



Ennis National School

Ashline, Ennis, Co Clare

www.emmisns.ie

Newsletter September 2017

School Calendar

- **Re-opening:** Wednesday, 30th August 2017
- **Halloween:** Closed Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November (inclusive) 2017
- **Christmas Holidays:** Closing at 12 o'clock on Friday 22nd December 2017 and reopening on Monday 8th January 2018
- **Mid-Term Break:** Closed Thursday 15th February & Friday 16th February 2018.
- **Public Holiday:** Monday 19th March 2018
- **Easter Holidays:** *Closing at the end of the school day on Friday 23rd of March 2018 and re-opening* on Monday 9th April 2018
- **Public Holiday & School Holidays:** Closed Monday 7th May to Friday 11th May (inclusive) 2018
- **Public Holiday & School Holiday:** Closed Monday 4th June & Tuesday 5th June 2018
- **Summer Holidays:** *Closing at 12 o'clock on Friday 29th June 2018.*

Fáilte

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2017/2018 school year at Ennis N.S. In particular we would like to welcome our new pupils and their families to our school community. We also welcome new staff members and wish them every success in their positions at Ennis NS.

During the Summer, the Board of Management undertook maintenance work to keep our school looking as well as possible. Landscaping work was carried out, some of the external walls were painted and a new grass carpet was laid on the corridor outside our ASD Classes.

We look forward to working with pupils, parents and wider community in providing for the education of the children you have entrusted us with. If at any time you wish to meet with either of us, please make an appointment and we will be happy to facilitate you.

Ray McNerney (Principal), Brian Troy (Deputy Principal)

School Times

School begins at 8.50am and finishes at 2.45pm (1.45pm for infants). The school is open to receive children from 8.35am onwards. Entrance doors are on timed magnetic locks and at 9am these doors will lock again. This means that during the school day, all visitors must come to the main entrance to gain access to the building and to classrooms.

In the morning, pupils from fourth, fifth and sixth class should assemble in the playground at the Red entrance door; second and third classes should assemble in their playground at the back of the school; senior infant and first classes should assemble in the playground at the Yellow entrance door. When the bell rings, the teachers will collect their classes from their assembly points. Junior infants are permitted to go directly to their classrooms.

Please note that the school accepts responsibility for the children during school hours only. Parents/Guardians who decide to leave children to school before school opening time and after school closing time do so at their own risk and the Board of Management does not accept any responsibility for ensuring the safety of such pupils.

Traffic Tips

The school carpark gets very busy in the mornings and delays are being caused by the volume of traffic entering and leaving the carpark. To help reduce delays, please cooperate with the following arrangements

- ◇ Parents with children in older classes are asked to drop their children at the roundabout outside the school and allow them to walk in from there.
- ◇ If you come into the carpark, and do not need to park, please continue driving around the carpark to the drop off zone alongside the pitch. Let the pupils out and allow them to walk to their designated playgrounds.
- ◇ If you come into the carpark and need to park, please bring pupils to their playground (or classroom for Junior Infants) and return to your car as quickly as possible to free up the carparking space for others.

The staff carpark is strictly reserved for staff parking and accessible parking only.

We are very grateful to the parents who have helped to keep traffic flowing at the pedestrian crossing in the car park each morning. Volunteers are needed for the term ahead. If you can volunteer one morning a week, please contact Emer O'Reilly on 086 6044447.

Get 2017/2018 off to a great start with ENS Gratitude Calendar

Each pupil has received a copy of the Gratitude Calendar. During the month of September, teachers will chat about the calendar and instil an attitude of gratitude in each child.

We would ask parents to encourage your children to continue to do this throughout the week and at the weekend.

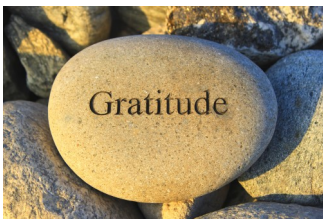
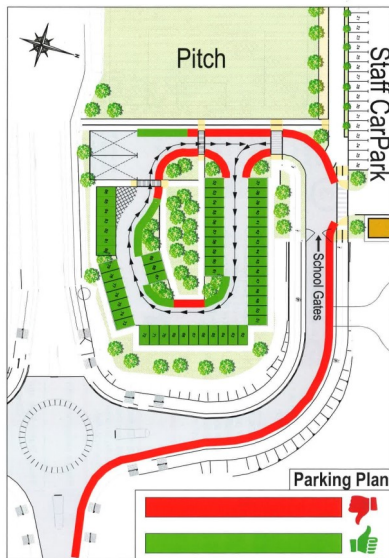
Sometimes it's easy to mistake gratitude for manners. After all, it's easy to teach a child to say "thank you" but teaching a child true gratitude will help them discover how to feel grateful about the people, things and activities in their lives.

The benefits of gratitude for children include increased feelings of wellbeing and reduced feelings of depression and disconnection. Positive relationships and even improved school satisfaction can result from introducing the practice of gratitude in schools

Healthy Eating

In line with our emphasis on health and physical activity, we encourage pupils to bring healthy lunches to school. As a general rule, pupils are allowed a treat on Friday. We encourage you to give your child a sandwich, a piece of fruit and a drink daily. Pupils are given ten minutes daily to eat their lunches at their desks before they go out to break. Advice and ideas for healthy lunches can be found on the website www.bordbia.ie

Nut Allergy: There are a number of pupils in the school who have a severe allergy to nuts. Your cooperation is requested in ensuring that pupils do not bring nuts or foods containing nuts to school – that food items brought to school are completely nut free.



Traffic Tips

Ennis National School is accessed via a Public Road. Below are some Tips devised to help minimise delays while the school considers other solutions. Thank you!

1

Use the Walking Bus in the morning and the afternoon. It leaves Curley's Car Park at 8:30am and returns with senior school children at 2:50pm approximately.

2

Drop and Go. Don't linger when you drop your child. Free up space by moving your car.

4

PLEASE NEVER, EVER.....
Never, park or pull over in the **Red Zones** (highlighted on the reverse of this sheet). Doing so prevents the free flow of traffic and could obstruct emergency vehicles.

6

Prepare your children for drop off. Let them in and out of the car on the **path** side and not on the traffic side.

3

Avoid the school by parking at **Curley's** or **Westgate Business Park**.

Cars Travelling have **right of way** over cars moving out of parking places. **Keep moving**. Those motorists will be free to exit when cars are stopped at pedestrian crossing.

5



Park in one of the allocated parking spaces **OR Pull Over** when dropping and collecting.

7

When parking, **Reverse in** and **Drive out**.

9

PLEASE NEVER, EVER.....
Never let your children out of or into the car when you're in the flow of traffic!

10

The staff car park can only be used when a **child is unable to walk** due to injury or otherwise. **Passes** for staff car park are **available from the school**.

11

Please cooperate with **Volunteers**. They are there to help you by keeping cars moving.

These Traffic Tips and the plan on the back were developed with the support of parents, Clare County Council and An Garda Síochana. Thank you !



Ennis National School

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

Hello, at Ennis National School there are a number of afterschool activities that are available to all. They need to be booked in advance as spaces are limited and may have a cost associated with them.

HOMEWORK CLUB

This runs every afternoon. The cost is €10 per week. All children are supervised in a quiet environment and have an opportunity to ask questions to the supervising teacher if necessary. The club runs from 2.45 to 4.00pm each day for pupils from First to Sixth Class. To book a place contact the school office on 065 6829158.

FUN CLUB

This runs every afternoon from Monday to Friday. After school care is provided in a fun environment where children are encouraged to play, and will be supervised in a number of different activities.

Contact Martina on 086 – 7363286

Kathryn on 087 - 9232833

GAMES CLUB - TUESDAYS

Games Club is for pupils from First to Third Class.

Time: 4pm to 5pm from September 12th

Contact Deirdre Tiernan or Sarah Walsh.

COMPUTER CLUB - Wednesdays

Pupils learn Scratch Programming, Animation and IT skills.

Time: 2:45pm to 4pm

Contact Daire Dwyer

** Check schoolbags for flyers**

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC – Wednesday and Thursdays

Recommencing Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th September

Beginners to Advanced

Contact Lourda Roseingrave (TTCT) on 087-0687794 for further details

SPORTS CLUB - THURSDAYS

This runs on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm. The club is for pupils from First to Fourth Class.

Contact Brian Troy or Paddy Vaughan

** Check schoolbags for flyers**

ART CLUB - Tuesdays

Art Club is for pupils from First to Third Class.

Time: 2:45pm to 4pm from September 14th

Contact Deirdre Tiernan or Sarah Walsh.

SPEECH AND DRAMA – THURSDAYS

Infants Class at 1:45pm

First to Sixth Classes at 2:45pm

Contact Evelyn McMahon on 085 1884158

Enrolment on Thursday, September 14th