

Scoil na Croise Naofa
Geashill NS
Geashill, Co. Offaly, R35 W253.
057 9343754
geashillnsoffice@gmail.com
www.geashillns.ie
Roll No. 091911
Registered Charity No. 20204543

5th September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back

Welcome back to everybody after the summer break. A very special welcome to the twenty four new pupils who have started in the school this year. I wish them many happy years of learning, friendship and fun with us in Geashill NS.

Welcome also to our new staff members. Cairdeas 2 and Cairdeas 3 teachers, Ailíse Bourke and Áine Doyle, have joined our permanent teaching staff while Eimear Daly will be teaching 3rd & 4th Classes this year. Evelyn Boland, James McDonald and Mary Hickey have joined our SNA team. I hope they all enjoy their time working with the wonderful pupils here in Geashill.

Cairdeas 3

We opened our third special class last Wednesday. Cairdeas 3 is our special class for children with ASD. The school opened its first special class for deaf children back in 1985 and its second in 2015, again for children with a hearing impairment. We are delighted and indeed proud to continue our commitment to children with additional needs by opening Cairdeas 3.

Contact Details & Class Dojo

Please ensure the school has the up to date contact numbers of parents/guardians/child minders so easy contact can be made in the event of a child becoming unwell in school and for text-a-parent purposes.

Also, if anyone is having trouble accessing their Class Dojo account please let the class teacher know and they will make every effort to get things working properly. Class Dojo is the easiest way to communicate between home and school and vice versa so please make sure you are connected to your child's class and acquaint yourself with the different features of the app.

Book Rental

Thanks to everyone who has paid the book rental fees. A reminder that for anyone yet to pay, you can do so at this link: <https://www.geashillns.ie/online-payments/>
If you have any difficulty in making the payments, please contact me on 057 9343754 or by emailing micheal.hyland@geashillns.ie.

Pupil 24 Hour Insurance

The personal accident insurance is also now due for payment. This is a 24hr cover for your children which covers accidents in the school or at home. The cost is €6. The first €100 of any claim, an A&E charge for example, will be covered. Claim forms will be available from the office. Once again, payment can be made at this link: <https://www.geashillns.ie/online-payments/>

Healthy Lunches & The Lunch Bag

As usual, our Healthy Eating Days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On these days we ask you and your children to pack healthy options for the lunch breaks. We would hope to see food such as crisps and chocolate kept as treats for Fridays. Fizzy drinks should not come to school any day. Some advice on healthy lunches can be found here:

<https://www.safefood.net/education/healthy-lunchb>



A reminder that if you wish to use this school lunch provider, download The Lunch Bag app and follow the instructions. You can order every day or just once a week, whatever works best for you. More information can be found at www.thelunchbag.ie.

Punctuality & Attendance

A reminder that school begins at 9.10am and I encourage everyone to be in school on time every day. Children will be supervised from 9am each morning.

We encourage good attendance in school as it plays an important part in the overall successful outcome for your child. If your child is absent you must let the teacher know the reason for the absence using one of the following headings: illness, urgent family reason or holiday. If the absence is for another reason please give a short explanatory note to the teacher. I have asked all teachers to ensure every absence is explained by a note. All communication about absences can be done using Class Dojo.

Please note that if your child is absent for 20 days or more the school has to report this information to the Child and Family Agency's educational welfare services. Therefore having an explanation for each absence is important.

Covid

The Department of Health and the office of the Chief Medical Officer have advised schools that there are no new requirements in respect of managing COVID-19. The key messages are as follows:

- Stay at home if you are unwell.
 - The best way to keep all viruses out of school is to stay at home if you are unwell and until your symptoms have substantially resolved for 48 hours.
 - Maintain a good standard of hand hygiene
 - Adhere to good respiratory etiquette
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School Closures 2022/23

Hallowe'en Mid Term	Oct 31st-November 4th
Christmas	School closes on Wed 21st December at 12.30pm & reopens Thurs January 5th
St. Brigid's Day Public Holiday	Monday 6th February
Mid Term Break	Thursday 16th & Friday 17th February
St. Patrick's Day	Friday 17th March
Easter	School closes Friday 31st March at 12.30pm & reopens Mon 17th April
May Bank Holiday	Mon 1st May
June Bank Holiday	Mon 5th June
Summer Holidays	School closes on Friday 23rd June at 12.30pm

There may be one or two half day closures (12.30pm) to facilitate teacher training meetings and once I know these dates I will let you know.

Uniform

Everyone looked very well in their uniforms last week. We encourage the children to take care of their uniforms and to wear them correctly each day. Please write your child's name on the tag of the jumper to avoid getting them mixed up with others. A reminder that tracksuits should be plain navy with no stripes.

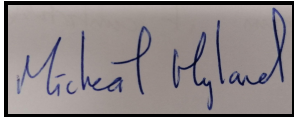
Internet Safety Talk

On Thursday 22nd September our Parents' Council have organised an internet safety workshop for 3rd to 6th Classes, teachers and parents. The session for parents will be held in the evening time and will be online rather than in-person. I will have more details for you about this closer to the time but in the meantime take a look at this link which gives you information on the providers of the workshops. <https://zeeko.ie/primary-schools/>

Keeping in Touch

Updates on school activities are posted regularly on our website www.geashillns.ie and on Twitter @GeashillNS.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature appears to read 'Micheál Hyland'.

Mícheál Hyland

Principal