**Ballintotas N.S**.

No. 1, 18/19 10th September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Céad míle fáilte ar ais! A very special welcome also to our Junior Infants: Seán Carroll, Leah Cotter, Norah Dore, Ronan Falahee, Karl Fitzgerald, Stanley Flynn Gould, Fionn Kelleher, Joy McGrath, Jake Moran McCarthy, Doireann O’Brien, Emily O’Doherty, Lauren O’Doherty, Mícheál O’Donovan & Darragh Sheehan.

**School Supervision & Collection Procedures**

School starts at 9am and finishes at 1.40pm for Infants and 2.40pm for remaining classes. Children are supervised **from 8.50am** each morning to 2.40pm each evening. **The Board of Management, or staff, cannot accept responsibility for children outside of these hours.** At 2.40pm parents should wait outside the gate to collect their children. Once children have left the school they should not return onto the school grounds.

**Road Safety/Parking**

Our primary concern is the safety of the children:

* Children should be accompanied by their parents from the school gate each day. The road is particularly busy at drop off and collection times. The bus drivers and parents share collective responsibility for the safety of all pupils leaving the school at that time.
* The road needs to be kept clear and parked cars should **not** obstruct traffic**. Please obey yellow road markings and parking restrictions at all times**.
* Please be considerate of our neighbours and **do not park** in any driveway entrance at drop off or collection times.
* We are most fortunate to have such a large parking area available to us at the church and where possible I would advocate the use of same.

These guidelines are for the safety of everyone and I would ask that you adhere strictly to same. Thank you.

**Voluntary Contributions**

Voluntary Contribution for the coming school year are now due please. Any monies may be handed in to the office or to class teachers. €60 per child or €100 per family.

**School Book Rental Scheme**

Thank you for your support of School Book Rental Scheme. Your prompt payment allowed for efficient organisation and delivery of the books. Many thanks also to the Parents who volunteered their help in June & August.

**Personal Accident Insurance**

A Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Policy with Allianz is available through the school. Parents may wish to avail of cover for their children during and outside of school hours. Details of this cover and the associated fee was given to all pupils. Completed forms to be returned by Thursday 13th September, to avail of the online reduction.

**School Uniform**

Please ensure that your child wears the full school uniform each day. On P.E. days school tracksuits are worn by pupils with a **light blue** school **T shirt**. If for some reason your child is unable to wear a full uniform on a particular day, please write a note to class teacher in your child’s homework journal.

## **Name Labels**

Please label your child’s belongings, especially jumpers, ties, school bags, lunch boxes etc. This helps us to identify lost property easily and efficiently.

**Termly Staff Meeting**

Please note that to facilitate the termly staff meeting, Ballintotas NS will close at 1.20, for Junior and Senior Infants, and at 1.40 for all other pupils, on **Thursday, 4th October.** School bus collection will be at 1.40 on the day.

**Parent’s Association AGM**

The Parent’s Association AGM will take place Wednesday 12th September at 7:30 in Ballintotas School. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated at this meeting**.**

**Notification of absence**

If your child is absent, please write a note to class teacher in the appropriate section at the back of your child’s homework journal.

**Healthy Eating Policy**

As part of our school’s healthy eating policy, chewing gum, fizzy drinks & crisps **are not allowed** in the school. Although chocolate bars, sweets, cakes etc. are not permitted on Mondays to Thursdays, a small treat is allowed on Fridays and on special occasions only. We appreciate your support. All lunch rubbish is to be brought home daily.

**School Money**

Parents are requested to put any money required for events throughout the year in envelopes clearly marked with your child’s name, amount and the reason for the money.

**Text-a-Parent App**

Could I ask all parents/guardians who are included in our text messaging service to download the Text-a-parent App to your smart phone/device. Doing so reduces the cost of the text by half.

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Áine Barry (Principal)