**Scoil na Croise Naofa**

**Geashill NS**

**Geashill, Co. Offaly, R35 W253.**

**057 9343754**

**geashillnsoffice@gmail.com**

[**www.geashillns.ie**](http://www.geashillns.ie)

**Roll No. 09191I**

**Registered Charity No. 20204543**

**Principal: Mícheál Hyland Deputy Principal: Marie Kearns**

29th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I want to begin by saying thanks to you and to all the children for working with us over the last month and for being so willing to adapt to the various new arrangements that there are this year. The reopening of our school has gone very smoothly up to now and it has been really great to see the children reconnect with each other and with all of us.

**Welcome**

Welcome back to everyone in our school community.

I especially welcome the 16 children who have started with us this year in Junior Infants and the 8 other children who have joined classes throughout the school. I wish you all every success and happiness in Geashill N.S.

Welcome also to Ms. Connolly who is teaching 2nd & 3rd Classes while Mrs. Shaughnessy is on maternity leave. Congratulations to Mrs. Shaughnessy on the birth of her baby boy last week.

We also welcome Ms. Burke to the school. She started teaching in Cairdeas 1 yesterday in place of Ms. Leonard who is on maternity leave as well.

**Drop-Off and Collection**

Please continue to drop and collect your children at the appointed times and also please remember that children are not to be dropped before 9am.

You can read all the drop-off and collection arrangements at this link: <https://www.geashillns.ie/wp/wp-content/uploads/DropoffPickupFinal.pdf>

If someone different is collecting your children on a given day please inform them of the collection time and location.

**Covid Updates**

This is a one page guide for parents which may help when deciding on whether to send your child to school or not. Please know that you can call me on 057 9343754 if you have any questions or queries about anything Covid related.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/childcareguidance/Isolation%20quick%20guide.pdf>

# Contact Details 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. This is important every year and it is even more so this year.

# School Uniforms It is great to see all the children turned out so well in their uniforms. We urge the children to keep their uniforms in good condition throughout the year. Also, please ensure all jumpers/cardigans are clearly labeled.

# Healthy Eating Days

# Once again, this year 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. Advice on healthy lunches can be found on our website at this link: <https://www.safefood.net/education/healthy-lunchboxes>

# Thanks, as always, for your co- operation in this matter.

# Book Rental Thanks to everyone who has already paid the book rental fees. A reminder that any outstanding book rental money can now be paid online through our website at this link: <https://www.geashillns.ie/online-payments/>

# Pupil 24 Hour Insurance The personal accident insurance is now also due for payment. This is a 24hr cover for your children which covers accidents in the school or at home. The cost is €6.

More information on the cover provided can be found at this link: <https://www.allianz.ie/schools/pupil-personal-accident/>

Again, this can be paid online at <https://www.geashillns.ie/online-payments/>and I would encourage everyone to use this method instead of sending money into the office. Please note if anyone has a problem inputting their Eircode when paying online, please use the school’s Eircode R35W253 and you should then be able to complete a payment successfully.

**Homework**

I think most if not all of us have enjoyed the month of September with no homework.

From next week homework will return but in a limited way. Teachers will communicate directly with you about homework arrangements for their classes in the coming days.

**First Communion**

The First Communion Ceremony takes place on Saturday 3rd October at 11am in St. Mary’s Church, Raheen. It can be viewed on the Church webcam at this link: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-marys-church-raheen>

I know the families of children in 3rd Class are looking forward to the day and I hope you all have an enjoyable time. Please, however, keep in mind the government advice about visitors and social gatherings which you can read here:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/protect-yourself-and-others.html>

**Home-School Communication**

If you want to speak to a teacher about your child’s progress in school please contact the office at 057 9343754 to arrange a call or online meeting.

You can also contact the teacher directly through Class Dojo. All classes have this set up but not everyone has connected with it yet. I would encourage you to do so as it is the easiest way to keep up to date with your child’s class work.

**Retirements**

Our two longest serving teachers Mrs. Kearns and Ms. McGrath are retiring on November 1st. Their last day teaching in the school will be Friday, October 23rd.

Both Marie and Patricia came to Geashill School in 1986 and have been wonderful teachers and colleagues ever since. They have left an indelible mark on the pupils they have taught and on those of us who have had the privilege of working with them. I wish them both many years of good health and happiness as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

**School Calendar 2020/2021**

**Tuesday 1st September :**  School opens for the new school year.

**Monday 26th – Friday 30th October:** School closed for mid-term break.

**Tuesday 22nd December :** School closes for the Christmas holidays.

**Wednesday 6th January:** School re-opens.

**Thursday 18th & Friday 19th February:**  School closed for mid-term break.

**Wednesday 17th March:**  School closed for St. Patrick’s Day.

**Friday 26th March:** School closes for Easter holidays.

**Monday 12th April:** School re-opens.

**Monday 3rd May:**  School closed for Bank Holiday.

**Monday 7th June:** School closed for Bank Holiday.

**Thursday 24th June:** School closes for summer holidays.

Yours Sincerely,

Mícheál Hyland