

August Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all had a lovely summer break. School reopens on Thursday 31st of August. Please find some details below to help with the start of a new school year.

Pupil Safety – Convent School Site

The safety of your children is of primary concern to us so the Board of Management would like to draw your attention to the following: School begins at 9:00 a.m. School ends at 1:40pm (Junior Infants & Senior Infants) and 2.40pm (1st Class & 2nd Class) each day. The school will open to receive pupils from **8.50am**. No responsibility can be accepted for pupils arriving before this time. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure children are collected safely from school at 1.40pm/2.40pm.

Please do not drive in to the school car park or the bank car park. Pupils are not permitted onto the school grounds after 2.40pm or at weekends. Your co-operation is much appreciated. Please also note if a child is to be collected from school by someone other than the person who usually collects the child, you must inform the class teacher. If you are collecting your child before the end of the school day please phone the school in advance to make the necessary arrangements. Parents are requested to sign a signing out sheet. This is a requirement for School Insurance and ensures the safety of your child is maintained at all times.

Pupil Safety – Tubber Rd School Site (3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class)

The safety of your children is of primary concern to us so the Board of Management would like to draw your attention to the following: School begins at 8:50am and ends at 2.30pm each day. The school will open to receive pupils from **8.40a.m.** No responsibility can be accepted for pupils arriving before this time. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that children are collected safely from school at 2.30pm. Pupils are not permitted onto the school grounds after 2.30pm or at weekends.

Pupils on the Tubber Road site who are collected by car must walk to the car park and those pupils walking home leave the grounds via the Ballyhugh exit. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Please also note if a child is to be collected from school by someone other than the person who usually collects the child, you must inform the class teacher. If you are collecting your child before the end of the school day please phone the school in advance to make the necessary arrangements. Parents are requested to sign a signing out sheet. This is a requirement for School Insurance and ensures the safety of your child is maintained at all times.

Junior Infant times for the start of the year:

- Thursday 31st August 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Friday 1st September, Monday 4th September, Tuesday 5th September and Wednesday 6th of September 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- From Thursday 7th September 9:00 am to 1:40 pm every day

School Books

Gort National School will provide your child with their school books and copies. Please use the Aladdin payment link to make the payment for school supplies for the school year.



School Contact Numbers and Email Addresses

If you wish to contact the school, the phone number is 091 631627. Please leave a message if your call is not answered and your call will be returned as soon as possible. The main form of communication from the school is email. Please ensure you let us know if you change your email address.

Appointments

Maintaining home school links is very important to us here in Gort NS. If you wish to discuss any matter with a member of the teaching staff, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child's class teacher and we will arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss the matter. Please contact the office on 091 631627 or email principal@gortns.ie to arrange a meeting.

Education Welfare Act

Schools are obliged by law under The Education (Welfare) Act 2000 to submit reports on school attendance to the Educational Welfare Services of The Child and Family Agency (TUSLA). As a result, the school is obliged by the above legislation to inform TUSLA when a child has been absent for 20 days in a school year. If your child is absent from school, it is necessary for you to provide the following information in writing, to the class teacher, the date(s) in which your child was absent and the reason for his/her absence. Alternatively you can download the Aladdin Connect app and log in to upload an explanation for your child/children's absences. New pupils will receive access codes when they enrol. Please let us know if you have any difficulty with the app.

In line with our school policy when a child misses 5 days parents will get a phone call. When a child misses 10 days a letter will be sent to the parents. When a child misses 15 days another letter will be sent to the parents to remind you of our legal requirement. When a child misses 20 days a referral will be sent to the Educational Welfare Services Tusla.

School Uniform

Parents are requested to ensure that their children comply with the school uniform policy. Please put your child's name on school jumpers.

Boys

Grey Pants
White Polo Shirt
Red V Neck Jumper with crest

Girls

Grey Pinafore or Pants (Not leggings)
White Polo Shirt
Red V Neck Jumper with crest

The School Jumper is available in Pat Smith's, Bridge St., Gort

PE Uniform

There are two options for parents:

1. Navy tracksuit bottoms (unbranded), white polo shirt and red school jumper
2. Navy tracksuit bottoms (unbranded), white polo shirt and plain navy jumper (unbranded)



School Lunches

The Lunch Bag are providing a hot meal to every pupil every day. This will restart on Thursday 31st of August so be sure to order on the app. Please ensure your child has a small snack for their break and please ensure your child has a drink every day.

It will take a week or two for new pupils to get you set up with the hot meals. In the interim please send a lunch with your child.

Sacraments

First Confession takes place on Tuesday 5th of March at 6pm. First Holy Communion is on the 20th of April at 11am. All of the above sacraments take place in St. Colman's Church, Gort. The date for Confirmation has not been set yet.

If you would like your child to do religion in school, please ensure you have given permission on the Aladdin app.

Medical needs

We are currently updating our pupil records. If there are any allergies or medical concerns, you may have with regard to your child please inform the class teacher as soon as possible. Children are not allowed to bring medicines to school. If your child needs medicine/inhaler etc please ensure you meet with the class teacher and explain the situation to them. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure the teacher is informed.

Covid-19

If your child tests positive for Covid the current guidance from the HSE is to remain at home for 5 days.

School Closures

The school calendar is available on the school website www.gortns.ie.

There will be a Staff meeting on Tuesday 19th of September. Children on the Tubber Rd. finish at 12:20 pm and children in the Convent Building finish at 12:30 pm.

School is closed for a week for Mid-term break from 30th of October to 3rd of November inclusive.

I am looking forward to meeting you all on Thursday.

Kind regards,

Marie Clune

Principal