



## *Nuacht Litir Meán Fómhair 2023*

**September 2023**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

**Principals Address:** On behalf of myself and all school staff, I wish to welcome all pupils back to school for the school year 2023/2024. A special welcome to our new Junior Infants and new entrants to other classes. We wish you many happy days with us, in Coosan National School.

**Appointments:**

Ms. McCormack and Ms. Whyte teaching our two classes in our Special Education Unit.  
Ms. Crowley and Ms. O'Neill have joined our Special Education Team.  
Ms. N. Kelly has joined our teaching staff this academic year in 6th class.

**Retirement:**

Mrs. Clabby will retire on the 6th of October this year. We want to sincerely thank Mrs. Clabby for her 26 years of incredible service to our school and wish her many years of health & happiness in her retirement- *Mrs. Clabby, tá muid ag guí gach ádh sláinte an bhradáin agus sonas ort lá i ndiaidh lae.*

**Congratulations:**

We would like to congratulate Ms. S. Walshe & her husband David on the birth of their son Jack in September and Mr. Cunningham and his wife Sinéad on the birth of their son Cormac also in September .

**Appreciation:**

We wish to thank you for having the children so well prepared for school and for the effort you have put into getting uniforms ready, labelling items, ensuring children have healthy lunches, tying back hair, getting children to school on time etc.

**Whole School Evaluation Report:**

The report from our schools Whole School Evaluation last February has recently been published and is available at the following link [Coosan NS WSE report](#) . The report was shared with everyone previously via Aladdin and will also be made available on the school website. The report the school achieved is an accurate reflection of all the great work that happens everyday in Coosan N.S. and has been happening for a long number of years now-well done to everyone.



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### **Official School Opening:**

The school community will be celebrating an official school opening before the end of this year. Preparations are already underway and the school will provide more information when finalised.

### **School Self-Evaluation:**

The school recently completed its last cycle of SSE where the focus was on *Gaeilge*. As part of this final phase standardised tests were completed by pupils in our 3rd classes and the results were very positive and a testament to all the great work being done in the school in relation to the subject area of *Gaeilge-míle buíochas le Ms. Clabby*.

Our school's new focus for SSE beginning this year is Wellbeing. The school has started the process this term and will involve everyone in the school community pupils, parents/guardians and school staff in this new cycle over the coming months. The school will provide more information in due course.

### **School Fees:**

*Art & Craft:* We would like to thank all who have paid the fee of €50 per pupil and remind any family who has not done so to please do so at your earliest convenience.

*Basketball:* We would like to thank all who have paid the fee of €20 per pupil and remind any family who has not done so to please do so at your earliest convenience.

*Insurance:* We would like to thank all who have paid the fee of €9 (24h our cover) or €6 (activity cover) per pupil and remind any family who has not done so to please do so by Friday 13th October.

*Voluntary Contribution:* In Coosan NS, we are very privileged to have such a wonderful new school building and fantastic grounds. The challenge the school faces both now and into the future will be in maintaining these wonderful facilities as well as running the school in the normal manner each school year. For this reason, the school is asking for a voluntary contribution from each child of €50 capped at €100 per family.

It is not compulsory and any contribution will be very much appreciated-thank you!

**Payment for all of the above can be made on the Aladdin Connect App or to the office.**

### **Uniform:**

Please note the following regarding your child's uniform and appearance at school:

- Pupils must come to school in full uniform, clean and tidy.
- No jewellery is allowed except a watch, single pair of small earrings (i.e. ear studs or sleepers, one in each earlobe).



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- Facial piercings are not permitted.
- No make-up or fake tan may be worn.
- Pupils with long hair are expected to wear it tied up, in a neat and tidy fashion (not obstructing vision), with no unnatural colours allowed.
- Shorts of an appropriate length and a single colour in keeping with the school uniform are permitted especially when the weather is nice.

### **Chewing Gum:**

Chewing gum is not permitted in Coosan N.S.. The school would appreciate the support of parent(s)/guardian(s) in ensuring that it does not come into school-thank you

### **Assemblies:**

Our school assemblies have recommenced this school year. They take place in the school GP Hall on Tuesdays (JI-2nd classes & pupils from our SEU) and Thursdays (3rd-6th classes & pupils from our SEU). These provide a lovely opportunity for pupils to meet together, to share important information and to celebrate special events.

### **Morning Supervision:**

- There is supervision of pupils in the morning from 9.10am to 9.20am. It is great to see so many parents/guardians 'drop and go' at this time. I would encourage all parents/guardians to continue to 'drop and go' in the mornings.
- On very wet mornings, pupils will be admitted at 9.10am.

### **Covid-19:**

As a result of Covid-19, there continues to be changes to the way our school now functions.

- Children are encouraged to wash/sanitise their hands and use appropriate coughing etiquette throughout the day.
- There are hand sanitising stations in every classroom and at all exit doors in the school.
- These and other measures are in place to safeguard the children, staff and parents/guardians in our school community.
- Thanks for your help, goodwill and understanding as we do our best to prevent the spread of Covid-19 as we enter the winter season..
- Please note the school is not in a position to advise regarding whether it is safe for pupils to come school when unwell or following an injury. We ask that all families consult their G.P. and continue to follow HSE guidelines.



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### **Aladdin:**

It is most important that addresses/emails and phone numbers of all our students are up to date. If your address/phone number/email has changed, please update details on Aladdin Connect or inform Pauline, our secretary, as they are required for correspondence purposes. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for Aladdin Connect, if you haven't please contact the office and we can resend access codes.

### **Absences/Appointments:**

Please document all of your child's absences using the Aladdin Connect app or inform the office, to avoid any unexplained absences.

### **Religious Ceremonies:**

As of yet we do not have any dates for 1st Holy Communion & Confirmation. As soon as we receive the dates we will let 2nd class and 6th class parents/guardians know. Thanks for your understanding

### **Sporting Achievements:**

Congratulations to our boys and girls Gaelic Football Teams who recently took part in the Athlone Community College blitz and returned victorious-well done boys and girls! A sincere thanks to Mr. Kenny, Mr. Ronaldson, Mr. Keogh and Ms. H. Kelly for their support and coaching.







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### **Sporting Events:**

Best wishes to the Boys and Girls football teams as they take part in Cuman na mBunscol competitions in October. Thanks to Mr. Keogh & Mrs. H. Kelly for their support and coaching with our girls team and Mr. Ronaldson and Mr. Kenny for their support and coaching with our boys team.

Good luck to Ms. McElvaney, Ms. O'Carroll and the Athletics Team who will be taking part in the Primary Schools Cross Country competition on Wednesday 18th of October in Belvedere House, Mullingar.

### **Schoolyard Activities:**

Our school yard committee has been working hard this year to introduce games and equipment to the children's break and lunch times. In P.E. lessons throughout the school the children have been learning how to play a selection of yard games. The senior students have even been working on how to coach these games also. We aim to introduce



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these games to the yard after the Halloween break on a phased basis. Some initiatives have already started on the 5th and 6th class yards. The boys and girls have been taking part in a soccer league running two days a week. A big thank you to Ms. Lantry and Mr. Ronaldson for organising and to Mr. Keogh and the school yard committee for coordinating.

### **Outside Coaches:**

This term we are re-introducing basketball and GAA coaching. All pupils in the school will receive basketball, Gaelic Football and hurling coaching over a 7/8-week period at different intervals throughout the school year. These coaching programmes are delivered by experienced, highly skilled coaches and sessions are designed to support and compliment the P.E. Curriculum lessons being taught by your child's teacher every week.

### **Swimming:**

Swimming returns on Tuesdays after Halloween:

November 7th - December 19th	7 weeks	6th Classes
January 9th - February 27th	8 weeks	3rd Classes
March 5th - April 30th	7 weeks	4th Classes
May 9th - June 25th	8 weeks	5th Classes

Please ensure your child brings all necessary items.

### **Labels:**

Please label all items of clothing to ensure that items that go missing are returned to their rightful owners as soon as possible.

### **Traffic Safety:**

We appeal to all drivers to be mindful and respectful of pupils using the pedestrian crossings. Please continue to give them the right of way.

Please adhere to guidance shown on the school car park signage to ensure you are parking in the correct location.

When dropping/collecting your child/ren please drive forward to the furthest point in the Set Down area in order to facilitate other parents and prevent a build-up of traffic both on school grounds and on the main road.



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Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

It is fantastic to see so many pupils cycling/walking to school. Please advise your child to be careful and not to be taking unnecessary risks when cycling/walking to and from school and to avail of the school bike racks.

### **'Drop and Go' at 9.20 am**

There are staff on the yard from 9.10 am every morning to allow parents/guardians to leave promptly after dropping their children to the yard. We would appreciate your full support and cooperation in order to keep everyone as safe as possible, to provide the children with ample space to walk to their lines in the mornings and continue to develop their sense of independence.

### **Christmas Cards:**

Templates for your child/children Christmas cards were issued in September.

Please complete and return to the class teacher by Thursday, 12th of October 2023.

### **Internet Safety Talk:**

Guest speaker Paul Hensey will facilitate internet safety talks with the pupils from our 3rd to 6th classes on Friday 13th of October in Coosan N.S. Paul will also host an information session on online safety for parents to support their child the week following talks with the pupils. Further information regarding this will be provided by the school in due course.

### **Parents Association:**

The Parents Association held their AGM on the 24th September. We outlined last year's events and elections for the 2023/2024 committee were held. Many thanks to all those who attended. We are busy planning this year's events and we look forward to having as many parents/guardians as possible involved.

The Halloween Disco will take place on Tuesday, the 24th October

5.45pm - 6.45pm for Junior Infants to 2nd class and 7.15pm to 8.30pm for 3rd to 6th class.

Tickets will be €5

The next Parents Association meeting will take place on the 7th November at the new time of 8.30pm. We are always keen to welcome new parents to get involved.

**Coosan National School Parents Association.**



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Thank you for your continued support, the school sincerely appreciates it- *ní heart go cur le chéile.*

Le gach dea ghuí,

Mr. S. Cunningham  
Principal  
Coosan National School