**The Rock National School,**

**The Rock,**

**Mountmellick,**

**Co. Laois. R32AP98**

Éirigh don dúshlán!



**Tel: 0578624490 Email:** **therockns20@gmail.com** **Web:** [**www.therockns.ie**](http://www.therockns.ie) **Rolla: 18206T**

Embrace the challenge!

Principal: Mr. Liam Ahern Dep. Principal: Mrs. Michelle Kirwan

31st August 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Just a few brief notices:

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais!! Welcome to all our pupils especially to those who are starting their first few days at The Rock National School.

• Thank you to Mr. Kevin Conroy for looking after the school during the holidays. As always Kevin has done a super job. Míle buíochas!!

• Please help us to ensure a smooth return to school for children, school staff and parents/guardians…please don’t ‘turn up’ at a classroom door/fire escape door for a ‘chat’!

• Important notice: The Gardaí have advised the school to open at **10am on Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd September as the World Ploughing Championships take place in Ratheniska.** Closing times as normal. The west of Ireland traffic will be travelling through Mountmellick and out past the school. Please drive safely.

• Covid 19: Please continue to take precautions for your family.

• Music Generation Laois: Letters regarding music lessons will go out very soon. Lessons are expected to begin early in September. This will affect those children from 2nd-6th class who wish to learn guitar/ ukulele/ bodhran with James O’Connor or Dale McKay. €270 for 30 lessons to be paid in one or two instalments.

• Junior Infants should be collected at 12.30 p.m. until Friday 15th September. After that they should be collected at 1.40 pm. Reminder: Parents collecting Infants to remain outside, adjacent to the fire escape door…..Allow your child to be as independent as possible.

• Please label all jumpers, cardigans, jackets, bags, lunch boxes etc.

• The school’s holidays for the year should be attached to this letter. Please retain it.

• Inservice Days: The school may be closed during the school year for teacher inservice. Notice will be given in advance.

• P.E. days (Navy tracksuit bottoms, navy tracksuit top with school crest, t-shirt to be worn): Tuesdays & Thursdays: PE gear to be worn. Uniform to be worn on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

• No footballs or PE equipment will be allowed on the yard for the first few days …don’t bring footballs to school!

• School Uniforms are available from **Victor Cox (057) 862 4107**. PE tracksuit top & T shirt available from **Darren Strong 0871370968**

• Parent/teacher meetings & communication will take place via phonecalls, notes, homework journal etc. Annual P/T meetings will be notified in advance. Parents/guardians shouldn’t enter the school building without an appointment. If you need to contact the class teacher regarding something that doesn’t require a meeting, write a brief note in the classroom journal or place it in an envelope. The class teacher can then follow that up. Thank you for your co-operation.

• Consider using the bus which has been arranged by the Parents Council. You can contact **Martin Deegan 086 4066954**.

• Regarding entrance/exit from the school: Safety of all children is of the utmost importance so please drive slowly and carefully. Please keep all exits clear at all times. Don’t park in the staff carpark or block the staff exit.

• All children should enter and exit the school through the gate at the front of the school at all times. Only children who use a wheelchair or have a medical need should access the building through the front door……this should be agreed with Mr. Ahern. **Walking through the staff car park before & after school is a safety risk for your child & school staff.** Please ensure your child enters the school through the front gate. Cyclists should dismount their bicycles and walk to the bike rack (not via the staff car park!). **All children 1st-6th to exit the school through the front gate, parents/guardians to remain outside the gate…thank you for your cooperation!**

• Lunches: All pupils are asked to take home lunch wrappers and packaging. Parents will thus be able to monitor consumption of lunches and the school will have a smaller rubbish bill. Thanks in advance! Glanmore Foods provide fresh food each day for the children…continue to use the Glanmore app to alter your child’s lunch each week. There is no cost to families, funding is through Dept. of Social Protection. Hot lunches will be introduced at some stage….I will keep you updated on this.

• Similarly, please maintain a high standard of uniform & PE gear. Navy jumper/cardigan (with school crest), blue shirt, navy tie, navy trousers/skirt/pinafore, black shoes to be worn. **If earrings are worn by boys or girls, a pair of matching stud earrings with one earring per earlobe is what is acceptable. All other earrings must be removed during school times. Hair should not be dyed or shaven.**

• Regarding PE: please be aware that on a wet day it is not possible to do PE indoors.

• Please complete the form attached regarding address, telephone number, email address etc to ensure that the school has current contact details for your family and for our textaparent. If you change your mobile number during the year or change address, please inform your child’s teacher in writing.

• We will be swimming this year (1st-6th classes)…late September to October. Cost included below. Further details in a separate note/email/message.

• Computer classes for 1st -6th will continue this year with Ms. Kate Ryan for 12 weeks. Cost included below. The Board of Management will pay half of the cost. Note 1st/2nd computer classes are after Christmas.

• Please keep an eye on www.therockns.ie for updates and information regarding your child’s work, projects, trips etc.

• Our school’s overall attendance rate for last year was **93.5%** which was better than the previous year (**87%**). **A significant improvement**! Please ensure a high attendance rate for your child. Under the Education Welfare Act parents are required to forward a note to the school explaining a child’s absence. There is no need to telephone the school. If you have overslept or are late for any reason, please send your child – better late than never!!

• Below is the costing for Art/Craft, insurance, testing etc. for the current school year. The DES book grant means that there is no cost for school books, workbooks and copies this year. Please forward the amount below to your child’s teacher on/before **Thursday 8th September)**. An envelope with your child’s name, class and amount enclosed would be appreciated. Thank you for your co-operation.

• Online Payments: If you wish to pay Art/Craft, music fees etc, you can use the bank details below. **Make sure to confirm your payment, stating what the payment is for by emailing therockns20@gmail.com**

Name of account: The Rock National School

Name of Bank: Bank of Ireland, Mountmellick

**IBAN – IE32BOFI90181095709302 BIC BOFIIE2D**

Le gach dea-ghuí,

**L. Ahern**

Mr. L. Ahern

**Contact Details & Insurance/Art Craft/Swimming Fees**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name of Child** |  |
| **Class** |  |
| **Child’s Address** |  |
|  |  |
| **Parent/Guardian 1 Name** |  |
| **Mobile** |  |
| **Home & Work Phone Numbers** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Postal Address (if different to above)** |  |
|  |  |
| **Parent/Guardian 2 Name** |  |
| **Mobile** |  |
| **Home & Work Phone Numbers** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Postal Address (if different to above)** |  |
| **Person nominated to receive texts** |  |
|  |  |
| **Third Contact – Name** |  |
| **Mobile** |  |

I have read the attached letter regarding school arrangements for the school year and I agree to support the school in the implementation of all school procedures and policies.

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Junior Infants & Senior Infants (***Cost below is per child***)**

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| **Art/Craft, Photocopying, End of year reports, Textaparent and postage** | **€27** |
| **Insurance** | **€8** |
| **TOTAL DUE** |  **€35** |

**1st-6th Classes (***Cost below is per child***)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Art/Craft, Photocopying, End of year reports, Textaparent and postage** | **€27** |
| **Insurance** | **€8** |
| **Computers** | **€12** |
| **Swimming Sep-Oct (6 swim lessons & 6 bus trips)** | **€58** |
| **TOTAL DUE** | **€105** |



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| **The Rock National School 2023-2024 School Calendar** |
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| **August ‘23** |
| **Su** | **M** | **Tu** | **W** | **Th** | **F** | **S** |
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| **September ‘23** |
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| **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
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| **October ‘23** |
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| **November ‘23** |
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| **December ‘23** |
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| **January ‘24** |
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| **February ‘24** |
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| **March ‘24** |
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| **April ‘24** |
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| **May ‘24** |
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| **June ‘24** |
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|  |  | First & last days |  |  | Bank holidays & school holidays |
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