Gortnahoe N.S.

Gortnahoe,

Thurles,

Co.Tipperary

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**Roll Number:**  17580P

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11/01/17

Dear Parent/s

Welcome back to all the boys and girls after the Christmas break and I would like to wish everyone a happy new year.

**Running Programme:**

We will continue with our running programme for January and February once a week, every Friday for children from 2nd to 6th class. This programme is compulsory so please ensure your child has their running gear every Friday.

**Spring Into Action:**

As Spring Into Action was so successful last year, we will continue with the programme this year starting on Wednesday the 1st of March and ending on Friday the 31st of March. More details to follow. Spring Into Action will be for all classes.

**School Closure:**

Please note the school will close at 2.00 pm on Wednesday the 25th of January to facilitate a staff meeting. Buses will run from 2pm.

The school will be closed on Friday, February the 3rd to facilitate teacher in-service training for the new primary language curriculum.

**Confirmation:** Tuesday the 28th of February. Please note that the infants will not have school on the 28th of February. 1st to 6th class are requested to be at the church in Gortnahoe for 10.30 pm. 1st to 4th class children will be part of the choir on the day. All children are to be collected from the church after the confirmation as there will be no school for the remainder of the day.

**Uniform Details:**

To avoid confusion over uniform/ tracksuit days we are going to operate a new system as follows; All children will wear their full school uniform on Mondays and Tuesdays and full school tracksuit on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. There will be exceptions from time to time, which you will be informed of. e.g. School Mass, Matches or Blitzes.

It is school policy that the school tracksuit in full is to be worn. This can be ordered from Fennessys in Limerick 061 415879. Also the full school uniform is expected to be worn by all pupils, which includes a tie and “dark coloured” shoes. We have noticed an increase in dark runners, which are not allowed with the uniform. Please ensure your child wears a coat to school also.

**Absences:**

If your child is absent, please put a note in their diary explaining the reason for their absence as the school is required to record the same. Overall our attendance rates are very good, which we hope to maintain. For infants who do not have a diary, the teacher will provide an absence slip for you to sign explaining the absence.

**Bus Parking:**

The bus bay at the front of the school is for buses only. It is quite a small area to accommodate our two buses, so please keep well back from the lines to ensure the buses have sufficient room. The yellow boxes at the front gate are NOT to be entered by any parent at any time of the day. With 120 children in our school, there is a lot of activity at the school gate so it is vital that all adults act in a responsible and safe manner to avoid any un-necessary accidents. e.g. calling children to cross the road unaided is not a safe practice.

**September 2017 Enrolment – Open Evening**

We have a large number of enquiries about enrolment for Sept. 2017. This year we will be holding an open evening for any parents wishing to consider enrolling their child in our school this year or in the future. This open evening will be held on Wednesday the 8th of February. The format for the night will include a tour of the school, a talk from myself and the Deputy Principal, Therese Meehan and a short demonstration of sample programmes in the infant room by Múinteoir Ruth. The open night will begin at 6.30 pm and end at 7.30 pm. We will give out Enrollment Forms on the night to be completed and sent back to the school by Friday the 17th of February. If you know anyone who might be interested in attending, you might inform them that all are welcome.

**Communication:**

We intend to update our website more regularly going forward so you can keep up to date with what is going on in school frequently. I would encourage you all to have a look at our website to familiarise yourself with its contents ( [www.gortnahoens.ie](http://www.gortnahoens.ie) ) Also on the website is the school calendar and any news or events you should be aware of. Included in the calendar is a list of coaching days for each class, swimming dates etc. so your child will know what days they need gear for. There are also some useful links to other websites for parents and children alike. Some of our more important polices are also available for viewing on our website. Under the parents’ zone in the notes section you will be able to view any notes that are sent home. These notes often end up in the bottom of your child’s bag so we hope to make life easier for you by uploading them onto the website. The website is currently being updated to include a “Twitter” feed, where we can share useful links and articles with you. It is also an easy way for us to communicate what is going on in our school and link it directly back to our website.

**Consent:**

You would have signed a consent form for the use of your child’s image or details on our website before. I am sending out a general consent form once again for our records which I hope you will complete and return to the school by Tuesday the 17th of January.

**Fundraising:**

Unfortunately, we will need to organise some fundraisers this year and we are currently working on ideas for this. More details to follow.

**Parents Association:**

I feel that an effective Parent’s Association is a vital component of any school. As you are aware our own parent’s association disbanded last year. PJ Ryan gave a talk on what the role of the Parent’s Association is at our familiarisation night before Christmas and we agreed to hold an AGM to discuss with parents their appetite for getting it back up and running. This meeting will take place in the school hall on **Wednesday the 18th of January at 8pm**. Please ensure at least one member of your family attends the discussion.

Yours sincerely,

David O’Dwyer