

*Scoil Iosaif Naofa  
Bothair an Chlochair  
Cinn Mhara  
Co. na Gailimhe*



*St. Joseph's N.S  
Convent Road  
Kinvara  
Co. Galway*

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## **Newsletter September 2011**

### **Dear Parents/Guardians,**

Céad míle fáilte rómhaibh go léir - páistí agus tuismitheoirí - don scoilbhliain nua. Tá súil agam go mbeidh bliain sona sásta agus tairbheach againn.

You are all welcome as we begin the 2011 – 2012 school year. We look forward to a happy, safe and successful year for all – a year in which every pupil will reach his/her potential.

Please find attached a calendar for the school year detailing school closures and other important events during the academic year.

### **The following are items of information which require your attention at this time.**

#### **Uniform:**

It is very important that all children wear their complete school tracksuit or school uniform when attending school. The school authorities will monitor the dress code strictly as it represents the standards set by our school.

Children should have their names on their uniforms, tracksuits, coats and other personal belongings.

#### **NEWB:**

I wish to inform you that the principal is required to notify the National Educational Welfare Board when a pupil reaches 20 days absences. There are five mandatory reporting periods in the school year.

Parents are required by law under the Welfare act 2000, to send a note into school explaining every absence by their child. These notes must be signed and dated and are retained on file. According to the NEWB Guidelines the **actual** reason for the pupils absence must be identified in the note e.g. illness, dental appointment, family bereavement, family holiday etc.

Please do not report absence by telephone. A written note to the class teacher will suffice.

#### **Healthy Eating Policy:**

Please refer to our school website to view our healthy eating policy and guidelines. You will be aware of the concerns regarding obesity and unhealthy eating habits among children leading to life-long problems. Sandwiches (various bread types and fillings) fruit/vegetables, salad items etc are recommended.

### **NB Chewing gum, crisps and fizzy drinks are forbidden. Nuts are also forbidden due to unknown allergies.**

#### **Text Service:**

Currently we are in the process of updating our 'text a parent' service for the parents/guardians of all children attending the school. This will not completely eliminate school letters but may act as a reminder of upcoming events or in case of an emergency closures etc. If any family has changed their phone details over the summer please inform the school secretary immediately.

**School Mobile:** The school mobile number is 086 6067500. For all new families who have joined the school, this is a "text service" for parents.

Please text your eldest family members name to 086 6067500 if you have not already done so.

E.g. Smith John, then your mobile number will be entered into school's database. Also please send us an email address to info@kinvarans.ie we send out newsletters etc via email. If you don't have email please let the secretary know and your child will receive the notes. If any families have changed their **phone details** or **email details** over the summer please also notify the school secretary.

**Web site:** Our school website can also be viewed on www.kinvarans Children's photographs add colour, life and interest to articles promoting school activities and initiatives.. Any photographs of pupils will be used in a responsible way. Pupils and parents rights of privacy will be respected and we are aware of child protection issues.

Every effort will be made to minimise risk by following Dept. of Education & Skills guidelines –no pupil will be labelled and pupils will not be shown in groups of less than three.

We will also ensure that images are stored securely and used only by those authorised to do so. We will also ensure that electronic images are stored on a secure network to which members of the public have no access. ***If you have any objection to your child's inclusion in such photos please inform the principal in writing.***

**We welcome the Junior Infants Class of 2011-2012: This year we again have 2 Junior Infants classes:**

**Ms Murray's class:** Brianna Meyler, Katie Meyler, Tomás McIntyre, Leah Hanley, Ryan Murphy, Charlie Conneely, Ciarán McAndrew, Lauren Doody, Josh Scannell Goodison, Daragh Kelly, Méidhbhín Connolly, Donnacha Ward Siobhán Geaney, Ríona O'Donoghue, Sarah Gallagher, Xsaviour Forde, John Durkan, Caelte Carroll, Ruby Hayes & Stephen Holland.

**Ms Smith's Class:** Gabriel Gorman, Luca Danjou, Donnacha Ganley, Jasiu Gozdzik, Pdraig Conole, Shane McDonagh Flanagan, Sunny Fahey, Sean Walsh, John Tannian, Fynn Randall, Lucas Sheedy, Sally May Melia, Hannah Cela, Naoise Flatley, Leah Pyne, Kaitlyn Clasby, Niamk Kidd, Sarah Kidd, Aisling Quinn & Sarah Talbot.

**We also welcome:** Conor Martin (Senior Infants), Thomas Seery Murphy (Senior Infants), Ryan Murphy (Senior Infants), Aoife Brennan (1<sup>st</sup> Class), Katie Martin (2<sup>nd</sup> Class), Kate Stephens (2<sup>nd</sup> Class), Chloe Murphy (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Oisín O'Connor (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Ryan Martin (4<sup>th</sup> Class), James Harney (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Tom Brennan (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Mathius Balduimo Caiado (5<sup>th</sup> Class), Sabrina Seery Murphy (5<sup>th</sup> Class), Tom Harney (6<sup>th</sup> Class), Billy Buckley (6<sup>th</sup> Class), Amy O'Connor (6<sup>th</sup> class) & Cicely Rose Cargill (6<sup>th</sup> class)

**Parking in front of School:** We would kindly ask parents to refrain from parking at the front of the school as there are four buses now coming to the school and to keep the front gate clear at all times.

**Traffic Management Plan:** We ask parents to adhere to the following:

- Do not park in Bus Stop or in front of school gates
- Do not park on main road opposite school (unsafe for pupils to cross main road)
- Do not enter set down area from village side i.e. only enter set down area from Ballyvaughan side
- Buses will leave at 2.45pm
- Pupils walking or pupils collected will leave school grounds at 2.50pm i.e. if you are collecting your child please wait until buses have moved away from Bus Stop

**Morning Drop off:** N.B. Please do not pull up in front of school gates when dropping your child off. We ask that you move away from the main gate of the school as this causes a hazard to pupils-teachers cars enter at the same times.

**Afternoon Pick up:** Infant classes pick up time is 1.50pm. All other pupils should be collected at 2.50pm. We ask all parents/guardians to be on time picking up their children. We

notice of late that some pupils have to wait considerable amounts of time before collection. The school cannot be responsible for the welfare of your child (ren) after 2.50pm.

If you are going to be late please make provision that your child will not have to wait around - in some cases can cause upset to pupils.

### **Building Fund**

As you are aware the school has undertaken a number of significant building projects over the last few years including the new infant wing at the rear of the school and the all weather pitch and playground. These developments were part funded by either the Department of Education and Science or Galway County Council but with all of these developments we were left with a shortfall.

Fortunately, for a number of years the school has been operating a voluntary weekly contribution called the "Building Fund" (the notebook collection). Thanks to the availability of monies from this Fund we were able to meet some of the shortfalls and proceed with the developments.

The majority of families in the school community contribute to the Building Fund and we are grateful for the generosity of parents in the current times. We are very pleased with the high usage of the pitch and the rental income received.

As you know the number of children attending the school has been rising steadily over the last few years. The current enrolment is over 260 pupils. The Department of Education and Skills has sanctioned €480,000 towards the building of three new classrooms and a general purpose room and we are hopeful that planning permission will be obtained and building works will begin in the near future for this development.

We are not yet aware how much this development will cost and whether the grant from the Department will cover the full costs.

Thanks to these sources of income we are very pleased that, this year, we are in a position to reduce the amount from €100 to €75 per family.

The new classrooms will have to be furnished and equipped with interactive board.

PE and sports equipment will be required for the general purpose room.

We can assure you that the Building Fund will continue to be prudently managed and that we will endeavor, as always, to provide the best possible facilities for all of our pupils. We thank parents for their continuing generosity. We also stress that this is a voluntary contribution.

**Collection of money for School Year:** On each pupil's booklist there was an amount of money to be returned to the school for Art/crafts/ Micra T Testing etc, we would kindly ask that this money be returned to the school by Friday the 30th of September.

Also the school insurance money to be returned to the school which is €8 per pupil.

**School Visits:** As stated in school's Code of Behaviour, an appointment must be made with the school secretary. We also request that each visitor report to the office

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***Dominic Ó Gallachóir (Principal)***

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