



Ard Rí Community National School

Ard Rí C.N.S, Balreask Old, Navan, Co. Meath.
Principal: Darragh Roe
Roll No 20352T



Newsletter September 2024

Here we go...

Welcome everybody to our first newsletter of the new school year. There is a good bit of policy stuff in this one so please read carefully.

The ethos of ETB schools



For the next two months we will focus on the core value: **Respect**. The school will work hard to promote a respectful environment for all members of the school community. Our Pupil Council will be composing a School Oath which will guide us in our relationships this year.



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Tracksuit Days- Term 1

Movement is a very important part of life at Ard Rí CNS. Children wear their school tracksuit two days per week as per schedule below. Everyone must make a genuine effort to wear the correct uniform to school (Our uniform does not include football strips, branded gear etc). Please understand...all our timetables are subject to change! We are an outdoorsy kind of school...please make sure your child brings a rain jacket every day.

Class and Teacher	PE Days
Junior Infants, Múinteoir Ciara	Wednesday and Friday
Junior Infants, Múinteoir Niamh	Thursday and Friday
Senior Infants, Múinteoir Gráinne	Tuesday and Friday
Senior Infants, Múinteoir Ruth	Wednesday and Friday
1st Class, Múinteoir Aoife	Tuesday and Thursday
1st Class, Múinteoir Ailis	Wednesday and Friday
2nd Class, Múinteoir Meghan	Tuesday and Thursday
2nd Class, Múinteoir Laura	Tuesday and Thursday
3rd Class, Múinteoir Maria & Edel	Monday and Wednesday
3rd Class, Múinteoir Emma	Monday and Wednesday
4th Class, Múinteoir Angela	Monday and Wednesday
4th Class, Múinteoir Sarah	Monday and Thursday
5th Class, Múinteoir Claire	Monday and Thursday
5th Class, Múinteoir Wilma	Monday and Thursday
6th Class, Múinteoir Cailín	Monday and Friday

Homework will commence for all pupils from 9th September.



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Enrolment

At Ard Rí Community NS we now have 363 pupils across 15 classrooms. We will confirm our teacher allocation to you at the end of the month once everything has settled down and we have received confirmation from the Department of Education. While some classes are full, we still have some school places available. If you know anyone looking for a school place, please ask them to give me a call.

The enrolment process for September 2024 will begin next month. If you have a child starting Junior Infants in September 2025 please complete this

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free

Mobile Phone Policy: Pupils are not allowed to bring personal, internet-enabled devices into Ard Rí CNS, including but not limited to; phones, smart phones, smart watches, devices with cameras or gaming functions, iPad, iPod, tablet, laptop, leapfrog etc. In case of emergency pupils can contact you or be contacted through the school office on 0871341007. [Pupil Internet Safety Acceptable Use Policy \(AUP\)](#)

School Management are taking a keen interest in Department of Education led campaigns to **Keep Childhood Smartphone Free**. We are greatly concerned about the amount of screentime and the impact it has on children's concentration span, the risk of accessing inappropriate content and cyberbullying, and the potential for decreased real time social interaction with family and friends. Through our Parent Association we will begin consultation shortly on developing a voluntary agreement among parents in our community not to buy smartphones and to stay away from online gaming for their children while they are in primary school.



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THE LUNCH BAG

Empowered, Educated Eating

[The Lunch Bag](#) provide every pupil with a free hot school lunch every day through the National Hot School Meals Programme. We have emailed a **unique code** to parents for each new child. If you are new to the school you can download the [Lunch Bag app](#) and use the unique code to get you started. Junior Infants will get their first hot school lunch when they begin full school days on Monday 9th of September.

Please always show your child a positive attitude towards hot school lunches.

Children should bring a small healthy snack for morning break in the lunch box provided for them. Fruit and a yogurt is perfect. If you give too much food, they will not be hungry enough for their lunch, which is served between 12:00 and 12:30. Children then bring home their box and any leftovers in their lunch box. This allows parents to know what the children have eaten. Based on what comes home, you may want to adjust your menu choices or the amount of food you are sending for the snack at morning break.

The Lunch Bag Company considers allergies and cultural preferences. Once they know that your child has an allergy, they will ensure that food stuff unsuited to them is blocked from your child's choice. When selecting your child's allergen, you will be asked if you would like to remove products that say 'may contain' from the menu choice. The Lunch Bag is a Nut Free Production site. Please note that any products with "May contains nuts" are from supplier sites. All allergens are prepared separately in line with HACCP guidelines.

The Lunch Bag works closely with the Muslim Association of Ireland. If you state your child's diet is Halal they will ensure that food stuff that is haram, forbidden to them, it is blocked from your child's choice.



ALLERGY AWARENESS

HOW WE CAN HELP OTHERS STAY HAPPY AND HEALTHY:

THE LUNCH BAG COMPANY CONSIDERS ALLERGIES AND CULTURAL PREFERENCES.

NO BIRTHDAY CAKES OR TREATS SHOULD BE SHARED WITH CLASSMATES.

KEEP OUR CLASSROOMS NOT FREE FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES.

NO SHARING LUNCHES WITH OTHER STUDENTS.

FOOD KEEPS US HEALTHY. IT ISN'T USED AS A REWARD.



Healthy Eating Policy

In an ETB school, care is about the welfare, well-being and safety of all members of the school community is part of the Ethos and Core Values. At Ard Rí CNS, we prioritize the welfare, well-being, and safety of all members of our school community. The serving of food can pose a risk of allergic reactions, and we follow the LMETB Safety, Health, and Welfare Policy to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health, and welfare of all staff and pupils at our school.



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Administration of Medication Policy

Attention parents of any children who require the administration of routine medication or emergency medication during the school day. Please contact the office on ArdRiCNS@lmetb.ie so we can ensure we have the correct paperwork in place and medication stored in the school is in order.

A full copy of the Administration of Medication Policy can be [viewed here](#).

Teacher Training

School will be closed on Wednesday 16th of October to facilitate staff training in the Primary Mathematics Curriculum.

School Bus

I have no good news! We are finding it very difficult to get a new school bus service in place. This bus would be a private, unsubsidised, self-funding service for the operator. The costs of running a bus service plus a shortage of bus drivers has made organising this enterprise very difficult. I have been working with two providers to try and make it work. Neither can begin the job this term. If anyone in the community has any contacts within the industry, please come and talk to me.

Aladdin

Aladdin is the school's Information Management System. Every family must have the Aladdin App. The app will give you secure access to messages from the school and details of your child's details, attendance report cards etc. If you need support setting up your Aladdin App, please call Debi on 0871341007.

When your child is absent from school please enter a reason for their absence on the attendance tab on the Aladdin App.