipline

Attached please find Code of Discipline/Behaviour for Cloonakilla NS. Please read through the school rules with your child to ensure understanding. Class teachers have revised the rules with all classes.

School Attendance

Please take cognisance of the school calendar when planning family breaks. Holidays during September can be very disruptive for children as this is the time when new

routines and schedules are established. Written work will not be assigned to children on holidays during the school term. Please note that all absences from school of 20 days or over must be reported to the National Education Welfare Board. Please notify the class teacher via Aladdin Connect if your child is absent. It is important to record the reason for absences as the Education Welfare Officer may request to see this record in the event of your child's absences exceeding 20 days. Please **do not** ring the school.

P.E.

Class teachers will inform children of their P.E. Day. School P.E. tops and **navy** tracksuit bottoms must be worn on PE days. The full school uniform must be worn on all other days. **Please label tracksuit tops and uniform.** It is unbelievable how many tops and jumpers are left in school and never reclaimed despite repeated attempts to locate owners. As stated in the school rules children are not allowed to wear studs, earrings and jewellery on P.E. days or when playing contact sports. This is for Health & Safety purposes.

Healthy Lunch Policy

Attached please find our Healthy Lunch Policy.

We endorse a healthy eating policy in our school. We encourage parents to plan a healthy lunch using food from each of the food groups. The following foods are NOT allowed: sweets, fizzy drinks, chocolate, bars including cereal bars and crisps except on Fridays when children are allowed bring a SMALL treat to school.

School Policies

All relevant policies can be viewed on the school website. I would like to draw your attention in particular to the Administration of Medicines Policy. Children with care needs are looked after by designated staff members. Children who require an inhaler in school must give the inhaler to the class teacher for safekeeping. This will be kept in the teacher's drawer and given to the child as required. This inhaler must be kept in school.

Anti Bullying

For the month of September all classes will work on the theme of Anti-Bullying as part of the S.P.H.E. Curriculum. This will help to create an atmosphere within the school whereby bullying of any type is seen as unacceptable behaviour. A class charter will be drawn up in each classroom and children will be made aware of the procedures involved in the event of bullying occurring. Parents should make themselves familiar with the policy which can be viewed on the school website.

School Insurance

Insurance forms were issued to all children today. Please check school bags. Forms and money **must be returned to class teacher in an envelope clearly marked "Pupil Insurance"**. This money must be kept separate from Art & Craft money. Cheques for pupil insurance must be made payable to "Cloonakilla N.S. Parents Association".

Birthday Invitations

We all know that often unnecessary and unintended hurt is caused to children who are not invited to parties. For that reason the B.O.M ask parents/children not to distribute such invitations either in the school itself or in the school grounds in view of other children. We make such a request in order to cherish all children equally. Phone numbers of class groupings are available on request from the school office. Junior Infant

permission slips have been issued to children this week. Please return to the class teacher at your earliest convenience.

Voluntary Smartphone Agreement

I will issue a separate email later this week with regard to the Voluntary Smartphone Agreement.

After School Clubs

Lego Club (1st & 2nd class), Chess Club (5th & 6th class) and Therapeutic Play Skills (3rd & 4th class) will commence shortly. You will be contacted by relevant teachers.

I hope we will have a happy and productive school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Rourke