



Scoil Áine Naofa, Loch Cútra

Gort Inse Guaire, Co na Gaillimhe

Uimhir Scoile 17475S

Charities Regulator Reg. 20121815

Fón (091) 633242 Mobile: 083 02476258

E-mail address: loughcutrans@gmail.com

Príomhoide: Amy Mulkerrins



September 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Fáilte ar ais:

We were delighted to welcome back all our students and a special welcome to our Junior Infant pupils – Rose Dolan, Daithí Greene, Emma Hanrahan, Tony Óg Loughrey, Jago Parsons, Cian Rees, Brogan Ryan & Maria Szczepaniak.

I would also like to welcome Lunna Almeida to Senior Infants, Julia Almeida & Maeve Linnane to 1st class & Luc Wilkinson to 3rd class.

We are delighted to see them settling in so well. The Junior Infants will finish at 12 noon each day until **Friday 13th September**. Before Monday 16th September, the class teacher will discuss with parents the move to a full infant day from 9:20am to 2pm.

Art and Photocopying money:

There will be a charge for Art, Craft & Photocopying:

One child €15.00. Two children €20.00. Three children €30.00.

Aladdin Payments: All payment for school activities (with the exception of the non-uniform day, **which is a separate fundraising account**) must be paid online. When there is a payment due, we will send a request for payment link via your parent's email. If you click on the link it will easily guide you through card payment. This is an extremely safe and secure method of payment and very quick and easy for parents to use.

School Photography: County photos will visit the school this **FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER** for all pupils. Individual and family photos can be taken on the day.

Swimming Lessons: Swimming lessons at the The Swan Leisure Centre, Gort commence on **Thursday 19th September for 6 lessons in total**. As part of the PE Curriculum all pupils from 1st class to 6th class inclusive are required to partake. We will send a link for payment shortly. Please note swimming can be paid in instalments, once arranged with the teacher/principal.

Healthy Lunch Policy: Thank you for helping your children comply with the Healthy Lunch Policy. Children's lunches may include sandwiches, fruit, yogurt etc., A **small** treat is allowed on Fridays.

Reminder for parents of school absences: The legislation requires all schools to inform the National Education Welfare Board in writing when a pupil is absent for 20 days or more in any school year. **If your child is absent from school, please let your child's class teacher know on our ALADDIN App**, giving the date(s) of absenteeism and the reason for the absence. This is important as the Aladdin app is linked to our school attendance returns.

The link to register for our new Aladdin App will be sent to parents of new entrants to school today. You must download the app to register. Please use this app for any correspondence with teachers, including late notes, appointments, or queries.

Collection from school: Please note if a child is to be collected from school by someone other than the designated person, a note or phone call (083 0246258) to the class teacher is required for child protection reasons. If you are collecting your child before the end of the school day please if possible, send a note to let the teacher know on Aladdin. ***Parents will be asked to sign a signing out sheet when collecting early.*** This is a requirement of our School Insurance and ensures the safety of your child is always maintained.

Contact Numbers/Address: We are updating our phone/contact numbers. If you have changed your phone number or your address, please inform the class teacher.

Allianz Insurance provides Pupil Personal Accident Insurance at a rate of **€9.00 for 24-hour cover and €6.00 for School Activity** cover. While schools are covered by Insurance from Allianz plc, many school parents pay for personal insurance also. I enclose details and the type of cover. If you wish to opt for either, please fill in the form and return to the school by Friday **27th September 2024**. Payment can be made via Aladdin. If you have any queries, the phone number for Allianz Insurance is 01 6133700 or feel free to contact the school for more information.

Head Lice: In order to minimize an outbreak of head lice please check your child's hair regularly and treat if necessary. Long hair must be tied back at school. Please note fashionable haircuts such as shaved sides, dye or designs do not adhere to our Uniform Policy.

Pupils' Safety: As the safety of your children is a primary concern to us, the Board of Management would like to draw your attention to the following:

- School begins at 9.20am and ends for Infants at 2pm. School ends for all other classes at 3pm.
- The school will be open to **receive pupils** from 9.10am each day. No responsibility can be accepted for pupils **arriving before this time** unless they are attending the Before & After School.
- It is the responsibility of parents to ensure children are collected safely from school at 2pm and 3pm. For pupils using bus services, a teacher will escort these children to their allocated bus each evening. For pupils who are not travelling home by school bus, parents are asked to stand at the front gate if collecting their child in this area as children are not permitted to cross the road, under any circumstances or wait at their car in the drop off area.
- The Board of Management would like to thank parents for their continued co-operation in our drop off area. Please note as this is a drop off area only, we ask parents to move right around the car park to the available space and drop off in the morning as quickly as possible. Similarly, in the evening, we ask parents to move around the car park to use the available space and collect and exit the car park as quickly as possible. This keeps traffic off the road and ensures a more effective system.

Before and After School: We are delighted that Stacey Lynskey is continuing with the **Before and After School**. This is a wonderful facility to have at our school. Please contact Stacey 0860810309 if you need to make a booking for your child which operates from 8am to 9:10am and 2pm to 6pm Monday to Friday.

School Bus: Good conduct on the bus is essential for all children's safety. Please discuss general good behaviour with your child. It is a facility we are grateful for and expect the same behavior as pupils adhere to in school.

September No Uniform Day: This month's 'No Uniform Day' for the new pitch will be held on Friday 27th September. €2.00 per pupil & €5.00 per family. (Thank you for your continued support). This fundraising is helping to contribute to the costs of our All Weather Pitch, which is progressing well.

Free School Meals Scheme: The hot school meals programme is currently being initiated in primary schools across the country. As many parents will know, this scheme involves hot or cold lunch packs for all pupils in primary school. Our school has applied for the Free School Meals and are awaiting to hear further instructions.

Facebook: Our Facebook page is up and running. This will be used as a frequently means of communicating to the wider school community. We will post photos and notes on the various events that are occurring in the school, along with pictures of the pupils Art, Sports etc. If you haven't already followed us, please do! Log onto Facebook and search for Lough cútrans.

Gort Community School Primary Annual School's Hurling and Camogie:

5th & 6th class will be attending on the annual Hurling and Camogie tournament on Wednesday 18th September. We have arranged a bus for the day. There will be a €5.00 fee per pupils to cover some of the bus costs. Parents will receive a link on Aladdin in due course. Please do not pay cash if possible.

Connacht Rugby:

5th & 6th class will be attending the National Schools Tag Rugby Blitz in Loughrea RFC on 1st October. We have also put our name forward for in-school rugby training with Corinthians.

Cross Country Athletics:

The annual Galway Primary Schools Cross Country races will take place in Nolan Park Renmore in Galway, on Tuesday 24th September 2024 (Semi-Finals) and Tuesday 1st October 2024 (finals). We will be holding trials in Beagh Pitch for any interested participants on Thursday 5th September. I would ask any parent of children who wish to compete, to drop their child at Beagh Community Centre for 9:20am and collect them at 10:15pm to drop back to school.

Board of Management:

The Board of Management completed numerous maintenance around the school throughout the summer months. Fourth class, Fifth and Sixth class and our ASD Unit and sensory rooms were painted, shelving was installed in our storage room to help organise our PE and yard equipment, we upgraded our internet connection throughout the school and installed stronger WIFI routers along the halls to speed up our internet and WIFI access. We are hoping to be in a position to purchase some additional I pads with the remaining funding for our ICT. We also carried out general maintenance around the school.

Our All Weather Pitch is progressing steadily. The pathway from the school tarmac area to the pitch has been completed and they are now constructing fencing around the pitch surface. Our fundraising committee is hoping to hold some big fundraising events in the coming months.

Thank you for all your support with our 'buy a brick fundraiser' which is ongoing at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lough-cutra-ns-pitch-fund>. All donations big and small are very welcome.

Our scrap metal collection at Gort Mart has just been emptied so please don't forget to drop in any unwanted metal. This facility will be a huge addition to our yard and educational space. We look forward to completion.

Finally, I would like to wish all our pupils and staff members a prosperous and productive year ahead.

Your sincerely,
Amy Mulkerrins
Principal.