

# Scoil Dairbhre

Readypenny | Dundalk | Co. Louth

Tel: +353 (0) 042-9372980

Fax: +353 (0) 042-9372980

Web: [www.darverns.ie](http://www.darverns.ie)

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## September 2014 Newsletter

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Failte arais to all our Families - we hope you have a healthy and happy 2014-2015 School Year.

We are delighted to have Ms. Ciara McQuillan back with us and we extend a warm welcome to Ms. Danielle Duffy and to Ms. Melanie Walsh Kilroy to our teaching staff. We welcome our 9 new Junior Infants and congratulate them on how well they have settled in.

**Our Book Rental Scheme** is up and running. We had 100% participation from our Parent Body and we thank you for your co-operation. A huge thank you is due to Michelle Allen for all her expertise in setting up the scheme. Thanks also to the committee, Martin Noonan, Fiona McCabe, Sinead Quigley, Brenda McGeeny, Sandra Morgan and Sabrina Cranny for all their hard work with book sorting and covering. We have explained to the children that they need to look after their new books and we would ask you to encourage them to do so.

**Healthy Eating Policy:** Can we remind all parents that we operate a healthy eating policy here in Scoil Dairbhre. In the interest of Health and Safety jewellery including earrings are **not** allowed especially if children wish to play football or basketball.

**The following foods should be avoided:**

- crisps,
- sweets,
- winders,
- chocolate, chocolate bars,
- cereal bars, breakfast bars (coco pops, rice krispies etc.)
- fizzy drinks,

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- peanuts
- popcorn,
- yoghurts/frubes/muller crunches, petit filous,
- chewing gum,
- capri sun, canned drinks and sugary drinks.

## The following foods are recommended:

- rolls/sandwiches/wraps with a filling of your choice
- crackers/cheese
- fresh fruit of any kind
- dried fruit for e.g. raisins
- scones, muffins, plain biscuits (digestive, rich tea) plain bun.
- unsweetened fruit juices
- water/milk
- reusable bottled drinks

As part of our recycling policy children take home all their waste. Please label lunch boxes and drinks containers to avoid confusion.

**Name Tags:** To avoid wasting valuable time could we ask that all coats, jumpers and sweatshirts be labelled. The easiest way to do this is to write the names on the back of the crest. Remember names fade with time and washing.

Find with this letter a **School Calendar** of important dates throughout the school year – Please keep this for future reference.

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**Tennis** will commence for a 6 week period on Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> cost is € 6.00 per child. Please send money in to class teacher. Runners and P.E. gear to be worn.

**Homework** – These are the recommended times children should spend on homework.

6<sup>th</sup> Class - 60 mins.

5<sup>th</sup> Class - 50 mins.

4<sup>th</sup> Class - 40 mins.

3<sup>rd</sup> Class - 30 mins.

2<sup>nd</sup> Class - 20 mins.

1<sup>st</sup> Class - 15 mins.

Junior & Senior Infants 10 mins.

Homework is given to reinforce what children have learned in school. It allows parents to have an active role in their child's education. The above times are guidelines – and may vary. Homework includes reading, revision, investigating and learning and may not always involve written exercises. It is important that you read to and with younger children and also have older children read on a daily basis. Homework diaries need to be checked and signed daily. If for some genuine reason homework cannot be completed please write a note to the class teacher in the Homework Diary.

**School Security:** A security system is currently being installed in Scoil Dairbhre. When it is operational the entrance door will remain locked throughout the day. Access can be gained by pressing the buzzer at the front door. As you are aware we had a break in recently. The Board of Management are investigating installing an alarm system and we will keep you informed of decisions made.

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**Insurance Forms** – Find attached to this letter an Allianz Personal Insurance Form. Children can have full accident cover for € 9 per year. Please send money in an envelope with signed form any day next week, mark the envelope with word **Insurance** please.

**Contacting the school** – Gabrielle our secretary is in the office Monday – Thursday from 1pm to 3pm if you need to make an appointment to speak with a class teacher or with Mrs. Kindlon please ring during these times. A text message was sent today to all parents. If you did not receive a text today please let class teacher know. If you have changed your mobile number or home address since last year please inform us also.

An information meeting and launch of Scoil Dairbhre website will be held in Scoil Dairbhre on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. All Parents are invited to attend. An update on current staffing issues will be given at this meeting.

**Parents Association** - Our Parents Association continue to work to support the staff & children of Scoil Dairbhre and we thank them for all their hard work last year. Their fundraising efforts enabled us to buy: football posts, a book covering machine, labelling machines, English Literacy Material, a digital camera and helped fund music workshops, Halloween party and Christmas activities. It is hoped to hold a Parents Association meeting after the information meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October where those who would like to volunteer to help can come together. Your help with activities is much appreciated. The more volunteers we have the less there is for everyone to do. A special word of thanks to those who no longer have children in the school and who served on the committee over the years. Thanks also to Terry McEneaney for all his help with the upgraded website.

Our first fund raising venture will be our Sponsored Silence. This will take place on Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup> in school. Please find attached your sponsorship card. Please do not send money to school until after the event.

Le gach deá ghuí

Brid Kindlon

Teaching Principal.

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