

### Newsletter No. 8– May 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians, the following points are for your attention:

#### **1. No Uniform Day:**

Our recent No Uniform Day in April raised € 319.40, thank you to all who contributed. Our final No Uniform Day in aid of school funds (€2 per pupil) will be held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

#### **2. Green Schools:**

We were extremely delighted to receive a letter recently, informing us that we have been granted our second Green Schools Flag for Energy. We are very proud of all the children, staff and parents for their help in achieving this. Well done to everyone involved!

On Thursday 25th May we will be having a short 'raising the flag' ceremony. Weather permitting, this will be held beside the flag poles at the front of the school building. We would like to send an open invitation to anyone who would like to come to celebrate our great achievement with us on this day. The event will begin at 12:30pm and will last approximately 15 minutes.

We still continue to work hard to maintain the work we have already started. Recently some members of the Green Schools Committee used litter pickers to help collect rubbish from the outside of the school building. Please remember our slogans 'Be Polite and Turn off the Light' and 'Make it clean and make it seen, Gorey Central School's gone green!' - Ms Poole, Green Schools co-ordinator.

#### **3. Soccer Blitz 2017:**

The blitz will be hosted by **Kilcommon N.S.** on **Friday 26th May in Aughrim Community Grounds.**

#### **Directions if coming from Gorey via Carnew:**

In Gorey, at the new Tesco roundabout, turn onto the Carnew rd, the R725. Stay on this road for about 17kms.

As you enter Carnew, turn right and take the R748 at Kenny's Pub (NB This road becomes the R747 after 10 kms).

Continue on this road for about 15/20 mins (by-passing Coolboy, Tinahely and Annacurra). Turn left into Aughrim Village. Take the first turn left (after Lawless's Hotel) and move onto Rednagh Rd.

You will pass Aughrim Fishing Centre, Aughrim GAA County Pitch and finally Aughrim Community Grounds is on the left at the end of this road!

#### **Directions if coming from Gorey, via Hollyfort**

In Gorey turn up by Paddy Blues Pub onto the Hollyfort Rd. Continue straight on this road for about 18kms. At the Togher Crossroads turn right onto the R747. Continue on this road for about 10 minutes, by-passing Annacurra.

Turn left into Aughrim Village. Take the first turn left (after Lawless's Hotel) and move onto Rednagh Rd.

You will pass Aughrim Fishing Centre, The Pavillion, Aughrim GAA County Pitch and finally Aughrim Community Grounds is on the left at the end of this road!

Please arrive at the venue by **9.30am** as the first match is at 10.00am sharp.

Gorey Central School will remain open on this day for pupils who are unable to attend the Soccer Blitz. As it is a school event, pupils who attend the blitz (to play or support) will be marked present on the school roll. Buses will also run as normal on this day.

There will be refreshments provided on the day (tea/coffee/water). However, please bring your own packed lunch/drinks. Please also bring raingear/suncream. If the event has to be cancelled due to bad weather a text message will be sent to all parents as soon as the decision is made and school will proceed as normal.

Shinguards are mandatory for pupils from 1st class upwards.

**IMPORTANT: Pupils (playing and supporting) at the soccer blitz cannot attend unless they are in the care of a parent or adult who is responsible for their supervision and behaviour on the day.**

**This is not the responsibility of the Team Managers, teachers or P.T.A. volunteer helpers.**

**P.T.O. >>>**

#### 4. Choral Festival:

This year's Choral Festival takes place in **Christchurch, Gorey** on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June**. Please note the following:

1. This event takes the form of a joint church service where all Church of Ireland schools in the Diocese come together.
2. All pupils are expected to attend.
3. Gorey Central School will open on this day as normal at 08.40am.
4. Classes will continue until 10.45am
5. At 10.45am teachers will bring all pupils to the service.
6. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend.
7. The school carpark and playgrounds will be closed to the public. Parking is available on the street, in the Fire station carpark or in Tesco carpark.
8. The service should be finished at 12 midday approximately. All our pupils will return to their classrooms following the service. Parents may bring their children home after the service if they wish. However, for safety reasons, pupils can **only** be collected from their classroom after the service.
9. Gorey Central School will remain open as normal until 2.30pm.
10. Buses will run as normal in the morning and at home time.
11. A small collection (money) will be collected from children and adults during the service.
12. Full clean uniform is to be worn.

#### 5. Book Rental:

We will be running our Book Rental Scheme again this year. A letter will issue to all parents in early June inviting you to participate. Please note that any families currently availing of this year's scheme will be asked to return the books to the school **in good condition** later in the term. **However, please note that any books lost or damaged must be paid for in full less the rental charge by 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

#### 6. Active Games Day:

Our Active Games Day will be held in **Gorey Rugby Club** on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June**. Parents are welcome to attend. The school building will remain closed on this day and there will be no buses running either in the morning or the afternoon.

- Pupils arrive at the Rugby Club at 9.40am.
- Normal school rules apply. No glass containers, chewing gum or fizzy drinks allowed.
- School uniform need not be worn but clothing/ footwear suitable for games should be worn.
- Games start at **10am sharp and finish at approximately 12.15pm**. Pupils will remain with their class teacher for all this time (including break time).
- There will be refreshments provided on the day (tea/coffee/water). However, as pupils remain with their class teacher for all games, they should bring extra water in portable containers that can be carried with them as they move from game to game.
- When the event ends at approx 12.15pm pupils will return to their parents and may go home.

**Therefore parents/ responsible adult MUST be in attendance at the Rugby Club from 12.15pm onwards.**

- Alternatively, parents may prefer to provide a picnic for their children in the grounds of the Rugby Club. However please note that, at this time, (approx 12.15pm), the school day will have officially ended and pupils are now the responsibility of their parents/responsible adult.
- **No child is allowed to leave the Rugby Club unless with a parent/guardian.**
- If the event has to be cancelled due to bad weather a text message will be sent to all parents as soon as the decision is made. School will proceed as normal. Buses will only run in the afternoon. The Active Games Day itself will not be re-scheduled and teachers will organise the games in school on various days before the end of term.
- Pupils not in attendance at the Active Games Day will be marked absent on the Roll.

### **7. Bookfair:**

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Bookfair. A total of € 2,100 was generated in sales and 60% of this will be returned to the school in book value.

Congratulations to Linda Kearon, Janet Rothwell, Elaine Hendy & Cora O' Donnell who won the raffle prizes at this event.

### **8. New Special Education Guidelines for Primary Schools**

The Department of Education recently issued new guidelines for primary schools regarding supporting pupils with special educational needs. This new structure emphasises that pupils with the greatest level of need will have access to the greatest level of support.

As it will take some time to update school policies in this area, the current practice of how pupils are identified for access to additional support in our school will remain the same for September 2017.

The Department of Education has also combined the role of the Learning Support Teacher and the Resource Teacher into one role. From September 2017 all teachers in this role will be known as Special Education Teachers or S.E.T. teachers.

Further information about the new guidelines will be advised to parents during the forthcoming school year.

### **9. Gorey Central School Website:**

Our new and updated website is now live on: [www.goreycentral.com](http://www.goreycentral.com) . We hope you enjoy it.

### **10. School Emails and Texts:**

Emails received from [office@goreycentral.com](mailto:office@goreycentral.com) cannot be replied to. This is the email system within Aladdin, our office admin package, and is a 'no-reply' email. The school email [goreycentralschool@gmail.com](mailto:goreycentralschool@gmail.com) should be used.

Also please note that text messages received from 086 8908771, 086 3091465 or 086 2665434 are 'no-reply' text numbers.

### **11. Dates for your Diary:**

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|----------------------------|--|
| a. Flag Raising Ceremony:  | Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May                              |
| b. Soccer Blitz:           | Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May                                |
| c. Bank Holiday:           | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June                                |
| d. Choral Festival:        | Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June                                |
| e. Active Games Day:       | Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June                            |
| f. Summer Holidays:        | Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June @ <b><u>12 midday.</u></b> |
| g. School Re-opening date: | Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September.                          |

Thank you.

Mrs. Horan.