

SCOIL BHRÍDE

Stillbrook, Mountrath, Co. Laois

Roll No. 13343E

Telephone 057 8732423

Email: bridnaofamountrath@gmail.com

Website: scoilbhridemountrath.weebly.com.

20th September, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A warm welcome back to all and a very special welcome to our Junior Infants and parents. Also, welcome to those who have joined us from other schools.

CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to the children who received the Sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion. We hope that you had a lovely day yesterday celebrating with your family. Thank you Fr P.J. for administering the sacraments to the children.

SCOIL BHRÍDE COVID RESPONSE PLAN

It is heart-warming to witness a gradual return to life as we knew it before Covid. However, we are continuing to implement our Covid Response Plan in the school as has been advised by The Department of Education and Public Health. Please remind your daughter of appropriate hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and respiratory etiquette. Also, if your daughter is unwell do not send her to school. If she becomes unwell during the school day you will be contacted to come and collect her, so please ensure that we have your correct contact details. (See attached form). You can view our Covid Response Plan on the school website under the tab "For Parents".

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND BOOKS

All the children look very smart in their school uniform. Thank you parents for your great work in preparing them for the new school year. The girls are reminded in school to try and keep their uniform clean and to respect their school books and belongings. Please remind your daughter of the same at home. The school uniform consists of white blouse, red tie, navy skirt/gymslip or formal navy trousers and red jumper/cardigan **and must be worn at all times. On P.E. days children wear a navy tracksuit bottoms with red, white or navy top. Runners must be worn during P.E. Class to enable children to fully participate.**

SCHOOL RULES

We ask for your co-operation in ensuring your daughter understands and complies with the rules of the school. We remind everyone that school starts at 9.20 a.m and finishes at 3 p.m. (2 p.m.for Infants). The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for children on the school premises before or after the official opening and closing times. Children are supervised on the yard from 9.10 a.m. in their designated area at the back of the school. A reminder that parents cannot come into the school grounds. If you need to speak to your class teacher please ring and make an appointment, thank you for understanding.

SCHOOL MAINTAINANCE

Our school caretaker has been hard at work over the summer maintaining and improving the school grounds. I wish to thank Piotr most sincerely for all his hard work. Thanks also to Viola (school cleaner). She has been working throughout the summer ensuring that everywhere is fresh and clean for our return. Children and teachers desks and chairs are thoroughly sanitised daily, as are all surfaces. We have implemented all the extra cleaning and sanitisation procedures as set out in the DES guidelines.

ABSENTEEISM

Parents please inform the class teacher in writing if your daughter is absent from school. If any child is absent for more than 20 days within the school year, the school is obliged to notify the Education Welfare Office in Dublin. This is in keeping with directives outlined under the Child Welfare Act.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 1.** In the morning and on collecting your daughter from school please do not obstruct the flow of traffic at the front of the school. Be mindful of children entering/exiting the school grounds. **Parents please do not double park at the front of the school.**
- 2.** **School Meals Programme:** Glanmore Foods have been chosen as the supplier for our complementary school lunches and snacks. The children are very much relishing the wide variety of foods available on the menu.
- 3.** **REMINDER; Please make sure you daughter's hair is tied back during the school day. Also parents please routinely check your daughter's hair.**
- 4.** **Wearing of jewellery is not allowed in school (hoop earrings, bracelets etc). due to Health and Safety concerns on the playground.**

SEN

Your class teacher and Special Education teacher (Ms. Brereton) will be in contact with you shortly to discuss Support Plan for your daughter if she is attending Learning Support.

FINANCIAL

Book Rental, Art/Craft money etc., is now overdue. Please give this payment to your class teacher by Friday 24th September. Ms. Sheppard has worked very hard with our Book Rental Scheme so that the cost of books is greatly reduced.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

The work of the Parents' Council continues again this year. The Parents' Council is the structure through which parents in a school can work together for the best possible education for their children, working to build effective partnership between home and school. Our committee members for this academic year are:

Chairperson: Kevin Kavanagh, Michelle Kennedy.

Secretary: Davina Knowles, Niamh O'Hara.

Treasurer: Maria Cole, Anita Coughlan.

If any of you would like to help out this year you can contact me here in school or contact any of the committee members. New faces and new ideas would be most welcome! Our first activity "**Crazy Hair Day**" is on **Friday, October 1st**. Each child is asked to bring €2 to school and style their hair as creatively as possible on that day!

DIGITAL LITERACY IN SCOIL BHRÍDE

We are very excited to welcome Ríomhaire Tech to our school over the next twelve weeks. These computer lessons will focus on three core areas: digital literacy, information technology and computer science. These classes will commence tomorrow – Tuesday for children from 1st-6th class. The total cost for these classes over the twelve week period is €2800. A huge word of thanks to our Board of Management for funding these classes for the children. Our Parents' Council have also kindly agreed to pay €720 of the total cost. We are looking forward to working with Ríomhaire Tech over the coming weeks.

HOME/SCHOOL LINKS

Homework has now resumed in most classes. You can help by encouraging your daughter to read at home, practice tables, develop her oral language etc. Reading with your daughter is very important in helping with her learning. Maybe you could swap screen time for reading time – it would be very beneficial for your daughter’s educational and emotional development. You can contact your class teacher or Ms. Brereton (Special Ed,) for some reading suggestions.

Ms. Gina Reidy is our Home/School co-ordinator (HSCL). You are welcome to contact her (phone:086 0452437) or your class teacher at any stage during the year if you have any queries or concerns.

Finally, we are glad to be back working with the children in school. We are hopeful that the school year will be a happy and safe one for everybody.

Slán go fóill,

_____ (Principal)

M. Rohan.