Scoil na Croise Naofa Geashill NS Geashill, Co. Offaly, R35 W253. 057 9343754

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Roll No. 091911 Registered Charity No. 20204543

21st August 2025

Dear Parents,

We look forward to welcoming all our students back to school on Monday 1st September. A special welcome to our new Junior Infants and to our other new pupils starting with us in various classes throughout the school.

School Times:

School starts at 9.10am and children are welcome to arrive at school from 8.50am where they will be supervised in the yard at the back of the school.

On Monday 1st September, school staff will be on hand to show Junior Infants and their parents and other new pupils to their classrooms.

A reminder that the regular school finishing time is 1.50pm for infants and 2.50pm for all other classes. Junior Infants are going home at 12 midday until Friday 5th September.

School Building Work:

As anyone who has passed by the school over the summer can see, there has been a huge amount of work going on, both internally and externally. While the majority of this work will be finished by our return to school, there may still be some things to be completed in the coming weeks. As a result, some parts of our grounds will be fenced off but this will not impinge too much on our everyday activities.

You can read more about this energy retrofit work and about our future extension here.

Hot School Lunches:

As you know, our school has been sanctioned for free hot school lunches. We, along with 349 other schools throughout the country, were hoping to have this up and running for our return to school. However, due to procurement regulations we have not been allowed to begin the tendering process for this over the summer. This process will now commence in September and it is expected that hot lunches will be ready to start after Christmas.

Chilled/Cold Lunches:

In the meantime we have been allowed on a temporary basis to begin a free cold lunch service until Christmas.

The company we will be using to provide this service is <u>Carambola</u> and they will begin their service on Monday 8th September. We will send home login information for ordering with the children on Monday 1st.

Each child will be able to order a choice of filled wrap/roll/sandwich plus whole fruit as well as a carton of water. There is a choice of breads and fillings to cover all diets or religious requirements and also the option of a pasta pot instead of a sandwich if the children prefer. Please note that this is a government funded service and as such the menu is limited to the above. If you wish, you can choose to continue to send some or all lunch with your child as before.

I would advise any of you who used The Lunchbag service previously, to ensure any orders are cancelled as they will not be delivering to our school this term and your account might be charged.

School Books:

Arrangements for Books, Copies, School Supplies

Junior Infants & Senior Infants

Everything needed for the infant classes will be supplied by the school. That includes books, copies, workbooks, pencils, colours, folders etc. It will be important to have your own pencils and colours for home use.

1st to 6th Classes

All books, workbooks and copies will be supplied by the school. Please buy pens, pencils, twistables, rulers, folders and pritt stick for your child for school use as you have done in the past.

A reminder that books that children do not write into will be returned to the school at the end of the year and should therefore be kept in good condition.

September Payments for all Classes

When you return in September there will be two payments for you.

- €12 to partially cover additional costs for art materials and photocopying.
- €8 for 24 hour personal accident insurance from Allianz.

These can be paid directly to the school office or online here.

School Calendar 2025/26

School reopens after summer	Monday 1st September
Hallowe'en Mid Term	Mon 0ct 27th - Friday 31st
School staff training day on Child Protection Procedures	Wednesday 5th November School closed for children.
Christmas	School closes on Friday 19th December & reopens Monday January 5th
St. Brigid's Day Public Holiday	Monday 2nd February
Mid Term Break	Thursday 19th & Friday 20th February
School staff training day on the Primary Framework Curriculum	Friday 27th February School closed for children.
St. Patrick's Day	Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th March
Easter	School closes Friday 27th March & reopens Mon 13th April
May Bank Holiday	Mon 4th May
School staff training day on the Primary Framework Curriculum	Friday 22nd May School closed for children.
June Bank Holiday	Mon 1st June
Summer Holidays	School closes on Thursday 25th June

Keeping in Touch:

Once we are back in school, teachers will advise you how to connect to the Class Dojo app. This will be the primary method of communication between home and school and it is a wonderful way of keeping in touch with what is happening in your child's class.

Should you wish to contact the school for any reason in the next week, please email micheal.hyland@geashillns.ie. Our school office will be back open on Thursday 28th August and feel free to call 057 9343754 if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Micheál Hyland

Principal