



Scoil Náisiúnta Inse Rátha, Little Island National School.
Tel: 021 – 4354087.

Principal – Micheál Rea

30/08/2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you all had a lovely summer and that you are ready for the school year ahead. I would especially like to welcome the children and families who are new to our school community. I hope that you will have a very happy and fulfilling time here.

We undertook a good deal of painting, decorating and cleaning during the summer to make sure that we have a nice environment for our children. This was a considerable expense that we had to take on without any support from The Department of Education. We will be asking that you continue to support our brown envelopes to help us to pay off the balance of these works and to maintain and replace resources in the school.

Our SNA allocation was reduced for this year so unfortunately Laura Daly has moved to another school. We have some teachers on leave this year and during the summer we recruited teachers to replace them. I am very confident that we have a great team in place to continue the excellent traditions of our school.

Our staff is as follows:

SNAs: Ann O’Keeffe/Aoife Glavin (job share), Siobhan Collins and Mary Clifford

Secretary: Jacinta Flannery

Cleaner: ChocLatte Cleaning

Caretaker: Mick Glavin

Deputy Principal and SEN Coordinator: Gillian Diamond.

Junior Infants: Brigid O’Donovan

Senior Infants: Eleanor Crowley

1st Class: Nuala Murray

2nd Class: Miriam Hennessy

3rd Class: Clare Harrington

4th Class: Julie Neville

5th Class: Louise Morgan

6th Class: Caoimhe Hynes

Resource and Learning Support: Valerie McGrath/Gillian Daly (job-share), Gillian Diamond and Audrey Roche

Extra Curricular Activities: We will have a range of after school classes running this year. You will receive notes from the organisers of these classes over the next week or so. The school is facilitating the organisation of these classes but you will be entering into an arrangement with the class organiser so all queries and money will need to go directly to them. These are optional classes and our teachers will continue to run extra-curricular activities such as football, hurling, chess etc.

Supervision:

Children are allowed into the school yard from 8.30 am and will be brought into their classrooms by their teacher at 8.40 am. Formal classes begin at 8.50 am. On wet days children will be supervised in a classroom from 8.30am-8.40am. No



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responsibility can be taken for children before 8.30 am or after 2.30pm (1.30pm for Infants) unless on official school activities. We receive very strict guidelines from our insurance company so we have to stick to these times even if it is wet or cold. Please bear this in mind when you drop your child to school. The bus service is a private arrangement between parents and Joe Delea, and while the school facilitates it, we are not responsible for it in any way.

Pupil accident insurance: This, 24 hr cover, is compulsory for every child in the school. Accidents happen both at home and in school and this insurance has proven to be priceless for families over the years. Check out www.allianz.ie for more details. It pays out quickly and is relatively hassle free.

Communication: Each teacher will communicate with you via your child's homework journal. Please check regularly for notes. Feel free to make an appointment to meet your child's teacher through the office as well.

App: details on how to use our school app are in your child's homework journal. We will be using this for all communication, updates and news this year. Monthly newsletters will no longer be sent home in printed form and we will be using the app for notes too. If you can't access our app please contact Jacinta so you don't miss important notifications. Jacinta is in the office until 1.45pm each day. There will be no one in the office after that. Leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Uniforms: Please make sure your child wears the correct tracksuit/uniform on the appropriate days. Teachers will inform each class of their tracksuit days shortly. Please label all your child's belongings clearly – even for those in the older classes!

Entry and Exit from the school:

A number of people have come to me about pets at the gate. Some of our children are very nervous of these pets and are finding it hard to enter and exit the school when these pets are nearby. If you *have* to bring a pet to the school could you please bear in mind that not all children are comfortable with them and keep a path clear for them to exit safely and happily. No animals, except assistance dogs, are allowed on the school grounds at any time.

Parking: Please note that the car park is for staff use only and we would appreciate if the entrance could be kept clear at all times. Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking outside the school and don't block their entrances or park on the yellow lines.

Best of luck to everyone for the year ahead. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best.

Micheál Rea.



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