

The Harold Times

September 2022

Message from the Principal

It has been a wonderful return to school for everyone this year. We have welcomed our new Junior Infants pupils to our School. They have settled in well and it gives me great pleasure to see them every morning. Míle buíochas, as always, to our dedicated teachers, SNAs and school staff. Music & song has returned to our classrooms and the new interactive screens in the Junior classrooms have been a great success. The pupils are all enjoying the new yard play resources. It must be acknowledged that the children are looking super in their uniforms. Wearing the correct school uniform can help develop a sense of pride and community. Let's keep it up! Thank you for your ongoing support for all that is happening in our school. I wish you and your families safe and happy days over the coming weeks.
Dervla Nic Mhathúna, Principal



GOODBYE!

We wish a fond farewell to our 6th Classes of 2021/2022 and wish them well as they progress into secondary school.

ALSO, a very special welcome to all our new Junior Infants who are all doing remarkably well and are happily settling into school life. It is always an emotional and anxious time for parents seeing their little ones heading off to BIG school. Be assured that we will look after them, and all the other pupils too, very well and they will all be happy and make lots of new friends in the Harold School

Welcome to our other new students

(20) to classes throughout the school. We are sure they will settle in well and enjoy many happy times in The Harold School.



School Calender

A copy of the school calendar for 2022/2023 is available on the school website

www.haroldschool.ie



IMPORTANT- Junior Infants 2023



All the relevant information is on the school website www.haroldschool.ie from today under the Junior Infants 2023 tab and Admission heading.

Applications will be accepted from Monday 3rd October to 2.30 pm on 2nd November 2022

Mid Term Break

The school will close at the usual times on **Friday 28th October** for the mid-term break and will **re-open on Monday 7th November**. I am sure that we are all looking forward to this break!



Annual Class charges

A huge thank you to all parents who have paid this, it is most appreciated and vital to the running of the school. It would be appreciated if those who have not paid could do so as soon as possible please.

It is important to note that these charges include 24 insurance cover for your child. Many thanks!



Communication with the Office/Reception

Due to the high volume of work and administration in the office **we would ask parents not to phone with messages to be passed on etc, as we are unable to do this.**

In the event that you miss a telephone call from the school **we would ask you to please check for any messages left** before returning the call.

As we experience a very large volume of call there is an answering machine service in operation. **We would ask that you leave a brief message and contact details, and we will endeavour to call you back as soon as possible.**

We would also ask for patience when calling to the front door as Reception staff may be dealing with a telephone query or have someone with them in the office. **Many thanks!**

VERY IMPORTANT

School Start and Finish times

The Board of Management would like to remind parents/guardians that the school does not take responsibility for the children before the start and finishing times of classes which are

1st & 2nd Classes 8.45am & 2.25pm

2nd-6th Classes 8.50 am & 2.30pm

Senior Infants 8.55am & 1.35pm

Junior Infants 9.00am & 1.40pm

We appreciate your co-operation in this matter

Date for PDST

(Professional Development Staff Training) and change to calendar.



The school has been informed that the school staff must implement staff training for the Primary Language curriculum. This training will take place on **Wednesday 4th January 2023**. Therefore, **the school will re-open after the Christmas holidays on Thursday 5th January 2023**.



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS

Due to the very successful roll-out (100% registration!) of Aladdin Connect in the school over the last year we would

like to advise you that from now on **all communications from the school will be forwarded to parents/guardians via the noticeboard on Aladdin Connect.**

We would like to thank everyone for their support of this development and for engaging with it so successfully and frequently.

Just a reminder that the many features include communicating with your child's teacher, communicating re absences, viewing/printing school reports, access to payment requests, details and online payments, updating contact details, Permissions, booking times for Parent/Teacher meetings etc

- **IMPORTANT**
- The Class WhatsApp group is intended as a way for the P.A to distribute general school information ... (e.g. Fundraising information, reminders for important school events... e.g. Parent talks, Christmas concerts, etc).
- Individual concerns and queries should be directed in the first instance to the class teacher and/or the school office. It is important to respect this chain of communication.
- A teacher, staff member or pupil should never be referenced in a WhatsApp message.
- A gentle reminder that Class WhatsApp groups are not forums for discussion or expression, personal opinions or hearsay.

IMPORTANT

If you have a particular question or issue, regarding your child's education, please contact your child's Class teacher via Aladdin Connect in the first instance as per the School's Communication policy.(available on www.theharoldschool.ie)

GDPR

We gather and process your child's personal data for the purposes of administering the education of your child. To facilitate this, your child's data is input into the school's Management Information System, Aladdin. Aladdin is a secure software service application which is owned and run by Cloudware Ltd (T/A Aladdin Schools), from where the data in **ONLY** processed for the above purpose.





APPEAL Unwanted IPADs and small toy cars

We are looking for donations of working IPADS which are no longer needed in your home setting. They do not need to be the most modern devices but would need to be wiped and handed into the school office along with passcodes etc.

We are also looking for donations of unwanted **small toy cars as the** Junior classes are very much enjoying playing with these during their breaks.



If you would be able to help with either of these please contact the school by email on admin@haroldschool.ie

Thank you

Support the Harold School Yard/ Games

For every purchase made in their shop Patrick St, Dun Laoghaire, Gransdtand Sports will donate 10% to the Harold School to enable us to purchase more equipment for the school yards

Just say you are from The Harold at point of purchase! Thank you!

Safety of Pupils

The safety of our pupils is of paramount importance. We, therefore, ask that all (children and parents)

avail of the service provide by Maria, our Lollipop Lady, and cross only with her at the pedestrian crossing. We would ask that you stress that message to your older children who may be crossing on their own.

We would **also** ask that the older pupils do not congregate on the footpath outside the front of the school but wait in Eden Park until their bell sounds.

And we would ask parents not to stop cars in the middle of the road to allow children get out of the car as this is very unsafe and contributes to traffic congestion.



Reminder

Your child should bring a raincoat to school every day as every effort is made for the children to be outdoors for their breaks to allow for fresh air and ventilation for the classrooms.

Many thanks

Healthy Eating Policy

We have a Healthy Eating Policy in the School. As staff we are committed to teaching children about nutrition and the importance of a good balanced diet through the curriculum, and an awareness programme etc. We ask parents to provide a healthy lunch consisting of fruit, milk/water, sandwich etc. Junk food, sweets, fizzy drinks and crisps should not be included in the lunch box. If you wish a small treat may be provided on Fridays

PLEASE NOTE that as far as practicable we are a “NUT Free” School.



Internet Use/Safety

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of parental supervision of children’s activity on the internet as many websites can be used for cyber bullying, paedophilia, etc. Please warn children not to give names, addresses or personal details over the Internet under any circumstance. In our school we have a filter system which blocks access to unsuitable websites. Pupils who bully other pupils from our school on the internet will be sanctioned in accordance with our school’s Anti-Bullying policy.

Please see some very helpful information in this regard on WebWise [Webwise- Advice for parents](#)





THANK YOU Events Committee

The Harold School Events team have been working very hard since May this year to organise some very exciting and enjoyable fund-raising events for the school.

A big THANK YOU to:

*Eleanor Burnhill, Barry Clarke
Siobhan Finneran, Ursula
Kappeus, and Anna McDonald*
for all their sterling work.

Keep an eye out for further information on this!

Uniform

Pupils of The Harold school are expected to come into school in full uniform.

Skorts, pumps, ugg boots and sneakers are not allowed.

Runners may be worn with school tracksuits on PE days only.

On PE and GAA days pupils may wear their school tracksuits (plain navy tracksuit bottom- no logos or stripes) and runners.

Many thanks for your understanding.



Garda Vetting/Helping in the school

We would encourage parents/guardians to become involved in school activities for which parental help is always needed and appreciated. Without parental support it would not be possible to engage in some of the activities. To assist in any way all parents must be Garda vetted. For your convenience the relevant form is available at this link [Garda Vetting Form](#) and once completed should be returned by email or hard copy to Reception. Thank you for your support

**For Information
School Office Hours:**

8.30 to 10.30am & 11.00am to 3.00pm

Consideration for our neighbours

It is very important that we, members of the Harold School community, continue to respect our neighbours, ie the local residents in the school vicinity.

To this end we would ask that you:

- park with consideration
- clean up after dog litter,
- bring home any coffee cups etc
- do not congregate outside people's house/front windows
- respect Eden Park which we share with local residents, including plants, shrubs etc.

Thank You!

Your support in this important matter will be very much appreciated.

Birthdays

Please do not send cakes/treats etc. into your child's class to be shared for birthdays.



There is no change in this policy from previous years; at all times we must be mindful of children with allergies etc. and it is very important that they do not feel left out.



IN school Activities

Swimming has returned to the Harold School. Our 3rd Class and Ms Holland's 3rd Class are very much enjoying their Friday visits to going to Castle Park pool.



Gaelic Football

Our 6th Class boys and girls are taking part each week in Gaelic football blitzes with other local schools and wearing their Harold school jerseys with pride! Thanks to Ken from Cuala Gaa, to teachers Ms Byrne, Ms Leahy, Mr Dooley & Mr O'Shea for their commitment and enthusiasm., And of course, thanks to all the parents who are so generously giving up their time in providing lift etc.



Come on The Harold School!!

After school Activities

We have been very please to welcome back After school extra-curricular activities to the Harold school. Thank you to all the teachers and other activity co-ordinators for providing such a wonderful selection of activities. All relevant details are available on the school website www.theharoldschool.ie Under 'Parent Resources'.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place in person on 16th and 17th November 2022. Further information will follow in this regard.



Lost Property

Please remember to mark all your child's items clearly, in particular school jumpers, tracksuit tops and jackets



Events

Friendship Week

We have just celebrated this important week and well done to

everyone for their tremendous efforts to be a good friend. Congratulation to the pupils who received an award

Healthy Eating week, and European Day of Languages

have also been marked in the school recently.



We would like to wish all involved in our school and wider community a wonderful year ahead and we look forward to making happy memories throughout the school year.

