

The Harold Times

September 2023

Principal's Message

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for the 2023/2024 school year. We are looking forward to a wonderful academic year ahead, full of learning, fun and exciting activities for all our pupils! 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. Our school celebrated Friendship week (week commencing 11th September) recently and it was lovely to witness our pupils practising their kind words and kind thoughts with their classmates. 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

IMPORTANT– Junior Infants 2024

Please note that applications for Junior Infants 2024 will open on Monday 2nd October 2023.

All the relevant information is on the school website www.haroldschool.ie under the "Our School" and Admission" tabs.



SCHOOL CLOSED— Mid Term break

As per calendar the school will close for the mid term break on **Friday 27th October** .

Please note **normal times** apply.

School will re-open on **Monday 6th November**. **A copy of the 2023/2024 School Calendar is available on the school website www.theharoldschool.ie**



So long FAREWELL

We wish a fond farewell to our 6th Classes of 2022/2023 and wish them well as they progress into secondary school.



We also bade a fond farewell to a long-standing member of the Harold School team at the end of June this year - **Cormac**. We would like to thank him for his many years of dedicated service, his enthusiasm and his commitment to The Harold as our PE teacher. We will miss him but wish him all the best in his new endeavours.

We also said goodbye to **Elaine**, our housekeeper, after many years in The Harold. We thank her and wish her well in her new job.

WARM WELCOME

A very special Harold School 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 (12) to classes throughout the school. We are sure they will settle in well and enjoy many happy times in The Harold School.

A **warm welcome** to **The Harold team** also to **Ms Lester, Ms Whelan, Ms Hudson and Ms Leahy**.

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.



Payment may be made through your child's payment page via Aladdin Connect.

It is important to note that these charges include 24 hour insurance cover for your child. 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 as follows:

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.

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, contact details** and time of message, 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!**



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 info for [Webwise- Advice for parents](#)

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



Safety of Pupils



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

Healthy Eating Policy

We have a Healthy Eating Policy in the School.

As staff we are committed to teaching children about nutrition and importance of a good balanced diet through 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.**



For Information

School Office Hours:

8.30 to 10.30am & 11.00am to 3.00pm



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place in person on **Wednesday and Thursday 24th and 25th**

January 2024. Further information will follow.

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 is **ONLY** processed for the above purpose.



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. During warm weather plain navy shorts (as specified in the school's uniform policy) are permitted



Many thanks for your support!

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. – reception@haroldschool.ie. **This form must be accompanied by 1 photo ID and 1 proof of current address**

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.



IMPORTANT: We would like to remind you that all invitations to parties should be made through the parents' PA groups. We do not facilitate the handing out of invitations.

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 and

respect Eden Park which we share with local residents, including plants, shrubs et.

Thank You! Your co-operation in this important matter will be very much appreciated.



First Communion/Confirmation

If your child is in either 2nd Class or 6th Class please note that all enquiries in relation to First Holy Communion and Confirmation should be made to Glathule parish office on [\(01\) 663 8604](tel:016638604)



Email: stjosephsglathule@gmail.com

REMINDER Hand Hygiene

We would like to remind pupils to bring in hand sanitiser to use through the school day in an effort to minimise infection/spread of germs and keep everyone in the school community safe.



Lost Property

IMPORTANT PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL JUMPERS, TRACKSUIT TOPS, COATS, JACKETS ETC. ARE CLEARLY LABELLED This is vitally important as if there is a name on any item found it will be returned to it's owner.



Pupils may visit Lost property during their break/lunchtime. Parents (of younger children) who wish to visit Lost property may call to Reception between 9.15 and 10.00 am daily. **THANK YOU**

GAA TEAMS

Our 6th Class boys and girls are currently competing in the Cumann na mBunscoil Leagues. Unfortunately due to the recent very wet weather there have not been very many matches. However we hope that there will be more activity over the next 2 weeks., and will report on the teams' progress.



Congrats to the Boys team on their 4-14 to 1-6 win over St Marys. Many more to come!

A big Thank you to Ms Byrne and Mr Dooley for all their hard work!



Green School Update October 2nd - 6th marks National Walk to School Week.

This is an initiative to celebrate walking as a positive way to travel to school We are going to mark the—WOW (walk on Wednesday) on **October 4th** where we will encourage as many of our students as possible to walk to school or to park and stride that day.

The Green School Committee are organising some in school activities also that week and we will do a whole school tally to see how well we've done.

Also we have recently installed three new flagpoles at the front of the school. Next week we will hoist and proudly display our recently awarded Green schools flags for Biodiversity and our Amber Flag for the promotion of wellbeing in our school.

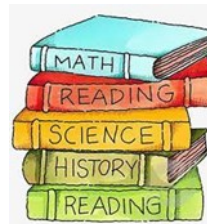


We are all looking forward to our big annual fundraiser on **27th October** which promises to be another great occasion! Over the next month our pupils will be getting out and about (with their class). They will doing their best to complete their 4km target before our fund-raiser day.



Best of luck to all! AND Huge thanks to the members of the School's Fund-raising team!

Inaugural FREE School Books Scheme



A very BIG Thankyou to the staff members who co-ordinated the new Free School Books Scheme Thanks to the extraordinary and sterling efforts of **Mrs Ahern and Anna** in what proved to be a mammoth task, (over 12,000 items ordered!) I think we can all agree it was a great job done!!

Many many thanks to them both!

PA Smart Phone Voluntary Code.

Following a survey of The Harold School community last term, an overwhelming majority of our parents/guardians said they would welcome the introduction of a voluntary code pertaining to primary school children's use of smartphones.



66% of parents have now signed up to this.

If you would like to anonymously sign up to The Harold School's Parents' Association's No Smartphone Voluntary Code please click on the link below to fill out the short form.

IN school Activities

Swimming has returned to the Harold School. Our 3 x 6th Classes and Ms O'Brolcháin's 4th Class are very much enjoying their Friday visits to Castle Park pool.

Our pupils are also enjoying:

PE and Gymnastics

Drama



Gaa

Gardening



We thank all our coaches/teachers/parents/ external providers for their efforts in providing such a great variety of activities for the children.



AFTER school Activities

After School Activities

We have been very pleased to welcome back our after school extra curricular activities. .

We are delighted to provide such a choice of activities and thank everyone involved.

All relevant details are available on the school website www.theharoldschool.ie

We would like to remind you that children should be picked up promptly after any after school activities.

Board Games Appeal

Our 6th Class Teachers are looking for any board games for their pupils suitable for ages 8-12. If you have any suitable (age appropriate) board games in very good condition that you no longer require at home we would be delighted to accept them.



Please drop any games to reception and many thanks for your support,

DATE FOR DIARY 6th Class Parents/ Guardians

6th Class Graduation will take place on **Tuesday 25th June 2024**. Further information nearer the time.

