



Redeemer Boys' N.S.

Scoil Náisiúnta an tSlánaitheora Buachaillí

Principal: Mrs M Murray, BEd, MEd

Ard Easmuinn

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22nd September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have started a school year that is very different from what we have experienced before. I would like to thank parents for their support and cooperation in making our return so far a successful one. I have already issued guidance relating to the new changes to the school day but here are some additional points that need to be highlighted at the start of the school year.

Morning Routine

All pupils should be punctual - **school begins at 9.00am**. Pupils may **arrive at the front or back gates from 8.50am each morning**. There will be a member of staff at each gate as well as additional staff members standing along the route to the side door or back door/s guiding pupils to their entry point and classroom bubble.

Junior Classes Collection

Junior Classes are to be collected punctually by an adult at the following doors and time:

- ⇒ Junior Infants - front door at 1.40 pm.
- ⇒ Senior Infants - side door at 1.40 pm.
- ⇒ First Class - side door at 2.30 pm.
- ⇒ Second Class - front door at 2.40pm.

Senior Classes Dismissal/Collection

- ⇒ Third Class will be walked to the front doors at 2.40 pm and released to the carpark or to walk home if a permission slip has been signed, otherwise the class teacher will hand over to an adult as with the Junior Classes (notes have already been sent home to Third Class and all new pupils that this is applicable to but they can be obtained from the school office if required).
- ⇒ Fourth Class will be walked out to the front gates by the class teacher at 2.40 pm, they may then walk home on their own with signed parental permission.
- ⇒ Fifth/Sixth Class will be walked out to the front gates by the class teacher at 2.45 pm, they may then walk home on their own with signed parental permission.

Attendance

Our attendance records are computerised and a pupil's absence should be explained via the online '**Absence Notification Form**' which can be accessed on the school website (Parent Area - Absence Notification Form). This online form is the preferred form of communication but you may explain an absence by a phone call to the school office or a signed and dated note on the day of return. The full list of school holidays for the incoming year is attached to this letter. Please note, the holidays can always be viewed on our school website (Parent Area - School Closures).

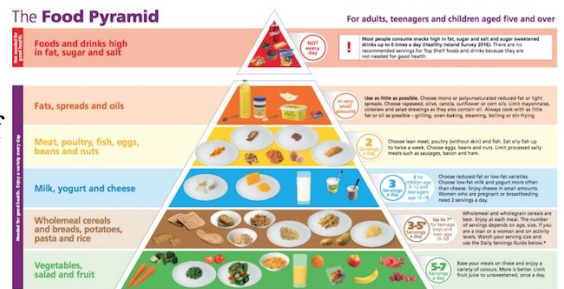
Sign Out Book & Visitor Book

Parents are reminded about collecting pupils early as this is very disruptive to your child and to the rest of the class. I understand an emergency or an appointment can arise unexpectedly but please do not make this a regular occurrence. A 'sign out' book was introduced several years back to monitor this practice. A staff member will now ask the adult collecting the child early for details in order to fill this book in to avoid cross-contamination.

All visitors to the school have to complete a Contact Tracing Log on arrival and departure, they are also required to wear a visitor badge to indicate they have checked in at the secretary's office. This is a child safeguarding measure to promote the safety of all our pupils. Please see our school website at the end of this month for the Child Safeguarding Statement and other mandatory policies e.g. Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying.

Full school uniform is compulsory and I will insist on this throughout the year. Please label all jumpers and coats with your son's name. We will provide a crested polo top / crested jumper and dark grey trousers for the duration of the school day to boys coming to school without a uniform. 'Every child in uniform every day' is the message being promoted in the school.

Glanmore Foods are our daily lunch and snack supplier under the School Meals Scheme. Under new regulations which were introduced two years ago Glanmore Foods are required to adhere to 'Nutrition Standards for School Meals.' The variety of healthy options provided by the company align with the revised food pyramid and guidelines. These Standards are welcomed by the school and further support everyone's efforts to ensure our children have healthier choices available to them.



In order to meet the nutrition standards Glanmore Foods are required to implement some restrictions in how many times you can order certain items across the week.

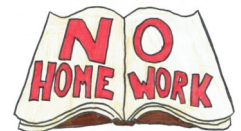
The boys will be looking at the food pyramid in class and the reasons for the choices will be explained. It is very important that we work together on this and promote good nutrition from a young age in order to give the boys the best start in their health and educational development.

Please Note: If you choose to send in lunch with your son you must follow the nutrition standards that our lunch provider adheres to and send only healthy food (chocolate products, high sugar/salt products are not allowed). **Water is the only drink that is permitted in our school.** Class teachers will speak to the boys about what is suitable at little/big break and will monitor what is eaten.

Any pupil who wishes to change his choice with Glanmore Foods should ask for a new selection sheet.

****If you have a concern about your son, we are always willing to discuss this but please make prior arrangements with me or any of our staff. Parents are not currently allowed into the school building without prior appointment.****

To minimise the risk of cross contamination, NO WRITTEN HOMEWORK will be sent home DURING SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER. Teachers may, however, send home reading books. They may also set spellings or times tables work to be learned at home. After the Halloween midterm break, teachers *may* set online homework via Seesaw or the school website. We will keep you updated on this as a final decision has not yet been made on provision for homework from November onwards.



I am delighted to announce that Mr Matthew McArdle has been appointed to the position of shared HSCL teacher across the two Redeemer schools after teaching in the senior section of Redeemer BNS since 2016. There is no doubt that he has taken up the HSCL reins at the most unusual of times but he is currently enjoying spending time getting to know the wider parent body. Matthew is available on **085 785 0787** if you have any concerns about your child or if you need any help or assistance for you or your family. Please find attached a letter of introduction from Matthew.



Yours sincerely,

M. Murray

Principal