

Scoil na Croise Naofa
Geashill NS
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www.geashillns.ie
Roll No. 091911
Registered Charity No. 20204543

4th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back

Welcome back to everybody after the summer break. A very special welcome to the twenty three new pupils who have started in the school this year. I wish them many happy years of learning, friendship and fun with us in Geashill NS.

Contact Details & Class Dojo

Please ensure the school has the up to date contact numbers of parents/guardians/child minders so easy contact can be made in the event of a child becoming unwell in school and for text-a-parent purposes.

Also, if anyone is having trouble accessing their Class Dojo account please let the class teacher know and they will make every effort to get things working properly. Class Dojo is the easiest way to communicate between home and school and vice versa so please make sure you are connected to your child's class and acquaint yourself with the different features of the app.

Pupil 24 Hour Insurance & School Fees

This year the 24 Hour Pupil Insurance costs €8 and there will be a €12 fee towards art and photocopying costs. The insurance is a 24hr cover for your children which covers accidents in the school or at home. The first €100 of any claim, an A&E charge for example, will be covered. Claim forms will be available from the office. Payment of €20 per child can be made at this link: <https://www.geashillns.ie/online-payments/>

Healthy Lunches & The Lunch Bag

As usual, our Healthy Eating Days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On these days we ask you and your children to pack healthy options for the lunch breaks. We would hope to see food such as crisps and chocolate kept as part of a small treat on Fridays. Fizzy drinks should not come to school any day. Some advice on healthy lunches can be found here: [Healthy Lunch Advice](#)



A reminder that if you wish to use this school lunch provider, download The Lunch Bag app and follow the instructions. You can order every day or just once a week, whatever works best for you. More information can be found at www.thelunchbag.ie.

On a similar note, we expect to be approved for free hot lunches at some point this school year. Schools are being selected for this on a gradual basis and I hope that we will be included soon.

Punctuality & Attendance

A reminder that school begins at 9.10am and I encourage everyone to be in school on time every day. As outlined in my message last week, children will be supervised from 8.50am each morning.

We encourage good attendance in school as it plays an important part in the overall successful outcome for your child. If your child is absent you must let the teacher know the reason for the absence using one of the following headings: illness, urgent family reason or holiday. If the absence is for another reason please give a short explanatory note to the teacher. I have asked all teachers to ensure every absence is explained by a note. All communication about absences can be done using Class Dojo. This year automatic reminder texts will be sent home when children have been absent for a specific number of days.

Please note that if your child is absent for 20 days or more the school has to report this information to the Child and Family Agency's educational welfare services. More information on this agency can be found here: [Attendance Support and Information](#)

Finally, on this topic, part of our role in school is to support children and families who sometimes face challenges when it comes to school attendance. If this problem arises for you throughout this year, please feel free to speak to myself or any teacher.

Uniform

Everyone has looked very well in their uniforms this week. We encourage the children to take care of their uniforms and to wear them correctly each day. Please write your child's name on the tag of the jumper to avoid getting them mixed up with others. A reminder that tracksuits should be plain navy with no stripes.

Homework

Homework will be starting later this month for all classes. Teachers will be in touch with you through Class Dojo about this. Homework is a good way for you to see how your children are progressing in school and how they work independently. If it begins to cause a stress or a strain at home please get in touch with the class teacher.

School Closures 2024/25

Hallowe'en Mid Term	Oct 28th-Nov 1st
Teacher Training Day on the new Maths curriculum	Wednesday November 20th
Christmas	School closes on Friday 20th December & reopens Monday January 6th
St. Brigid's Day Public Holiday	Monday 3rd February
Mid Term Break	Mon 17th - Friday 21st February
St. Patrick's Day	Monday 17th March
Easter	School closes Friday 11th April & reopens Mon 28th April
May Bank Holiday	Mon 5th May
June Bank Holiday	Mon 2nd June
Summer Holidays	School closes on Thursday 26th June

Please note the closure date for teacher training in the new Maths curriculum. This was not on our original calendar which was sent out in June.

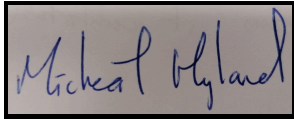
Please read this [Information Leaflet for Parents on the New Maths Curriculum.](#)

Keeping in Touch

Updates on school activities are posted regularly on our website www.geashillns.ie and on Twitter @GeashillNS and of course on Class Dojo. There are some links in the Downloads section of our website that you might find useful on subjects such as [internet safety](#), [headlice](#), [health & wellbeing](#), [returning to school after being sick](#) and [curriculum reform](#).

As always if you have any concerns about your child's school life please feel free to contact me to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Micheál Hyland".

Micheál Hyland

Principal