

Spa National School

School News / Updates



Dear Parent (s),

Welcome back! I hope that you and your families enjoyed the Halloween break. Many thanks again to everyone who dressed up on our recent 'Halloween Dress Up Day'. They all looked really great and made it a day to remember. Please find listed below some school news, updates and reminders. I hope that you can take a few moments to read through them.

Kind Regards,

Peter Linehan

Ní neart go cur le chéile!

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2021 Enrolment & Admissions

The Admissions window for enrolment applications for students for our September 2021 Junior Infant Class opened on October 1st and will close on December 22nd 2020. If you have a child (or know someone who has a child) for enrolment please make sure that you complete application form and return it to the school office before December 22nd. Please note that any application completed outside the Admissions window cannot be accepted. If you have any



Road Safety

The B.O.M. would like to remind all parents/guardians of the following safety rules around the dropping off of pupils before school and collection of pupils after school.

1. **The Board is not responsible for the health and safety of any child once they leave the school grounds.**
2. Please **do not** park vehicles in the **designated space** to the right side of the school gate. This space has been specifically reserved for a family to aid them with the drop-off/collection of their children.
3. **Please do not block the entrances to the school car parks or the entrance to the Ryle family home.**
4. The **space at the front of the school should be used as a drop off area only**. This space is for parents who wish to pull in, allow their children to step out of the car and enter the school and then pull out again. **We ask all parents to move your car away from the drop off area as soon as possible and ensure a free flow of traffic.**
5. The Board would prefer if parents **didn't park alongside the old building on the Fenit side of the school** as this is the narrowest stretch of road and parking here will cause a serious bottle neck at opening and closing time.
6. Please do not double park outside the school.
7. **Please do not park on the opposite side of the road.**
8. Please do not attempt to turn your car in the vicinity of the school.
9. **If your child/children are being dropped or collected by a child minder /grandparents or others please notify the school and inform them of these guidelines.**
10. **We ask these parents to remind their children to be on their best behaviour as they exit the school and as they walk to their pick up point.**

The Board hopes that if everyone can respect the guidelines listed above, we will all have a safer school environment at these crucial times and help to minimise the possibility of an accident.



Covid 19 Protocols

Many thanks again to everyone for their co-operation with the school's Covid 19 response protocols. I would ask everyone to continue to adhere to the suggested protocols over the next few weeks and make Spa N.S. as safe as we can. Remember

- Limit unnecessary social interactions.
 - All adults to wear face masks on school grounds.
 - Practise safe Social Distancing
 - Regular hand washing & hand sanitising.
 - Practise good cough etiquette
 - If unwell, & unsure, please stay at home!
- Thank you!



Punctuality!

Thanks to everyone for their cooperation with being on time in the morning. Please keep this up over the next few weeks. We don't want to stress any of our students unnecessarily but please remember that anyone arriving after 8.50 a.m. in the morning will have to enter through main door (all the other doors will be closed) and be signed in.

A few more updates and reminders.



- **Coats & Hats:** With the weather getting much colder and wetter, every student should really have a coat and hat coming to school with them.
- **Digital Learning:** All students are fully signed up to IXL Maths & English. 2nd to 6th class are also signed up to the digital programme Spellings for me! These programmes allow students to practise key areas in numeracy and literacy independently, to revise & learn for themselves.
- **S.S.E. & Gaelge:** As part of our 2020/2021 school self evaluation project this year, all classes are focusing on Cómhra Neamhfhoirmiúil (conversational Irish). You can really help by encouraging your child to share the 'eiseamláirí' or conversational phrases they are working in class with you and practise the phrases with them in a positive and fun way at home. (The effort and attitude matters, making mistakes doesn't!)
- **Pre Christmas Activities:** School Management will be monitoring the national restrictions closely to see what activities might and might not be possible in the run up to Christmas.
- **Aladdin 1:** If you are not properly signed up to Aladdin, please do so a.s.a.p. All official school communications will be sent out Aladdin. If you are having difficulties with this, please contact the school office.
- **Aladdin 2:** I would ask all parents to check their profiles on Aladdin and ensure that the school has the correct contact and emergency numbers, address and eircode listed for your family.
- **Aladdin 3:** If your child is absent for any reason, you can account and explain this by using the attendance feature on Aladdin app on your phone.
- **Aladdin 4: If your child is absent due to illness, you must complete the 'Return to School' declaration before they return.** This can be done easily using the Aladdin app on your phone.
- **Parents Association:** Thanks to the 51 parents who logged into the recent A.G.M. Congrats and thanks to Liz Lange, Bairbre Reen and Noreen Lovett who were re elected as officers. The P.A. will be hosting another 'remote' meeting in the weeks ahead.
- **I.T. Support:** If you feel that your family would not have access to the I.T. equipment (laptop/tablet etc) needed for your child to participate fully in a remote learning programme/setting, I would ask you to please give me a ring at the school. We would sincerely wish to support any/all families in this regard and can easily make arrangements to do so. All requests would be treated confidentially. So if you need any help with this, please just call!



School Land Update

Sincere thanks again to everyone who contributed so generously last year towards the school fund to purchase land at the back of the school site. Spa N.S. hopes to buy 0.7 acres of land for €25,000. With over €15,000 raised in contributions and €3,000 given by the Parents Association, we are making very good progress. At present, a deposit has been paid, and the legalities are being finalised. Hopefully in the next few weeks the area can be fenced off and we can take ownership of it and begin to make plans for its future use. Thanks again to everyone who supported this initiative.

3 Yr Plan

If you have any ideas, which you would like to suggest for inclusion in the school's 3 year development plan, please email me at principal@spanationalschool.ie asap. The B.O.M hopes to finalise the details of this plan in mid November. All suggestions are welcome!



School Development Plan



Home / School Communication

These are difficult times for face to face meetings. However, if you ever have a specific question or worry about your child and their progress your first action should always be to contact the relevant teacher. You can do this by

- Replying to homework post on Aladdin.
 - Sending an e mail to the teacher's school email address.
 - Contacting the school office and we will get the message to them.
- Please understand that phone calls during teaching time will be discouraged.

If you have any general school query, please do not hesitate to contact or email the school office.

Health / Administration of Medicines:



If your child needs to bring an inhaler/ medication with him/her to school

every day, you really need to notify the class teacher or ring the school secretary as soon as possible. Your co operation in this would be very much appreciated

Booklists 2020/21: Thank you to everyone who has paid the booklist essential cost of €55 per student. This really helps towards the cost of photocopying, art supplies & insurance cover etc for every child. It is not like the 'voluntary contribution' as employed in other schools. If you haven't paid this fee to date, please note you can do so on Aladdin or you can also contact the school secretary and make arrangements with her. The fee for all families with **two children will be €110**, but those with **three or more children** attending the school remains at **€120**. Parents are welcome to pay it in a series of smaller payments. Thank you for your support with this!