**Clonbonny N.S Newsletter September 2019**

Dear Parents,

You are all very welcome back after our summer break. A very special welcome to all our new families as you begin your journey through the school. I am confident that you will be made feel part of our school community very quickly. Welcome back also to all of our staff members, especially to Ms Caitriona Lynam who returns to her full- time position and also to Ms Olivia Boland who has now joined our staff on a permanent basis.

 I would also like to extend best wishes to Fr. Mark Bennett who has now departed from his role as Chairperson of our board of Management. Fr Mark was an excellent Chairperson and we are sad to see him leave our school and indeed our parish. We welcome Breda Byrne, a former pupil and current member of our Board of management as our new chairperson. We are delighted that Breda has taken on this role.

Traditionally Clonbonny has always had an open-door policy for parents and teachers always make every effort to meet with parents who have concerns or worries. We want to continue to be available to parents but kindly request that parents make an appointment in the office where possible. I am excited to be beginning my new role as principal but as my primary function is to teach 5th and 6th class I cannot be available to meet with parents during class time. My dual role as teacher and principal is a busy one and if you leave a message or send an email I will make every effort to contact you on the same day. Our parent teacher meetings will take place later in the year and dates will be provided closer to the time. Please be assured that you will always be contacted if you child is running a temperature, vomits, has a head or any other serious injury. Please ensure that the office has two contact numbers for your child that are active. If you are not receiving texts from text a parent, please make the office aware of this immediately.

 The **car park** is for staff and school visitors only. For health and safety reasons please refrain from using the car park to drop or collect children. Children using the car park accompanied by a parent/guardian creates a false sense of security, allowing children to think it is a safe space for them. Cars using the car park are not expecting children to be using it as a walkway and accidents may occur if children continue to use the car park to enter or exit classrooms. Please note that there is a yellow box outside the school gate. This box should not be used as a parking space at any time. The bus space should also not be used as a parking space.

**School day:**

School starts at 9:00am and ends at 1:40pm for Junior and Senior Infants and at 2:40 for all other pupils. The school opens at 8:30am to accommodate any parents who are rushing to work. All pupils should be on time. Class instruction begins at 9:00 am. According to department of education guidelines, children arriving after 11am must be marked absent even if a note is sent to the teacher. Reports must be made on children who miss 20 days or more and parents will be notified when their child is at 12 days. It is important to provide the class teacher with certs for genuine or extended period of sickness.

**Points to remember:**

Please inform us if your child has any ***medical conditions or allergies***. **Our school is now a nut free zone due to the severe allergies some of our children have.** Please sign the slip below and return to class teacher. We encourage all children to bring a healthy lunch to school. Sandwiches, fruit, milk, water, small treat sized bars, pasta etc are all acceptable. Children should not have crisps, large bars, gum or fizzy drinks. We also encourage all children to bring re- usable drinks bottles as we are phasing out the use of plastic bottles of water due to the huge volume of weekly rubbish.

We acknowledge and wish all children a **happy birthday** when the day arrives. However, we would ask parents to refrain from sending in sweets and treats to the classroom as we have found that all children are not permitted to eat those treats and without a list of ingredients cannot guarantee that items baked at home are completely nut free. In the past we have also found that distributing birthday invitations in classroom causes huge upset to some children who may not be invited to an upcoming party. We politely ask that if your child is having a party, invitations are distributed outside the school gates to avoid causing an unnecessary upset in school.

We have invested heavily in changing our book scheme in English this year. We have tried to keep the children’s book bill as low as possible by offering many core text books on our book rental scheme. As there is a shortfall in Department Grants, we must however ask for a class contribution towards art, photocopying, book rental books. We are thankful to those who have already forwarded this contribution and gently remind others that this money is now been collected. I would like to remind parents that books provided by the school are the property of the school and must be returned in good condition. Any books damaged or lost by the children must be replaced by them. We have invested heavily in English this year and have invested in Maths in recent years to meet the changing curriculums and as a school are not in a financial position to replace lost or damaged books.

Please adhere to our school uniform to be fair to all families. It is navy bottoms and top and a white or yellow t-shirt. These can be purchased in any of the shops. Crested jumpers are available to purchase beside Singers but any navy hoodie/jumper is acceptable.

Our school bus is now full. The bus used this year is smaller than in recent year so unfortunately, we can only accommodate 19 children on the route home. This is a matter that is outside of our control. If you are availing of our bus service, please ensure the weekly fee is sent into the office by Thursday of each week

**Allianz insurance** provide the pupil personal accident 24hour policy. Please see form attached and return with payment if you wish your child to avail of this cover.

Our **RSE programme** is implemented across the school. This programme is delivered at an age appropriate level and will introduce children to the correct names for body parts. Please read the attached document to familiarise yourself with the content. Feel free to contact the class teacher with any queries or concerns that you may have.

Our **football** resumes this week for senior pupils. Each class grouping will have a chance to participate in those football sessions. Coaching begins Tuesday 10th and children from 3rd-6yj class will fill the slots for the first 6 weeks. Gumshields and boots/ spare runners must be worn.

**Swimming** will resume after Halloween. Dates will be issued as they become available.

Our **Parents Association** will be meeting in the coming weeks. The Parents association are a huge source of support to the school. Fundraising undertaken by the parent’s association is key to many school events running smoothly. These include first communion and confirmation events, school tour subsidisation, Christmas treats for all children, contributions to the maintenance of our invaluable poly tunnel and so much more. We are very grateful to the parent’s association for the work that they do and we invite all parents to consider joining it.

An outline of our school Calendar is attached for your attention.

Information about the RSE content is attached for your attention

Allianz insurance form is attached. Please sign and return with payment to the office if you wish for your child to be covered.

Thanking you

Joan Donnelly