

Welcome back to all our pupils, parents and staff. Welcome to Ms. Travers, Ms. Byrne, Ms. O'Hara, Ms. Leahy, and Ms. Lynch who have joined the Staff.



Congratulations to Ms. Lambkin and her husband on the birth of their daughter Mia.

**HEALTHY EATING:** This week we are celebrating Healthy Eating Week. 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 ask parents to provide a healthy lunch consisting of one piece of fruit, milk/water, two slices of bread and meat/poultry/cheese. We ask that junk food, sweets, fizzy drinks, crisps are not included in the lunch box. If you wish, a small treat may be included on Fridays. **PLEASE NOTE THAT AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, WE ARE A "NUT FREE" SCHOOL.**



**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. Next Tuesday 25th September is Independence Day when we would encourage all Junior and Senior Infants to go to their lines in the Yard unaccompanied.

In the interest of safety and to avoid congestion 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 can be frightening. Parents, please do not block entrances, passageways, or walk through class lines in the morning. Please walk through the shelter and around by the high wall. We would ask parents to be considerate of pupils with reduced mobility who are moving through the yards in the morning. The **pupils are our PRIORITY** and their safety is paramount. If you need to speak to your child's teacher please make an appointment through the office.

We ask all dog owners to act responsibly when bringing dogs to school. Parents 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 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 is yours. Park scooters and skateboards safely and away from the gate and steps
- Please note that scooters and skateboards are left at owner's risk

**SCHOOL POLICIES:** Please see Homework Policy on Pg. 6 of your child's School Journal, Discipline Code Pg. 2, Anti Bullying Code (inc. Anti Cyber Bullying) Pg. 7. Please sign form on Pg. 5 of Journal to indicate that you are familiar with and support the school's Code of Discipline.

**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 parent 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 strict confidence. The BOM 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. Garda Vetting must be renewed every three years. If you need to check if your vetting is in date please email your query to [haroldns1sugr@hotmail.com](mailto:haroldns1sugr@hotmail.com)

**YARD DUTY :** Thank you to all parents who help with Yard Duty. This is of great benefit to the school and pupils are well supervised during lunch break. Please contact the office if you are available to help. All parents who help with Yard Duty must be vetted. Our yard Motto is:

**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 on school grounds rather than at the 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 only (official school times)**



**"KIND HANDS, KIND FEET, KIND WORDS"**



## 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 Síochana 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 Lady
- Children with bikes may use the top gate but must come down path to the Lollipop Lady 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 Lady to call you across
- We appeal to parents not to gather around the middle gate, the children need space to get out and the Lollipop Lady needs space to do her job. Children waiting to be collected by 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 the Transportation Department of DLRC:

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



Children:

- When you get to crossing stand well back on path behind Lollipop Lady and wait
- You may need to wait if other children are coming across or if the Lollipop Lady is waiting to find a safe gap between moving traffic
- Do not follow Lollipop Lady on to the road
- Wait on the path till Lollipop Lady calls you to cross
- You must cross in front of Lollipop Lady so that she can see you
- Keep looking in both directions and listening for traffic when crossing
- If Lollipop Lady is returning to the path when you arrive at the crossing do not run out. Wait

Parental Communication

Parents please advise teachers of messages etc. by using Homework Journal. If you wish to meet with a teacher please arrange through the office and an appointment will be arranged promptly.

If you have concerns regarding your child please arrange to speak to class teacher first, as many problems can be addressed quickly and quietly with class teacher.

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.

Due to the high volume of work/administration in the office parents are requested not to ring the school to ask that messages re arrangements for play dates, after school collection etc. are passed to children. Messages will only be passed on to children in cases of emergency but we cannot always guarantee this will be done. In cases of emergency we will do what we can to pass on a message to your child. However, because of the many interruptions in the office we cannot absolutely guarantee that we will always be able to manage this.

If parents see a missed call from the school on their phone they must check their messages before returning the call.

**Please note the office is open from 8.40am to 11.00am and from 11.30am to 2.30pm.**



### LATE ARRIVALS

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

**Whats App:** We recognise that WhatsApp is a useful tool for exchanging information about school activities. It is not a discussion forum. Please remember to keep all comments considerate and respectful. If you have a concern please contact the school in the first instance.



## 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.

## 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.

## UNIFORM

Pupils of The Harold school are expected 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 school track suits and runners. Please remember that the tracksuit bottom is plain navy—no logos or stripes.

**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.

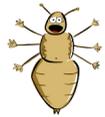
## INTERNET USE

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 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 Anti Bullying Policy.



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

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



## SPORT



6th classes are participating in an 8 week Cycling Skills course subsidised by DLRC.

A coach from Cuala GAA is coaching classes from Junior Infants to 3rd on Thursdays during the year.

5th classes and Mrs. Cave's 3rd class have started a 6 week programme of swimming lessons in Castlepark School. 4th, 6th and the other 3rd classes will have lessons during the year.

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

## Parents' Association

The PA AGM was held on 13th September in The Harold Hall at 8.00pm. Thank you to Andrea, Janette, Ann and all the Committee for their hard work and support during the year.

**FRIENDSHIP WEEK:** We celebrated Friendship Week last week. Congratulations to all pupils who won prizes for their art work.



## 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 parents.*



**OTHER CHARGES:** Thank you to all who have already paid the charges for this year. Please note this payment includes Pupil Personal Accident Insurance which covers pupils for 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. This payment can be made in instalments.

## GDPR

We gather and process your child's personal data for the purposes of administering the education of your child. To facilitate this, we will input your child's data into the school's Management Information System, Aladdin. Aladdin is a secure software as a 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.

## SCHOOL CLOSURES

School will be closed on Monday 15th October for staff In Service Curriculum Training Day.

School will be closed on 26th October as the premises have been requisitioned for Presidential Election.