



SCHOOL YEAR 2017/2018

06/09/2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Fáilte romhaibh go léir ar áis ar scoil. A big welcome to our new junior infant pupils, new pupils in other classes, all returning pupils and all parents/guardians for the new school year. We would like to welcome Ms. Murphy (third class), who will be completing Mrs. Kelly's maternity leave and Ms. Sarah Dunniece, who is our school secretary until a new permanent secretary is appointed in the coming weeks.

- Thank you to the **PA** for hosting the tea/coffee morning for parents of new junior infants, and to the **Book Rental Committee** for all their work in getting the book rental scheme up and running this year.
- Many thanks to all those who have paid the **Individual Pupil Expenses**. I am asking that outstanding IPE costs be paid before Friday the 15th of September. This money is for insurance, text messages, photocopying of notes, testing and art materials for each pupil. The cost is the same as previous years - 1 child € 50; 2 children € 95; 3 children €140; 4 children (or more) €160. If any family has a difficulty with these payments, please contact the school office.
- We expect a new Parish Priest to be appointed in the coming weeks. In the interim, the school's Board of Management continues its work, with member Pat Connolly being nominated as acting chairperson until a new person is appointed. If you need to pass a **message on to a teacher** and cannot wait until the bell goes at 9.20am, please use the school diary or inform the teacher on the yard or myself at the gate. If you need to make an appointment, please call to the office at any time after 9.20am or contact the school with your query on 0419824229 or office@slanens.ie
- **The Department of Education** has asked us to host a visit from education delegates from a number of countries, including Finland, Iceland, the UK and the USA next Monday the 11th of September in our school. The participants wish to see programmes and initiatives we are implementing in the areas of wellbeing, assessment and accountability, inclusion and leading change. This is a great honour for the school and we look forward to having them.
- **The Parent Association will be hosting their 5K Fun Run** in the grounds of Slane Castle on Sunday the 24th of September. A huge amount of work has gone into the event and it promises to be a great day out. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Pupils will be starting training next week in school.
- I have had firsthand experience in stating that **head lice** are an irritating and unfortunate side effect of having lots of people together for long periods. The beginning of each term is when we notice the highest rate of head lice reports to school. We are asking all parents to check for head lice in your child's hair tonight (Wednesday) and again next weekend. See the attached note. Please keep long hair clipped or tied up in plaits, pony tails etc. to reduce surface area to cling to. Also consider using a repellent spray or tea tree oil/lavender oil at the base of the neck or in shampoo bottles. If any pupils do get head lice, please let the school know so that we can send notification out to all pupil families to be vigilant.
- We have had a **pupil assembly to reinforce their excellent behaviour**, effort and manners. Problem solving will also be modelled again to pupils for situations with others which make them feel uncomfortable or which they are not happy about. Please reinforce this message at home. There are chat





boxes in all the middle and senior classes where pupils can drop notes discretely. The message to pupils in these situations is **“Try To Sort It Yourself, Walk Away, Tell”**.

- It is great to see pupils wearing their full **school uniforms**. A number of crests (€3.00) are available for purchase in the school office. Please make sure uniform is worn every day and tracksuit on P.E. days.
- Thank you for your consideration and carefulness in the school **car park**. It was great on the first day. Please continue to walk to school where possible with good weather to lessen congestion. Please also be aware that neither smoking nor dogs (nor dogs who smoke!) are permitted on the school grounds.
- **Confirmation** will take place this year on Thursday the 26th of April at 3pm. An information meeting for the **First Communion** pupils will also take place later this month.
- **Class roll call** takes place each morning at 10.20am. The school has an excellent attendance record generally and attendance is monitored closely. Pupils who, for whatever reason, are not present at that time each day are marked absent. Parents are asked to remember that according to the National Education Welfare Act, it is necessary to supply a written note explaining all pupil absences. Parents will be contacted when a child has missed 10 and 15 days during the year and we are obliged to report to TUSLA when 20 days have been missed. TUSLA representatives then follow up with visits to the school to meet parents.
- **Mobile phones** should only be brought to school in exceptional circumstances and must then be handed to the class teacher until the end of the day. Pupils can turn their phones on once they have left the school grounds. Consent forms for mobile phones in school are available in the school office or from class teachers. Any mobile phone found in a pupil's possession must be collected from the office by parents.
- A number of **after school activities** will be starting up for pupils in the coming weeks and we will confirm them and let you know what will be available as soon as possible.
- Our **five new hens** have settled in very well. Davy, our caretaker, and the Reilly family have been minding them with care, singing to them and preparing bubble baths for them over the summer holidays.
- All **updates, policies and school news** during the year can be found on our school website www.slanens.ie, Twitter @Slanens and on the Parent Association Facebook page. If you would like to receive notes to be sent home by email, please send an email to office@slanens.ie with your child's name included in the email.
- Finally, **label all clothing please!**

Regards,

Paul O'Donnell
Principal

Lorna Gerrard
Deputy Principal

