

Corrandrum N.S.
Claregalway,
Co. Galway.

Tel: 091 791715



S. N. Cor an Droma.
Baile Clár na Gaillimhe
Co. na Gaillimhe

R. N. 15796F

Newsletter September 2017

Dear parents,

On behalf of the Board of Management, the teachers and myself would like to welcome all of the children back to school for the new school year. A special welcome to all of our new junior infants and to Noah Folan, 5th class. We hope everybody had a good summer.

Please take note of the following:

- **Personal Accident Insurance:** We are presently collecting contributions for this. It costs €9.00 for 24 hour cover or €6.00 for school activities cover from now until the end of August 2018. We strongly recommend that you avail of this as it could be of great help should your child have an accident. The latest date for payment is Friday September 22nd.
- **School Raffle:** We plan to continue with the Thursday raffle at a cost of €2.00 per family. It is of great benefit to the school in subsidizing various school activities.
 - In the last school year, the raffle funds paid for drama lessons, gymnastics, circus show. Funds were also used to subsidize bus hire. There were also many smaller costing incidentals which the raffle has provided the funds for (Christmas treat, baking ingredients etc....)
- **Music:** **Padraig Carr** hopes to resume music lessons beginning on next **Monday, September 18th** with the children from 1st to 6th classes. Everybody needs a tin whistle and a copy.
- **Football:** Tom Naughton, coaching Gaelic football skills, began this week, on Mondays for all classes. This occurs during school time and forms part of **PE curriculum** requirements. It is compulsory for all gaelic players to wear a gum shield. Tom will train the children on Mondays as follows:
 - Juniors/Seniors and First/Second Classes: Mondays September 11th - November 27th
 - Third and Fourth classes: Mondays December 4th - March 12th
 - Fifth and Sixth classes: Mondays April 9th - June 25th

A written note to your child's teacher is necessary for any Monday your child cannot participate in Gaelic training.

- **Hurling:** this begins today, September 13th with Michael Gallagher (Bosco), during lunchtime for interested children from 1st to 6th classes. A hurley and helmet are compulsory.
- **Swimming:** This will begin on Friday, November 10th for 6 weeks for all children from 2nd to 6th classes. The last class will be on Friday, December 15th.
- **Healthy Eating:** We encourage all families to ensure healthy nutritious lunches be brought into school each day. Under no circumstances should children bring fizzy drinks, crisps, chewing gum, chocolate or

sweets as lunch items. The children should bring some fruit or vegetables in their lunch boxes. A **small** treat is acceptable on Fridays.

- **FOOD ALLERGIES:** You may be aware that a child in our school has a severe allergic reaction to **CASHEW NUTS** and **RAW EGG WHITE**. This allergic reaction - anaphylactic shock, can occur through ingestion of these products, cross contamination and breathing cashew nuts and/or raw egg white products in the air. Since this condition can be life threatening, we are asking for your help in minimising the risk to this child by avoiding giving children Cashew Nuts and Raw Egg Whites in school lunches.
- **Appointment with teachers:** On occasions you may wish to speak with your child's teacher and learning support and resource teachers. We would remind you that you are most welcome but that you do so **only by making an appointment**. While all teachers are more than willing to meet with parents, please respect that they should not have to leave the classroom, have unsupervised children, or indeed stand in the car park, or at the school entrance to meet parents.
- **School Day:** We would remind you that the Board of Management cannot take responsibility for the children's safety and welfare if they are on the grounds **before 8.50am** and again each evening **after 1.40pm for Junior and Senior Infants, and 2.40pm for all other children**. Please ensure that you are on time each day for collecting your child. It is most distressing for them when you are late.
- **Collection of Children from school:** We would also ask you to note that **children are not permitted to run around the school between 1.40pm and 2.40pm while other classes are still working** as they cause distraction to the working children and also could pose a danger to themselves where an accident might happen. Please ensure the welfare and safety of children in your care at all times.
- **Absences during the school day:** We would remind you to sign the register book should you need to collect your child during the school day.
- **Front door bell:** In the interest of child safety, the front door of the school will be locked every morning at **9.10am**. Access to the school after this time will entail ringing the doorbell.
- **Absences:** Should your child be absent from school there is an appropriate section for you to sign at the back of the Homework Diary and this can then be given into your child's teacher. Infant absences and for those without a Homework Diary can be explained by written note to the teacher. I would remind you that I am obliged to inform Túsla - the Education Welfare Board, when a child is absent from school for **20 days or more**.
- **Good Habits:** Now that the school year has begun try and ensure that your child is in bed at a reasonable time each night and that they have a full, healthy breakfast coming in each morning. I, and all of the staff, continue to praise and compliment the children on how well behaved and mannerly they are. Please continue to promote good manners and behavior both at home and at school. In particular, the use of 'please', 'thank you', 'excuse me' etc...
- **Homework:** The children in Junior and Senior Infants will have a weekly note in their school bags regarding homework. Please check their bags for any other notes that may be sent home from time to time. Children from 1st to 6th classes should have Homework Diaries by now. We would encourage you to

check the diary each night and sign it but **only when the homework has been completed and properly checked**. Reading is extremely important for all children and is to be encouraged.

- **Uniforms:** All children are obliged to wear the full uniform on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The school tracksuit may be worn on Mondays and Fridays. **We have noticed that a small number of children are regularly not in full uniform – notably ties are absent, tracksuit bottoms are not as described for our uniform etc....** We would draw your attention to our uniform dress code, as was printed on your child's booklist:

School Uniform:

(Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

- Royal blue cardigan/jumper with school crest
- Sky blue shirt
- Grey pinafore/trousers
- Blue/grey tie

School Tracksuit:

(Monday and Friday)

- Grey/blue school tracksuit top OR Plain blue crested sweatshirt top
- Sky blue polo shirt with tracksuit
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms (no logos)

- **Labelling:** All items of clothing and books should have a **clear label with your child's name**. Remember too that the ink fades with washing and you need to label tags again throughout the year.
- **Calendar for this year:** Please read and take note of school closures, Parent Teacher meetings, for the remainder of this school year. This was printed on the back of your child's booklist.
- **Confirmation and Communion Dates:** We have just been informed of these dates. Confirmation is Monday, February 12th. First Holy Communion is Saturday, May 19th
- **Headlice:** At this time of year we would remind you to check **every week** for headlice and notify your child's teacher if necessary. Please read attached detailed information article courtesy of Irish Independent newspapers.
- **Website:** We would remind you that all policies, calendar, newsletters and notes home are available for you to view and download on our website. Also pictures, acts of kindness, seachtain na gaelige award winners, class information etc... are also regularly updated on our site - www.corrandrums.ie
- **Scholastics Bookfare:** will take place from Monday to Friday, October 16th - 20th

Finally, may I thank most sincerely all of you parents who continue to support Corrandrum School. As a staff we hope to provide a safe enjoyable environment for your child where he/she can thrive and reach their full potential. Our school is a credit to all. We have a lovely modern, clean, spacious building with fantastic resources to enhance your child's development.

I thank all of the staff who continue to work so hard and give true commitment to the school and the children all of the time.

Yours sincerely,

MJ FARRAGHER

Head lice and nits reach 'epidemic' levels among Irish schoolchildren, warns treatment centre

Geraldine Gittens
September 5 2017

Head lice and nits have reached "epidemic" levels among Irish schoolchildren because parents don't know how to get rid of them effectively, the owner of head lice treatment centres has said.

Andrew Hennessy from the Head Lice Experts says parents are not educated about how to fully eradicate head lice and nits.

"The reason it has reached epidemic levels is because people are too busy to solve the problem. The burden usually and unfortunately falls on the mum, and it involves mums sitting down for two or three hours because often there is homework and meals in the middle of it so it's an ordeal."

"The reason people come to us is they're at the end of the ropes and don't know what to do."

"Nine out of ten children who sit in our chair will have between 30 and 60 live crawlers in their hair."

"When we do a school check, an average of 20-25pc of children have an infestation of some type." Hennessy believes the only way to completely eradicate head lice and nits is by combing them out of the child's head and hair.

"Combing twice over a space of 7-10 days, once you're forensic about it, will deal with it or prevent the problem from occurring."

"Education is the problem. Understanding the lifecycle and how and why they breed and exist is the key. We extract the louse out by combing, but you have to check again after a few days. If you understand how the life cycle works then you can go and check again."

"At the moment, [some products] are using the phrase 'the cure', and selling the idea of a miracle in a bottle. But it all boils back to combing. The combing is absolutely key, and you won't get rid of the problem without combing."

Hennessy says there are a few myths about how head lice and nits spread.

"They don't jump, fly or hop. They move only through direct contact. They move 23 centimetres a minute.

He added: "They don't like testosterone. They're not afraid of it but they don't like it. When they bite into the older brother who's post-puberty or dad, they'll walk away."

But he said: "If one of them falls onto mum while she's combing, they could be heading onto mum's head."

