**Scoil Bhríde**

*Nurney, Co. Kildare*

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****22nd June 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

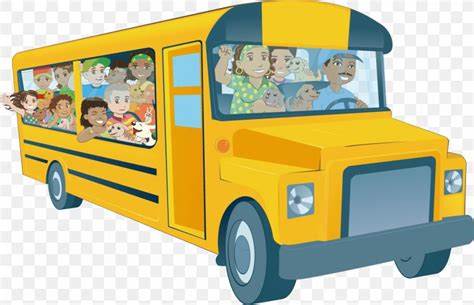
**Principal’s end of year letter**

Please find the Principal’s end of year letter attached

**School Prayers at Knock Shrine – Peter Fullam**

On behalf of the entire school, can we express our warmest and heartfelt thanks to Peter Fullam for once again bringing prayers written by the school children and staff to Knock shrine recently. Two masses will now be offered each day at Knock Shrine for the intention of our pupils and staff. God Bless you Peter and thank you for such a lovely gesture and beautiful demonstration of giving and kindness.

**School Tours**

Due to the lifting of restrictions, how great it was to be allowed to go on school tour again! May I say how proud we are as a school, of our pupils who have represented Scoil Bhríde to date so well on their end of year school tours. Well done boys and girls!

**Covid-19 and Schools in September 2022**

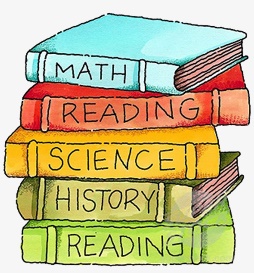
The Department of Education expects schools to operate with the current infection prevention and control measures in place to support vulnerable pupils and employees when they reopen in September. These chiefly involve cleaning hands, ventilation and limiting in as much as possible crowded indoor spaces. Schools have been advised to plan and reopen in September and continue to operate in line with their Covid-19 response plans. Schools will be supported in terms of the additional resources necessary to provide for these measures. These plans are based on the Government’s Work Safely Protocol which reflects the most up to date public health advice for the workplace. It sets out the range of measures required to prevent the spread of Covid-19. For more information, please consult daily our dedicated COVID-19 school web page [www.nurneyns.com/covid-19](http://www.nurneyns.com/covid-19)

**Schools thankfully have been allowed to operate without pods, bubbles, social distancing, masks and limited outdoor gatherings since a few weeks ago. On behalf of the many vulnerable in our school community, we would like to thank all those families who helped us to follow all the rules and fulfill our Health and Safety obligations. Thank you for your kindness, unselfishness, patience and support in what has been the toughest of times for all schools in living memory.**

**Extra-curricular activities 2022-2023**

Now that schools are currently allowed to operate without pods, bubbles and social distancing, many of our extra-curricular activities will be making a welcome return in the new school year. These include swimming, gymnastics, dance, arts and crafts and drumming. We also plan to begin gardening and extra science activities. We are very excited!

**Book Rental Committee**

A huge word of thanks to the Book Rental Committee of Edel Donohue, Vinny Thorpe, Ms. Hamilton, Catherine Lennon, Julie Harper, Lauren Gorevan and Mary Murray who have worked really hard over the last few weeks keeping your stock of school books clean, organised and ready for your children.

**Book Rental Payment**

Thank you to those who have paid their book rental payment in full and on time. School books will be available and labeled for your child in September. **Where full payment for Book Rental has not been received for a pupil, the school does not have the money to purchase books for that pupil.**

**Additional requirements**

Some items need to be purchased and labelled by parents in advance of their child starting in their new class in September. These additional requirements are now fully listed for each class on our school website [www.nurneyns.com](http://www.nurneyns.com) under the *‘Parents’* tab. A copy will also be included with your child’s Summer Report.

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**Sixth class Graduation**

Best wishes and congratulations to all our 6th class pupils who leave our school for the final time on Friday June 24th at 3pm. We wish them all the luck they deserve as they head into Post-Primary School. They celebrated their graduation from Primary school this week at an outdoor June School Assembly and Mass led by Fr. Adrian. Thanks to all the staff involved in putting the day together with music, balloons, goodie bags, ice-cream, graduation certificates and sports events. Massive thanks to the Parents Association for funding the ice cream! A special word of thanks to Fr. Adrian and his team for leading us in prayer so beautifully!

**School Assembly**

Well done to all our pupils who received well done awards over the last month for great lining up, working hard, following teacher instructions, playing fair and nice in our school and following in the footsteps of Jesus by showing kindness, compassion, respect, saying sorry and offering forgiveness. Congratulations to the following pupils who were pulled out of our “Well Done Award Prize Draw” ***Brody – Junior Infants, Robin – 2nd class, Zoe – 3rd class and Zuzanna – 5th class***

**Talent Show Winners 2022**

Well done to all the children and parents who contributed in any way to our talent show. It was wonderful to see some of the fantastic talent in our school community and a real joy to see all the children smiling and enjoying themselves. Many thanks to Ms. Butler and her amazing 6th class for organizing the entire event! A movie of the Final will feature shortly on our school YouTube channel. A link will be sent to all families! Congratulations to the following winners:

School Junior section: ***Erin – 2nd class***

School Senior section: ***Dylan and Oisín – 3rd class***

**Dates for your diary**

* Summer closure – School closes at 12.30pm on June 30th and re-opens on Thursday September 1st 9.20am. Bus told.



**Sports Week and the Edel Delaney Memorial Cup**



This year’s outdoor Sports Week took place over the last week or so! Congratulations to all the teams who took part. A big thank you to all the staff for all their work in organizing these active days. Fantastic work! What a team!!! A special word of thanks to Ms. Doyle, Ms. Butler and Ms. Marron for organizing all the events and the timetable.

After a two-year gap, a highlight of the week is the Edel Delaney Memorial Cup Mini-7s Tournament. Congratulations to all the teams who took part. A massive thank you to Ms. Marron who gave her all in organizing the entire event. Thank you to past pupils Patrick (Milltown GAA Club) and Ben (Round Towers GAA Club) from the Kildare GAA Minor Football Panel for acting as refs for the Final! Thank you to Kildare senior Manager Glenn Ryan for giving of his time so generously to award the medals. Most especially, a heartfelt thank you to Edel’s Mum and Dad for supporting the school every year and presenting the winning trophy on behalf of their much-loved daughter. Edel was not only our work colleague but like our sister and will always be remembered with great love by her school family here in Nurney National School.

***Wednesday Note and school information also available***

***on* www.nurneyns.com**

***Thank you for your co-operation with the above.***

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**Dr. Vinny Thorpe – Principal**

*Ed.D (SL) M.Ed (SL), MA.Comp.Mus, H.Dip.Prim.Ed, H.Dip.Mus.Tech, P.Grad.Dip.Ed.St(SEN), B.Mus.Ed(H.Dip.Ed), Dip.Mus.Ed, T.Dip.ICT*

**Principal’s end of year letter**

Dear School Community,

As we approach the end of yet another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all. They say your character defines who you are by the actions you take. So, thank you for being kind in your words and actions. Thank you for giving and not taking. Thank you for focusing on an ocean of positives and not a puddle of negatives. Thank you for offering healing and not conflict. Thank you for shining a light of love and hope for us all to see in what have been dark and difficult times.

In particular, thank you parents and guardians for your help and support during what has been a busy and difficult year in school. Thank you for all your involvement in your child’s education at home. We greatly appreciate your efforts at home during any remote learning and in reinforcing the learning we give your children every day here on the school campus. We cannot thank you enough for the important work you do in reading to your child, monitoring their homework and discussing expectations regarding conduct and citizenship, all crucial skills for a successful life. We cannot thank you enough for supporting and following our school’s Covid Response Plan this year. We, parents and teachers, are all on the same team trying to ensure that your child is safe and succeeds in education and life. We cannot stress to you enough how valuable you are to this mission and to our school community. Thank you.

I want to thank our wonderful frontline teachers and SNAs, secretary, caretaker, cleaners, the Board of Management, Parents Association, Father Adrian, Father Andy and the Parish team and members of the wider Nurney community who have given their time, energy and enthusiasm, for the development of Scoil Bhríde this year. There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others. Thank you so much.

To keep the school open and staffed has been tough going. To my staff it may be said wasn’t it lucky we didn’t have much COVID-19 in our workplace. I believe luck had nothing to do with it. It was due to your hard graft, cleaning and scrubbing chairs, tables and equipment each and every day. It was down to following the public health guidelines religiously, wearing stuffy masks and organising 200+ children washing and sanitizing their hands at least 6 times a day. It was down to wrapping up and teaching in cold classrooms during the Autumn and Winter months with windows and doors wide open for ventilation. It was down to supervising all 200+ children in overcrowded and unmasked classrooms vigilant of public health guidelines. It was down to urgently cleaning floors and toilets of all accidents and constantly replenishing bathroom supplies. It was down to being alert every day to any possible spread of infection and moving on it to shut it down. You have simultaneously educated and preserved life. What a team! You have been immense. You have my utter respect. Thank you so much. Well done to the entire team and a special well done to all our wonderful pupils, who through these tough times have remained resilient, kind, upbeat, grateful and helpful to us all and each other.

Although June is a hectic time of year, it is the time when I most realize how blessed we all are to be part of the Catholic mission of Scoil Bhríde, committing our time and energy every day towards creating a nurturing environment in which all our children can thrive! Well done to the entire team! The time given by parents and staff in goodwill to extra activities for the children inspires every day. Be it giving up lunch breaks or time spent on activities/meetings long before or after working hours. The work that these people do is not taken for granted and is appreciated on a daily basis. To them all I say thank you!

On a personal note, I wish to thank everyone for their support during my 8th year here in Scoil Bhríde and during my doctoral studies! This is a wonderful school community with wonderful people and children. As Principal I will always aim to foster positivity and Christian caring and compassion here every day. In all children is a seed of goodness as all children are made in the image of God. My role is to see that they all get the chance to flourish, grow strong, resilient and independent. This is a challenge I look forward to everyday with a smile on my face and a positive attitude, with both your help and Gods. This year has been all about finding the calm in the chaos. While others may lose their heads, I have to keep mine! Looking ahead to the future, I am full of hope, like the Gospel, for the future of our school. We have great plans, ideas and dreams and we are so looking forward to the next exciting year ahead for our school.

I would like to wish our outgoing 6th class the very best as they continue their journey in life and on to secondary school in September. I know that they will do themselves proud and we look forward to hearing how they get on. My advice to you all is based on two simple words my Mam taught me…. *“I am”*. Two of the most powerful words you’ll ever say, for what you put after them shapes your reality, so choose wisely girls and boys. To those families who are not returning to our school you will continue to be in all our prayers as you make your journey on to new places. May Gods blessings go with you all.

To all of us who have suffered and lost loved ones due to COVID-19, and continue to bear the heartache and ill effects of the disease, I am thinking of you all and you are in my daily thoughts and prayers. Hope is on the horizon, keep strong and keep safe my friends.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer. Please be sure to take time as a family to talk, play and pray together. I hope that you all have a fabulous time with your children, and I look forward to seeing you all safe and sound in the new school year. God Bless…

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***on* www.nurneyns.com**

***Thank you for your co-operation with the above.***

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