



**Gneeveguilla National School,**  
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Fáilte ar ais!

Welcome back to school for the 2022/2023 school year.

School is already a hive of activity as the boys and girls settle into their new rooms and classes and activities begin again. This newsletter will be handed out every term to inform you of upcoming events and highlights from the school year.

Welcome

Fáilte to our new Junior Infants...

Katie Allman, Freya McIlroy, Fiadh Fleming, Isobel Batey, Kate Lawlor, Elizabeth McDermott, Olivia Brohan, Sophie Fleming, Emily Millar, Eóghan Donnelly, Joe Fleming, Ross O'Connor, Iarla Murphy, Oisín Murphy, Rory McAuliffe, Jamie Knee and David Famosinpe.

We congratulate them on making a great start 'Tús maith, leath na h-oibre'.

They have taken to school like ducks to water. We wish them every success in all areas of their education in Gneeveguilla. We look forward to seeing your child reach his/her full potential.

We are delighted to welcome the new students and their parents into our school community.

We hope their school days will indeed be the happiest days of their lives.

#### Updating Files

If anyone has updated their contact details or have recently moved to a different address, please contact the school.

Mar fhocal scor,

We hope that you and your children enjoy a happy successful academic year in Gneeveguilla, we encourage everyone in school to try hard, never give up and always to do their best.

If you have any concerns regarding any aspect of your child's welfare or education feel free to make an appointment to speak to his/her teacher. Teachers are always willing to meet parents at a mutually convenient time to listen to and discuss any concerns that might arise during the course of the school year.

With every good wish to all the members of our school community for a happy and successful year in school.

### **New Staff**

We are delighted to welcome back Acting Deputy Principal Ms. Caoimhe Doyle who is teaching 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class. We extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Jane Sheehan who is job sharing with Ms. Noelle O'Brien in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> class and to Ms. Ivana Hornakov SNA who will job share with Ms. Michelle Knee. Karena O'Leary is working in the school one day per week covering Principal Administration days.

### **Attendance**

We are delighted with the number of children who achieved full attendance the last school year and encourage all pupils to aspire to this goal. We understand that pupils may fall ill during the year, and we do not encourage pupils to come to school sick. Outside of this pupils should come to school and be on time. Absences for more than 20 days in the school year must by law be reported to the Educational Welfare Officer (Túsla), parents / guardians should give a note to the class teacher when pupils return from any absence. Any planned absences should be notified to the class teacher on Aladdin.

Kind regards,

**Gerardine Shanahan**  
**Principal**

### **Photocopying / Art & Craft / Book Rental & Digital Access**

#### **Reminder:**

Photocopying / Art & Craft - €35 for one pupil and €60 per family.

Book Rental / Digital Access

Jnr Infants - €23	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class - €23	5 <sup>th</sup> Class - €23
Snr Infants - €23	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class - €21	6 <sup>th</sup> Class - €23
1 <sup>st</sup> Class - €19	4 <sup>th</sup> Class - €21	

**If you haven't paid, can you please pay over the next few days via Aladdin Connect.**

### **Football**

Vince Cooper from the GAA will take all classes over the course of the year every Friday. We are using Gneeveguilla G.A.A. Club footballs and sanitizing before and after use. Hurling will recommence with Colm O'Brien, and Andrew Fitzgerald will coach Senior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class every Wednesday.

### **Green Schools**

The Green Team are back this year again! We are focusing on Biodiversity again this year! The children learned a lot about plants and animals last year - and we know they love expanding their knowledge on biodiversity in school and at home. We cannot wait to see the projects that the children complete this year! The Green Team want everyone in the school community to keep up the effort to recycle, turn off switches and taps, and turn off their engines at the school gate! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more Green-school updates!

### **Health Promoting Schools**

We must demonstrate friendship, high levels of physical activity and healthy eating in our school. Children are strongly discouraged from having sweets, fizzy drinks, chocolate and crisps in their lunch boxes. We encourage Milky Monday- children try to bring at least one dairy product in their lunchbox. Fruity Friday – Children try to bring at least 1 piece of fruit in their lunchbox. Typical healthy lunches should contain – Fruit, Drink, Sandwich & dairy products. Friendship week (which will take place in November) and promoting positive mental health - our overall themes for this year. We are a Health Promoting School as well as keeping active, eating healthily, we also focus on wellbeing and positive mental health.

### Active Schools

This year we are working towards our Active School Renewal flag. We will continue promoting the four main pillars of Active School

- Physical Education
- Physical Activity
- Partnership with our sport coaches and we look forward to our Active Week in Term 3.

There are many benefits of being an Active School. It has been proven that concentration and learning improve, there are fewer discipline problems, higher results are achieved and there is an overall positive atmosphere around the school.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September all the school took part in European Sports Day. We had lots of fun! The main emphasis was on participation and promoting good sportsmanship. We are very proud of all the boys and girls that took part. Maith sibh! Our school was also a recent winner of a €100 voucher from the IPPEA. We look forward to spending our winnings on new sports equipment. Remember our slogan; **“Be Wise & Exercise”**.

### Playground Buddies

Playground Buddies will re-commence with pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class teaching games to the children in Infant classes. Huge thanks to all our little volunteers.

### Homework Journal

Children in all classes receive homework each evening Monday – Thursday. All children have a homework journal. It is imperative that parents check homework each evening and sign the homework journal daily. Homework is beneficial to each child as it acts as consolidation for work being completed in school. If a child is absent for any reason a note must be provided to the class teacher. Junior Infants will have a sheet in the homework section of their folder which parents can sign each day. Absences can be sent in via Aladdin Connect.

### Parking

The road outside the school has been marked. In the interests of Health & Safety, people are requested not to park in the SCHOOL BUS ONLY zone. The school bus zone has been moved from directly outside the school in order for better visibility crossing the road. Sliabh Luachra residents are concerned about parking at the entrance to the estate at 2pm and 3pm on school days. They fear that a dangerous situation exists for everyone, in particular the children, because parked cars are reducing visibility. In the interests of health and safety please keep this area clear. If possible parents should park in the car park across from the school and to cross from there to the school gate. There is a pedestrianised crossing from the school to the car park. The car park is newly extended thanks to the GAA Club and there is ample room for all parents to park. We are conscious of the school's location near the main road and wish to take every pre-caution to keep our pupils safe. In recent months there has been a huge improvement with traffic control. Please help to maintain this standard.

### Discover Primary Science Week & Maths

Since the academic school year 2013/2014, we have been taking part in The Discover Primary Science and Math's Awards. The Discover Primary Science and Math's Programme is part of Science Foundation Ireland's Education and Public Engagement Programme, which aims to increase interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) among pupils. All classes get involved in science experiments and projects, keeping logs to record their work as they go. It's a great way to get involved in science and math's in a fun, yet educational way. We received an award in June for the academic year 2020/2021.

### **School Opening / Closing Times**

School opening hours are from 9:20 am – 3:00 pm. Junior and Senior Infants finish at 2 pm. Supervision commences from 9:10 am. Please note that the BOM does not provide supervision for children outside of these hours in particular for children who may be left at school before the official starting time and after closing time in the evening. Parents of infant children are reminded that prompt collection of children at 2 pm is expected. If your child is being collected for an appointment it is necessary, that a note is sent to class teacher via Aladdin Connect. There is a Visitors log at reception to be completed if you are taking your child out early from school.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher meetings will go ahead in November for pupils Senior Infants – 6<sup>th</sup> Class, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November. Junior Infants will have their Parent Teacher meeting in January, dates to be confirmed.

### **New Child Safeguarding**

We kindly ask you to familiarize yourself with the new Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment on our website. The content of these policies is hugely important in terms of your child's safety, protection and privacy. The Designated Liaison person is Ms. Gerardine Shanahan, and the Deputy Designated Liaison person is Ms. Caoimhe Doyle. Our Admissions Policy will be available on our website soon.

### **Notes**

We wish to limit children's jewelry to the following;  
Stud earrings, watch, necklaces must be worn inside uniform.  
Children should not wear make-up to school.

If a parent / guardian wishes to meet with a teacher, can you please contact the school secretary to make an appointment? Visitors during school times are required to close the front gate when leaving.

Any child cycling to school is required to wear a high visibility vest and a cycling helmet. Bikes can be stored in the school shelter.

Please remind your child / children to be careful when entering and exiting the school particularly crossing the road and walking on the footpath. The road outside the school is extremely busy at all times. Be careful at pedestrian crossing as cars do not always stop!!!

### **School Uniform**

Full school uniform is required to be worn every day. On PE days Wednesdays & Fridays, the children are allowed to wear school tracksuits and runners. Only navy tracksuit bottoms (no logos) to be worn.

All navy pants and shorts should be logo free and all children should wear appropriate footwear. Black or navy footwear only and runners on P.E. days. Each child must wear pinafore/skirt/pants, crested jumper/cardigan and blue shirt/t-shirt inside. We appreciate your continuing co-operation. In the warmer weather children are allowed to wear navy knee length shorts with no logos. We are delighted to see so many of our pupils wearing their full uniforms and thank you to their parents for providing them with the uniform. As uniforms are being washed more frequently at present, a note is acceptable if your child is not wearing full uniform.

### **Infant Club**

Our Infant Club run by Ivana Hornakov and Anne Marie O'Connell is proving very popular and successful. Children from Juniors and Seniors are welcome to join the club on any day. Please give Ivana notice on (086) 3168334. Ivana/Anne Marie collect the children from their classroom and meets bus / parent at 3 pm. Infant club runs from 2 pm – 3 pm Monday to Friday. Cost is €5 per day per child.

### **Holidays**

### **FIRST TERM**

**School re-opens on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.**

**Mid-term: Closed Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of October – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

**Closed Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Last day of term is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec at 12 noon.**

**Christmas break: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023.**

**School re-opens Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

### **SECOND TERM**

**School re-opening 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

**Closed 6<sup>th</sup> February – Bank Holiday.**

**Mid-term: February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> inclusive.**

**Re-opening Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Closed - March 17<sup>th</sup> - St. Patrick's Day.**

**Easter holidays – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 12 noon.**

**Closed 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April inclusive.**

### **THIRD TERM**

**School re-opening Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Closed Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Bank Holiday.**

**Closed Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> June (inclusive).**

**School re-opening Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Summer holidays Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon**

**The school will close at 12 noon on the last day of each term before the Christmas, Easter and Summer Holidays.**

**In the event of an emergency closure (no heat, no E.S.B, etc.) parents will be notified as soon as possible. No children will be sent home unless there is an adult to receive them. If parents are unsure or concerned regarding the school's position during severe weather conditions, they should delay sending children until they make contact with a member of staff. Please note there may be additional closure dates for in-service, dates to be confirmed.**