**Scoil Bhríde**

*Nurney, Co. Kildare*

*Telephone: (045) 526767*

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10th November 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Christmas Shoebox Appeal – Thank you!**

To all who contributed to this years Christmas Shoebox appeal, Thank you!

**Dates for your diary**

* ***School closes at 12:30pm on November 18th for all pupils*** as staff must attend Department of Education training in the New Primary Language Curriculum. The bus has been told.
* ***School closes at 2pm on December 2nd for all pupils*** to facilitate a staff meeting and fire safety training. The bus has been told.



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**If you have a concern about your child’s progress or at any time you simply wish to touch base with your child’s class teacher, please contact the school office by phone or email to arrange a phone conversation with your child’s class teacher. We are only too delighted to help and speak with you at any time during the school year.**

**Parents as partners**

As we remember face to face Parent Teacher meetings in normal times, it is an important time to reflect on how valuable teachers and parents working together is and on the proven positive effect it has on your child’s learning. All international research shows that working in a positive spirit of partnership with your child’s class teacher improves their learning. The Board of Management and staff of Scoil Bhríde **genuinely** value the wonderful relationship we share with the parents/guardians of the children in our school. We strive to ensure that the core values of respect, empathy and trust underpinning the relationship are maintained and nurtured. The Board of Management and staff fully endorse the following statement in the 1999 Primary School Curriculum: *“Parents are the child’s primary educators, and the life of the home is the most potent factor in his or her development during the primary school years……Good respectful communication between parents and schools will help build a shared understanding of the principles of the curriculum, the learning goals of the school, and the approaches and methodologies it adopts”*

Scoil Bhríde Nurney aims to uphold the following core principles of the 1999 Primary School Curriculum:

* The Board of Management and staff fully accept that parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children and therefore parents are responsible in ensuring that their child receives a full primary education.
* With the resources at its disposal, Scoil Bhríde Nurney promotes positive practical collaboration and co-operation with parents that result in improved teaching and learning opportunities for the children.
* Management and staff are committed to open, honest and frequent communication with parents/guardians by appointment.
* Parents as a group have a range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. It is our policy to identify parents with specific skills and to invite those parents to share their skills with us at a school and a class level when deemed appropriate.
* Respect for the professional role of the teacher is of utmost importance and the statutory responsibilities of the Principal, Patron and the Board of Management is always an important consideration.

As partners in a school community, we all know our rights, but with rights come responsibilities. As a reminder of our responsibilities and how we all can play our part to uphold this spirit of positive partnership we have copied overleaf an excerpt from our Schools *Code of Behaviour,* which all parents, pupils and staff sign up to when a child is enrolled in our school.

(A full copy of our Schools *Code of Behaviour* can be downloaded from our school website)

**Scoil Bhríde Code of Behaviour *(excerpt)***

**Parent’s/Guardian’s Responsibilities**

* Ensure their children attend school and are punctual
* Equip pupils with appropriate school materials, sufficient healthy lunch and full proper uniform
* Ensure that pupils are dressed for all weathers (e.g. proper raincoat, hat, gloves. scarf etc.)
* Be courteous towards pupils and staff
* Make an appointment to meet with a teacher/the Principal through the office
* Respect school property and encourage their children to do the same
* Label pupils’ coats and other personal property
* Strictly supervise pre-school children, when in the school.
* As the Board of Management is responsible for the Health & Safety of all staff and students, parents are requested not to approach or reprimand another person’s child on the school premises.

**Parents and the Code**

1. Parents can encourage good behaviour at school by promoting a positive image of the school and by discussing the school rules and the need for them.
2. Discuss with your child how to behave in an appropriate manner at school to ensure their own safety and the safety of others
3. Appointments: Parents may not call casually to the classroom door or to the Principal’s office to discuss any issue regarding their child. They must make an appointment through the office. The teachers in the school and the Principal are always willing to meet with parents by appointment to discuss concerns or difficulties.
4. If you are asked to come to the school to discuss a problem remember that the teacher or principal wants to discuss the problem not apportion blame or make judgements.
5. There will always be times when you totally disagree with something a teacher does or says. If this happens, please check that you have the correct version of events and then discuss the problem with the teacher or Principal.
6. Please do not undermine the authority of the school by criticising a teacher in front of pupils but come to the school to discuss the problem.
7. Try to listen to your child and talk about what is happening in school and let them know that you are interested and aware.
8. Be on alert for any change in mood or behaviour, it can sometimes indicate that a child is worried or under pressure. If teachers become aware of changes in mood or behaviour, parents will be informed.
9. If a child is complaining of pains and there is no obvious reason this may be also indicate some worries or pressures.
10. If you want to come to the school to discuss your child you are not running with ‘stories’ you are simplyexercising your rights as a parent. Please remember that children can be best served if teachers and parents work together and stay in touch.
11. A note is required for absences, failure to do homework, not wearing uniform etc.
12. Read with your child. It is of immense value they are never too old.
13. Good hygiene is encouraged. If a child is sick they need to be kept at home. Head lice is a recurring problem. Prevention requires constant vigilance.
14. It is essential that the school be provided with up-to-date phone numbers contact numbers for parents/guardians.

**Board of Management’s Responsibilities.**

* Provide a comfortable, safe environment
* Support the Principal and staff in implementing the Code.
* Ratify the Code.

**Principal’s Responsibilities**

* Promote a positive climate in the school.
* Ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
* Arrange for review of the Code, as required.

**Teacher’s Responsibilities**

* Create a safe working environment for each pupil.
* Recognise and affirm good work.
* Prepare school work and correct work done by pupils.
* Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
* Be courteous, consistent and fair.
* Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum.
* Deal appropriately with misbehaviour.
* Record instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour in Incident Folder.
* Provide support for colleagues.

**Pupil’s Responsibilities**

* Attend school regularly and punctually.
* Listen to their teachers and act on instructions/advice.
* Show respect for all members of the school community.
* Respect all school property and the property of other pupils.
* Avoid behaving in any way which would endanger others.
* Avoid all nasty remarks, swearing and name-calling.
* Include other pupils in games and activities.
* Bring correct materials/books to school.
* Follow school and class rules.
* Any out of class activity e.g. are part of normal school days activity



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

[**www.nurneyns.com**](http://www.nurneyns.com)

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

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**Vinny Thorpe – Principal**

*(Doctoral Student) 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*