

Welcome back to all our pupils, parents and staff. Welcome to Ms. Nic Mhathúna, our new Principal, Ms. Fanning, Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Larkin and SNAs Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Walshe. Thank you to Marguerite Caulfield, SNA on her retirement after many years of dedicated service to The Harold. Congratulations to Ms. O'Halloran and Ms. Halligan on the recent weddings. Congratulations to Ms. Caslin and her husband on the birth of their son Benji.

**SCHOOL YARD:** Our Junior Infants have settled in really well and the majority of them are very independent and able to go to their classrooms accompanied by their teachers. In the interest of safety we would ask parents of pupils from 1st to 6th classes to drop children at school gates. There are TOO MANY ADULTS in the school Yard and it is frightening for small children. Parents, please do not block entrances or walk through class lines in the morning. Please walk through the shelter and around by the high wall. The pupils are our PRIORITY and their safety is paramount. If you need to speak to your child's teacher please make an appointment.

We ask that all dog owners act responsibly when bringing dogs to school. Parent should tie dogs outside railings at front of the school and clean up after their dogs, if necessary. Your co-operation would be much appreciated.

The Scooter Park is situated near Dave's shed in Pres Upper Yard. Scooters and skateboards can be left there in the morning and collected in the evening. Parents of Junior and Senior Infants should drop/collect scooters, but children from 1st class up can do it themselves. Children please remember:

- ◆ Wheel scooter, carry skate board while on school premises
- ◆ Mark scooter or skateboard so you can identify which one is yours
- ◆ Park scooters and skateboards safely and away from the gate and steps. There are concerns about how carelessly children throw their scooters and skateboards around in the space provided.
- ◆ Please note that scooters and skateboards are left at owner's risk.



**HEALTHY EATING:** We have a Healthy Eating Policy in the school where children are encouraged to eat healthily. As staff

we are committed to teaching children about nutrition and the importance of a good balanced diet. This will be done through the curriculum, an awareness programme, competitions etc. To ensure the success of this initiative we require the co-operation of parents. We would ask parents to provide a healthy lunch consisting of one piece of fruit, milk/water, two slices of bread and meat/poultry/cheese. We would ask that junk food, sweets fizzy drinks etc. are not included in the lunch box. If you wish, a small treat may be included in the lunch box on Fridays. **PLEASE NOTE THAT AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, WE ARE A "NUT FREE" SCHOOL.**



## SCHOOL CLOSURE

**School will be closed on 20th October to facilitate a full day seminar on professional development for the Primary Language Curriculum. This closure has been sanctioned by the DES.**

## SCHOOL POLICIES

Please see Homework Policy on Pg. 6 of your child's School Journal and Discipline Code (Pg. 2) and Anti Bullying Code (inc. Anti Cyber Bullying Pg. 8) Please sign form on Pg. 6 to indicate that

## CHILD PROTECTION

**We are very grateful to parents who volunteer to help in the school. In line with our obligation under Child Protection Guidelines, it is necessary for parents who volunteer to be vetted in advance. If you feel that you would be available to help at any stage during the year please contact the office for a vetting form to be completed and returned to the school in strictest confidence. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department of Education's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools as part of our overall Child Protection Policy.**

## Party invitations

We would ask parents not to bring party invitations into the classroom or to ask teachers to give them out as children can become upset if they do not get one. Please note that under Data Protection regulations the school cannot supply names and contact details of children to other parents.



## YARD DUTY

Thank you to all who help with Yard Duty. This is of great benefit to the school and pupils are well supervised during lunch break. School management and staff are very grateful. Please contact the office if you are available to help. All parents who help with Yard duty must be vetted.

Yard duty guidelines for parents are currently being updated. Our new Yard Motto is :



**"KIND HANDS, KIND FEET"**

**The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for children arriving on school premises before 8.50am.** The school grounds are opened at 8.30am as it is felt it is safer for children who are dropped at the school to stay in school grounds rather than at the school gate. **However, this is a gesture of goodwill from the school. Children are formally supervised in the school and its grounds from, 8.50am—2.30pm (official school times only)**



### Ag Siúl to School.

We would ask parents to consider getting older children to walk to and from school.

We have an “Ag siúl to School” policy and we encourage our pupils to walk.

Senior Infants are updating their **Aistear** resources and would be very grateful to receive any of the following donations that are in good condition.

- Toy Mini Figures (Lego, police, fire officers, nurses, farmers, children)
- Toy Miniature Animals
- Miniature cars, ambulances, fire brigades, police cars, boats etc.
- Car and Town Mats
- Puppets (hand and finger)
- Miniature road signs
- Dress up costumes
- Toy hard hats (builder etc.)
- Toy Doctor Set
- Lego
- Magnetic Tape
- Unwanted microphone (toy or real)
- Oil table cloths

We will leave an “Aistear Box” for any donations under the front stairs.

### DIARY DATES

<b>22nd Jan. 2017</b>	<b>Service of Light</b>
<b>12th Feb. 2017</b>	<b>Commitment Ceremony</b>
<b>24th Mar. 2017</b>	<b>Confirmation</b>
<b>25th Mar. 2017</b>	<b>First Confession</b>
<b>20th May, 2017</b>	<b>First Holy Communion</b>

**Texaco Children’s Art Competition** : Congratulations and well done to Ava Henson on her prize winning entry.

**Thank you very much to Joshua Wardlaw and his brother Callum who watered the plants in Eden Park during the summer.**



### Traffic and Parking

We are aware that there is a lot of congestion at the school gate at 2.30pm. We are concerned for the safety of the children at this time. We have also had complaints from neighbours and an Garda Síochána regarding dangerous and careless parking. We would like to emphasise the following points to clarify the situation:

- All children walking out of school must leave by the middle gate—the gate nearest to the Lollipop Man.
- Children with bikes may use the top gate but must come down path to the Lollipop Man if they have to cross over
- No child is allowed to cross the road between cars, and no parent should call them across.
- When green man shows, please wait for the Lollipop Man to call you across

We appeal to parents not to gather around the middle gate, the children need room to get out and the Lollipop Man needs space to do his job. Children waiting to be collected by a parent or sibling will be asked to stand to the right of front steps, to enable other children go through the gate.

The following guidelines have been received from Transportation Department of DLRCC:

#### Parents/Carers

- Teach your child to wait on the footpath and follow instructions from Lollipop Man
- Teach your child to cross the road in front of the Lollipop Man
- Teach your child to keep looking in each direction when crossing
- Make sure your child behaves sensibly at the crossing and does not distract Lollipop Man
- Set a good example yourself
- Even when Lollipop Man is provided you remain responsible for ensuring your child’s safety just as you do when crossing at pedestrian or traffic lights
- Please do not allow young children to run ahead of you to the Lollipop Man
- Assess your child’s ability to deal with roads, traffic and road crossings before allowing them go to school unaccompanied
- If you drive your children to school make sure you park well away from the Lollipop Man and school entrance
- Parking is prohibited in any position which obstructs the view of the Lollipop Man. Lollipop Man **MUST** be able to see the road clearly to do his work.

#### Children

- When you get to crossing stand well back on path behind Lollipop Man and wait
- You may need to wait if other children are coming across or if the Lollipop Man is waiting to find a safe gap between moving traffic
- Do not follow the Lollipop Man on to the road
- Wait on the path till the Lollipop Man calls you to cross
- You must cross in front of the Lollipop Man so that he can see you
- Keep looking in both directions and listening for traffic when crossing
- If the Lollipop Man is returning to the path when you arrive at the crossing do not run out. Wait till the Lollipop Man returns and only cross when he has stopped the traffic and instructed you to cross
- Never play or run near a Lollipop Man.

**Mobile Phone Numbers:** If you change your mobile number or address it is very important that you inform the school. If parents are away it is most important that the school has contact numbers for the person minding pupil.

### LATE ARRIVALS

Children who are late arriving at school are asked to sign in at the office before going to classrooms.



### Extra Curricular Charge

**Thank you to all who have paid the charge for this year. This payment includes Pupil Personal Accident Insurance which cover pupils for 24 hours per day, including school holidays.**



### HYGIENE

Please remind your child about the importance of hygiene and sneezing etiquette. Ensure your child has a wash bag and check it regularly and ensure there is a clean face towel for drying hands, if needed. Classrooms are provided with liquid soap in dispensers.

### Parental Communication

Parents please advise teachers of messages etc. by using Homework Journal. If you wish to see a teacher please arrange through Journal or letter and an appointment will be arranged promptly. If you have concerns regarding your child please speak to class teacher first, as many problems can be addressed quickly and quietly with the class teacher. If you are still not satisfied, or if the matter is serious or confidential please contact the Principal on 2805708. In the event of a pupil being absent through illness or for any other reason, the class teacher should be informed by note on the pupil's return. **PLEASE DO NOT RING THE SECRETARY.** If it is anticipated that the absence will be of a lengthy duration, the class teacher should be informed by note as soon as possible.

### HEAD LICE

**In an effort to prevent head lice we would ask pupils to tie back long hair. Please check your child's head regularly for head lice and treat if necessary.**



### Internet Use

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of parental supervision of your child's activity on the internet as many websites can be used for cyber bullying, paedophiles, etc. Please warn your child not to give names, addresses or personal details over the internet under any circumstances. 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 Code of discipline (School Diary Pg. 14)

### Sport

**6th classes are participating in a six week Cycling Skills course subsidised by DLRCC.**

**A coach from Cuala GAA will be coaching classes from Junior Infants to 2nd on Thursdays throughout the year.**

**5th classes and Mr. Collins' 3rd class have started a six week programme of swimming lessons at Castlepark School. 4th, 6th and the other 3rd classes will have lessons during the year.**

**Grandstand Sports in Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre operates a loyalty scheme. For every purchase made in the shop by parents of The Harold, the shop will donate 10% of the purchase price of the goods to a fund for the school.**



### LITERACY



**While teachers teach the basic elements of reading comprehension and also develop literacy skills through reading in school, it is you, the parents, who can achieve the greatest results by encouraging and supporting your child through reading at home. For children to achieve high reading scores in Micra T tests they must read every night for at least 15—20 minutes. This can improve your child's reading significantly. We are looking for volunteer parents to help with Paired Reading. It would involve a commitment of one hour per week in the mornings. If you are free to help please leave your details at the office.**

### Heavy School Bags

Please remind children not to carry excessive amounts of school books in their bags. Only carry books, pens and pencils that are needed for homework.



### Book Grant

Book Grant forms available from the Secretary's Office. This covers cost of school books but not stationery.



### UNIFORM

**We expect pupils from The Harold School to come to school in full uniform. Skorts, pumps, Ugg Boots/ sneakers are not permitted. On PE, Gymnastics and Gaelic days pupils are allowed to wear their tracksuits and runners.**

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM** was held on 15th September. Sincere thanks to Anna Moisselle, Sofia Colas and Fabrice Jolivet and the outgoing committee for their hard work during the year. Thank you to last year's Committee members who are continuing for another year.

**WhatsApp:** We recognise that WhatsApp is a useful tool for exchanging information about school activities. Please remember to keep all comments considerate and respectful. If you have a concern please contact the school in the first instance.