



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

Principal – Micheál Rea

August 2023

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.

Covid-19:

As we return to school there will be an upsurge in various viruses. We will continue to encourage good hand hygiene and sneezing etiquette. We haven't received any new guidance so we will continue as we were in June. If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 please keep them at home. We will be sending home children with symptoms, as we did last year in order to protect our school community. Over the last few years, the government have provided extra money for additional cleaning and sanitising. We will continue with these as long as these grants continue. If you need to speak to us please call into Jacinta to make an appointment. Children who need to be collected early will be brought up to reception where you can collect them.

Summer Works:

AbbVie undertook a huge amount of work at the end of June to enhance our school environment. We are very grateful for their support and I'm sure the children will enjoy the improvements to our outside space. AbbVie volunteers undertook painting, gardening and they also installed a series of tables with planets on them. This can also be used as an outdoor classroom.

We also undertook a good deal of maintenance 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. On top of that the Department hasn't paid a number of grants that were due earlier in the year. 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.

Staff:

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: Mary Clifford and Aoife Glavin

Secretary: Jacinta Flannery

Cleaner: ChocLatte Cleaning

Deputy Principal and SEN Coordinator: Gillian Diamond.



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Junior Infants: Miriam Hennessy

Senior Infants: Laura Ginevra

1st Class: Susan Lynch

2nd/3rd Class: Louise Morgan

3rd/4th Class: Estelle Cassidy/Julie Neville

5th Class: Audrey Roche

6th Class: Micheál Rea

Resource and Learning Support: Valerie McGrath, Gillian Diamond and Nuala Murray

Teaching Principal:

As a teaching principal, I will be teaching 6th class. I will have a day each week to do administrative work and attend meetings. This year, Ms. Diamond will take my class when I am on these admin days. I will be in school before and after school each day, normally 8am to 4pm, if you need to speak to me. You can email me at principal@littleislandns.com to make an appointment or you can ring Jacinta.

Sherpa Kids Childcare:

Sherpa Kids will continue to operate again this year from 8am to 6pm. They provide care and activities before school and after school. Contact Ellen at lins@sherpakids.ie to book a place for your child.

Supervision:

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

New Junior Infants:

Parents can bring their child to the external classroom door for the first week. Enter the school grounds using the gate by the pitch. After that we would encourage you to drop your child at the gate and let them walk in.

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.



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

App: We stopped using the school app on July 31st. Information about school events etc will be posted on the school **Instagram** from now on. We will formulate a policy and get permission from you before we post pictures of any children. You will need to follow us in order to receive information. This will be the main form of notification and updates so please sign up as soon as possible so you don't miss anything.

We will also use Text-a-Parent for short messages and newsletters will be available on our website.

Jacinta is in the office until 1.45pm each day. The office is unmanned after this time. 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!

Healthy Eating Policy:

Please see our school's homework journal for details of our Healthy Eating Policy. Proper healthy and nutritious foods help children to focus and to work better. Water is the best drink for the same reason.

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 it 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 double yellow lines. Please keep the bus and disabled parking spots free as well.

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

All the best,



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