

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to another school year. I hope you all enjoyed a lovely relaxing break and are all refreshed and ready for the new school year. The following information is for your attention:

1. **Child Protection:** Attached (No. 1) please find a letter from the Board of Management in relation to Child Protection and Welfare which we are obliged to send out every year.
2. **School Calendar:** Attached (No. 2) please find the School Calendar for this school year 2017- 2018.
3. **Book Rental:** Many thanks again to our wonderful Book Rental Committee. Over **94%** of families took part in the scheme which was an increase on the previous year and proves how worthwhile it is.
4. **Change of phone numbers/addresses/email:** Please advise the Secretary immediately should your phone numbers/email or home address change so that we can keep our records up to date.
5. **Collecting Pupils:** Pupils may only be collected from school by the child's parent or other designated person. Please advise the school secretary of any change to your arrangements by letter or by phoning ahead on the day. For your child's safety we will **not** release a child to another unknown adult if we have not been notified.
6. **N.E.W.B.:** The Department of Education Rules require us to record all children's absences and report those in excess of **20 DAYS**. If your child is absent for **any** reason, please inform the school in writing on their return. Please send a note to each of your children's teachers as we are required to have a separate note for each absence.
7. **Nut-free zone:** We remind you that Gorey Central School is a nut-free zone and ask that you check food labels of all foods sent in your child's lunch box.
8. **Opening/Closing Times/Start Times:** School door opens to pupils at 8.40am. **Please do not leave your child unattended at the entrance to the school before this time as there is no supervision provided.** Class begins at 9am sharp. Junior and Senior Infants go home at 1.30pm and all other classes finish at 2.30pm. Please collect your child **promptly** at these times.
9. **Family Contributions:**
Every school year the Department of Education gives our school a certain amount of money towards the running costs of the school. Unfortunately it is never enough. Therefore, each year, we ask all families for a family contribution to help towards the school bills. As many of these bills are sent to us during the first term we would appreciate if your contribution could be paid in September. The amounts are listed below and we would like to thank all those families who have already paid:

1 Child:	€ 100.
2 Children:	€ 125. in total
3 or more Children:	€ 150. in total
10. **Art and Photocopying/24 Hour Pupil Insurance:**
A charge of € 40.00 per child is due now. This covers all Art & Photocopying supplies for the school year and also covers 24 hour pupil insurance. We would like to thank all those families who have already paid.
11. **Healthy Eating Policy:** We are all aware of the growing problem of obesity in Ireland today. Here in Gorey Central we continually strive to promote a Healthy Eating approach in our school. Please encourage your child to have a lunch free from sugary foods. On Friday **only**, one **small** treat is allowed. All uneaten food and wrappers are returned home in your child's lunchbox.

P.T.O. →→→

- 12. Birthday Invitations:** Under general anti-bullying guidelines we request that all invitations to pupils for birthday parties are delivered outside of school. Unintentionally, problems arise, when all pupils in a class are not invited. We thank you for your understanding in this. As part of our Healthy Eating policy we also ask that parents **do not** send in birthday treats (e.g. cakes/buns etc.) into the classroom on their child's birthday. We appreciate your co-operation in this.
- 13. Milk:** Milk is available from Monday 2nd October at a cost of **€21** per child for the school year 2017/18. We realise this is a marked increase on recent years, unfortunately Glanbia prices have had to reflect recent **dairy price inflation**. In the event of dairy prices moving back to a more sustainable level Glanbia have assured us they will review pricing accordingly. If you wish to avail of this for your child, please send in the above amount (by cheque/draft/p.o. if possible), in a named envelope, to your child's teacher by **Wednesday 27th September**. Please ensure that your child will drink their milk all year as, in the past, there has been a surplus of milk by the end of the year.
- 14. Friendship Week:**
Gorey Central School is promoting the theme of Friendship this week. As part of 'Friendship Week' our school Anti Bullying Policy will be discussed with all pupils in an age-appropriate manner. We ask all parents/guardians to read our policy which is included as an attachment (No. 3) to this newsletter.
- 15. School AGM:** The School **AGM** will take place on **Monday 9th October at 7.00pm** in the school hall. All parents are invited.
The PTA committee for 2017-2018 will also be elected at this meeting. If anyone would like to put their name forward please return the form at the end of this newsletter on or before **Friday 29th September**. The return of the form is confirmation that you are willing to go forward for election, therefore you do not need to attend the AGM itself. PTA membership is open to all parents from Junior Infants to 6th class.
- 16. Housekeeping:**
a) Please name all items belonging to pupils especially jumpers, lunch boxes, pencils
b) Please send in forms, money etc in named, sealed envelopes. Cheques should be made payable to Gorey Central School.
c) The Secretary is available from 8.40am – 3pm. Please avoid ringing or calling between 10.20-10.35am and 12.55-1.30pm.
d) If emailing the school please use goreycentralschool@gmail.com. Outgoing emails are from an Administrative email which is a 'no-reply' address.
- 17. Car Park:**
For safety reasons we ask that you insist on children using the footpaths and Junior playground for accessing and leaving the school building.
- 18. Giant Steps after school service:** Giant Steps are offering an after-school service to the children of Gorey Central School. They will collect your child at 1.30pm and you can pick them up from them at 2.30pm or they will put them on their school bus. They can be contacted by calling into them during playschool hours – 8.50am-12 noon - or by phoning Sheila @ 087-7479383 or Rosie @ 087-6678773. The fee is €5 per day.
- 19. Parent – Teacher Meetings:**
These meetings will take place during the week commencing 13th November. Bookings for these can only be made during the week beforehand. However, if you have a concern regarding your child, staff are available for consultation after 2.30pm, by appointment only.
Please note that our School Policy on Parental Meetings outlines who you should contact first:
1. Class Teacher
2. Principal
3. Chairperson
This order must be followed. Parents/ guardians who do not follow the procedure in the correct order will be advised to return to the appropriate stage of the process in order to follow all stages clearly and correctly. We thank you for your co-operation in this.

20. Head Lice: Please check your child's hair and if you discover any 'passengers' please treat them immediately. However, please remember that if you are using a lotion the first dose usually only kills live creatures and not the eggs. You often need to treat again, within a short space of time, to get rid of any others that hatch out. In an effort to prevent the spread of headlice please ensure that hair, of **ALL PUPILS** with medium to long hair, is **tied up** at all times.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. Bater

Please detach and return to the Secretary/Principal on or before **Friday 29th September.**

I would like to put my name forward for election to the PTA at the AGM.

My child/children's name(s) is/are: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____