

Dear Parents/Guardians,

All our pupils and staff are well settled in now for the second term of 2024/25. It has been a challenging first few weeks for everyone with the adverse weather conditions. Wishing you and your families good health, happiness and success throughout the year ahead.

### **Christmas Choral Afternoon**

Congratulations and well done to all our pupils on their superb performances in our Christmas choral afternoon last December. We are very proud of how the children worked together as a class for their performance, fostering a sense of community and belonging. A special thank you to our dedicated teachers for their hard work in preparing the children for these wonderful performances.

### **Stay Safe Programme**

Now is the time of year when we teach the Stay Safe programme in school to all classes. The Stay Safe programme is a personal safety programme to develop children's self esteem, assertiveness and self protection. We hope to enable the children to recognise any situation where they feel unsafe. We also hope that they will learn the vocabulary needed to tell an adult. We teach the children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It also deals with common situations which most children will experience at some stage or other e.g. getting lost or being bullied. If you would like to get more familiar with the programme please visit [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie).

### **Message from the HSE**

The HSE public health division has asked that the important information below be shared with you:

- Flu is circulating widely in the community with children being significantly affected.
- Anyone who is unwell should remain at home to help prevent the spread of infection.
- Cough and sneeze etiquette, along with regular hand hygiene, are essential to limiting the spread of illness.
- The free nasal flu vaccine for children aged 2-17 is still available through local pharmacies and GP's.

Please also see attached note from the HSE with information on the National Healthy Childhood Programme and how it works.

### **Catholic Schools Week**

The purpose of this week is to highlight and celebrate the contribution that Catholic schools make to our local communities. To celebrate the joy that grandparents bring to families we welcome parents and grandparents of the children from Junior and Senior Infants for a cup of tea and chat on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm.

### **Medical/Care Needs**

At Lisnagry N.S., we prioritise the wellbeing and success of every student. If your child has any medical or care needs that may require an individual plan or extra support, we encourage you to

get in touch with us. By working together, we can ensure that your child receives the necessary care and support to thrive academically and personally.

### **Special Class**

The Board of Management of Lisnagry N.S. has recently been sanctioned by the National Council for Special Education to open a special class for pupils with Autism in September 2025. This class aims to offer an autistic specific learning environment within a mainstream primary school. The setting will facilitate optimum inclusion, integration and reverse integration as part of the school community with access to mainstream classrooms and activities as appropriate. The class will cater for a maximum of 6 pupils and at its maximum will have one teacher and 2 Special Needs Assistants. Special Needs Assistants will be assigned in accordance with the enrolment of pupils.

### **No Smartphone Voluntary Code**

We hope to launch the No Smartphone Voluntary Code in the next few weeks. The three schools in the Parish with the support of the Parents Association as well as some local clubs are involved also. There are three pillars to the charter.

1. No smartphones for primary school aged children.
2. No social media for primary school aged children.
3. Respect the age rating on video games.

We are taking this step as we have experienced growing concern around smartphones and social media. In addition to bullying, teachers are reporting a decrease in attention levels, as well as a decrease in children's ability to perform basic motor skills such as holding a pencil or throwing a ball. Further details will follow.

### **Outdoor Sensory Space**

As mentioned previously, all our school fundraising efforts this year are going towards developing an outdoor sensory/play space for our pupils. We would really appreciate your help with this. If anyone could donate their time, expertise or perhaps to sponsor or part sponsor the cost of some feature of the outdoor space, please contact the school. We really do need your support to ensure this initiative comes to fruition. We are confident it will be very beneficial to have this outdoor space for all our pupils and even more so now with a special class opening in September. **There may be local companies or potential corporate sponsors you know of who would like to be part of this worthy initiative.**

### **School Marathon Relay**

Our next fundraiser this school year will be our school marathon relay. It will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March during the school day. This novel event will bring our full school community together to complete the distance of a marathon. All pupils are able to take part and hopefully some teachers will don their running shoes too! Together we will run the distance of a marathon 42,195 metres in a relay form on our new running track. Sponsorship cards will be sent home in the weeks before it and all proceeds will go to our outdoor sensory/play space.

### Calendar for Term 2

St. Brigid's Day weekend	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2025	<b>School Closed</b>
Mid-Term Break	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025 inclusive	<b>School Closed</b>
St. Patrick's Day weekend	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 inclusive	<b>School Closed</b>
School Marathon Relay	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>During school day</b>
Bí Cineálta/Anti Bullying staff training	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Half Day (close at 12pm)</b>
Confirmation	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April @11am	
Easter Holidays	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April (closing 12pm on Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>School Closed</b>