



**Rosenallis NS,
Rosenallis,
Co.Laois**

**rosenallisns@eircom.net
057-8628663**

Halloween Newsletter 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to thank everyone again for their support and flexibility with the changes we have had to make to daily school life over the past year and a half. Our main aim since we have returned is to provide a safe environment for our pupils and for all members of staff. Everyone has worked really hard to ensure that this is the case and we have been able to concentrate on teaching and learning since we returned in September. The pupils have continued to adapt really well to the new routines in the school. They have all settled down to their normal school work and are enjoying learning and playing with their peers on a daily basis. I would like to thank all our staff who have worked very hard to ensure the safety of all our pupils and who have succeeded in making the return to school after the summer break as normal as possible in these extraordinary times.

In this newsletter, we have outlined some important information for our school community as well as some news on what has been happening in the school since our return. Please take the time to read it carefully.

Kind regards,

Rory Walsh

Principal

Child Safeguarding Statement

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and updated by the Board of Management at a meeting on 06/09/2021. Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be found on our school website.

The school has also updated its Covid-19 Response Plan. This updated policy can also be found on the school website.

Inspectorate Visit

We had a visit from our District Inspector from the Department of Education on October 5th. He inspected our Covid-19 related health and safety procedures, as well as our Child Protection procedures. We received top marks. The final inspection report will be made available on our website under the Latest News tab as soon as we receive it.

Communication

At the moment, visitors have very limited access to the school. If parents need to contact their child's class teacher, please email them and they will arrange a phone call with you at a time that suits you both. Please give the class teacher time to respond to your message. Alternatively, Geraldine, our secretary, is available to take calls and messages on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9.15 – 12.45. The school has a website that can be accessed on www.rosenallisns.com. This website will be updated regularly with news and items about daily life in the school. We hope that you enjoy visiting it in the weeks and months ahead. The school will also distribute a newsletter for parents on a regular basis during the school year. This will be distributed on the school website and via email in our efforts to be a greener school.

Please email your child's teacher or send them a note if your child is absent, as we are required to keep a record relating to all absences.

Ventilation

Schools have been advised to continue to maintain good ventilation in classrooms to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. As a result, we will be keeping windows and doors open as we move into the cooler winter months. We will heat the school and the classrooms as usual but with open doors and windows the classrooms will be cooler than normal. We ask that pupils dress appropriately for the weather. Please wear layers and bring coats, hats and scarves to school when the weather is cold. Pupils will be allowed to wear their coats inside if they need to.

Substitute Teacher Shortage

Unfortunately, there is a national shortage of substitute teachers. This is more of an issue than normal for schools as we cannot split classes up in the event that their teacher is absent without cover (classes cannot be sent to other classrooms due to Covid-19 guidelines). Current guidance from the Department of Education directs us to use our Special Education Teacher as cover for absent teachers where necessary. However, if more than one teacher is absent on a given day and there are no substitute teachers available, we have been told that we have no option but to send the classes for whom there is no teacher home. We hope to avoid this situation by all means possible, but I feel it is important to make you aware of this possibility.

Safety Notice

The school opens to receive pupils at 9.10am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.

Healthy Eating

We encourage children to bring healthy lunches and snacks to school.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place in late November and early December. Current guidance is to conduct these over the phone. We will be in touch with more details after the mid-term break.

Confirmation and First Communion

6th Class, along with last year's graduates, received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 18th September and 3rd Class received the Sacrament of the Eucharist on Saturday 2nd October. Many thanks to Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Doyle, all the pupils and parents, Fr. Walshe and to Margaret McDonald for helping make the Confirmation and Communion very memorable days for all of the children. While our celebrations were very different to other years, all of the children really enjoyed their day.

In-School Activities

We are eagerly awaiting the resumption of Cumann na mBunscol fixtures, which we hope will recommence this school year, along with after school sports training sessions. In the meantime, all

classes have benefitted from six weeks of coaching from the Laois GAA Games Development team. Many thanks to Conor Shannon for all of his hard work in coaching the children and making the sessions entertaining and fun for all ages and abilities.

We have resumed tin whistle lessons for 2nd – 6th Class as part of our music programme. We encourage all of our students to participate in these lessons as they are a great foundation for learning other instruments and are a fun activity for the classes to take part in together.

Some of the classes are piloting the use of Minecraft Education, which is a series of six lessons being rolled out by Microsoft and RTÉ. The aim of the project is to increase students' exposure to and engagement with STEM subjects (Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology). If the results of the pilot are positive, we will look at rolling the project out across the whole school.

Halloween

The pupils will be allowed to dress up in their Halloween costumes this year on Friday 22nd October. Please ensure your child wears appropriate footwear as they will still be going out to play at break time and some classes have PE on a Friday. We look forward to seeing all of the scary creations.

Mid-Term

The school will close at 12pm on Friday 22nd October for the mid-term break. We will re-open again on Monday 1st November. We hope that everyone has a very enjoyable mid-term break.

All in the school community here in Rosenallis NS are working hard and are committed to ensuring that the pupils in the school are in a safe and happy learning environment that will enable them to achieve the best possible learning outcomes and reach their full potential. Your support and co-operation is appreciated and we all look forward to continuing a happy and productive year for all of the children in the school on our return in November.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Kind regards,

Rory Walsh

Principal

057-8628663

