

# GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

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6<sup>th</sup> September 2018

A Chairde,

## *A Great Start – Tús maith leath na hoibre*

The last few days have been momentous ones for our school. Our first day in our new building was a truly magical end and departure on the long and winding road the school has travelled. As you walk around the school, you will see lots of reminders of our past and the firm foundations we have built our school on. We will celebrate our new building with an official opening early in the new year.

## *Junior Infant finish time*

From next Monday, the Junior Infants will finish school at the later time of 1.30pm.

## *Safety*

A reminder to please dismount your bicycle and or/scooter when entering the gate and to make sure that your children do also. If adults leave their bikes to the left of the yard it avoids accidents. Everybody has been so respectful and courteous in the yard and there is a lovely atmosphere at drop off and collection. Please also remember not to leave dogs unattended directly outside the school gate. It is very stressful for the dogs at drop off and collection time with the amount of people entering the same gate. You will notice that there are some teachers and SNA's in the yard from 8.40 – 8.50 so it is possible to drop and go if you have a dog with you.

## *Website*

Keep an eye on the latest happenings on our school website. I am hoping this year that each class and I will regularly update news from around the school leaving the newsletter for other news. [www.griffithbarracks.ie](http://www.griffithbarracks.ie). We also communicate regularly via email (its free!). You can update your email address and other contact details through our Aladdin connect app.

## *Permissions form/Walking Home Alone*

Please remember to return your permissions form to your child's teacher. We nearly have all the forms by now. It will enable us to make list of those who walk home alone etc. This form really helps us in the day to day running of the school.

## *Voluntary Parental Contributions*

Thank you to all those who have already made a payment for the Voluntary parental contribution. The money forms a vital part in paying for all our utilities, maintenance contracts and other day to day running expenses that are not covered by the grant we receive from the Department of Education and Skills. I sent an email explaining all the payments just before the start of the year and will send it again in the coming weeks for those who missed it.

## *Help wanted with Maths in the Infant Classes*

We are looking for volunteers in the infant classes again! We need some grown-ups to help with maths games during Ready, Set, Go maths sessions. We need a number of adults to commit to help for this term – one morning every week, or two mornings would be amazing if you're available. Ideally this would be for the entire year, but if you can even do one term that would be a massive help to us. These sessions are good fun with simple activities that give the children a great start in maths. We find this really helps build a strong foundation for their basic number facts, which gives a real boost to their confidence and sets them up for learning. We run these sessions first thing in the morning from 8:50 – 9:30 in Junior and Senior Infants. If you have volunteered in the past (thanks so much 😊)- if you can give us some time again please let us know or if you'd like to sign up to help this year for the first time please email the office, stating which morning(s) you can give us. Thanks a million everyone for all your support with this! Please contact [clare@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:clare@griffithbarracks.ie) if you are interested. Garda vetting is necessary and training will be provided.

### ***Storage Returns.***

A big thank you to parents Brian and Nerea (3<sup>rd</sup> Class parents) who facilitated storage while we were in temporary accommodation. It was a great help to all the school community and means that all the returned items will benefit the school for many years. Many thanks to all the parents who have helped with chair assembly (not my strongpoint) and those who helped with weeding before the school opened. We hope to 'Green up' the school in the months ahead.

### ***Head Lice***

We have reports of head lice in some classes. Please check your child regularly and treat them if necessary. Please see the document below for a good treatment method called "Bug Busting", which doesn't involve any chemicals and is recommended by the HSE.

### ***Students of the Week***

Congratulations to all our Students of the week. Please see website for photo.

### ***Kids Club Notice***

Kids Club have asked us to let you know that they will be sending home Insurance Forms in the bags this week. Please complete and return the form to Kids Club directly. Forms should be in a sealed envelope with payment and your child/ren's name on the front. Please note that if you wish to use Kids Club at any stage during the year, they must be added to the insurance, which is being renewed now. All queries for Kids Club should be directed to them on 085-1355080 (Deirdre).

### ***Notes the Parents Association***

After School Activities at the school will resume in October and the Parents Association are looking forward to organising a small but fun group of activities for Senior Infants classes upwards. To help with this we are calling out for help with 2 activities: Football & Basketball. We also require one parent to be at the school each day that the activities run to facilitate smooth running of activities. This would mean a 2 hour presence at the school from 1:30 - 3:30 on days of activities. If any parent would like to flex their footie or basketball muscle and is interested in coaching these as fun activities or in helping with the facilitator role, please contact the PA ASAP by emailing [pa@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:pa@griffithbarracks.ie) or call 087 0654599 (Anna Walsh) 0868031885 (Margaret Cashman). There is a small payment for the activities.

### ***Creative Schools Project***

We're delighted to announce that our school was one of 150 primary and post primary schools to have been selected nationwide to participate in the Creative Schools Pilot scheme run by the Arts Council. Its goal is to put the arts and creativity at the heart of the children's lives. In October we will receive training and a Creative Associate will support us in planning and implementation throughout the year. As part of the award we will also receive a grant of €2000.

### ***School Choir to take part in peace proms***

School Choir & Peace Proms – In a couple of weeks we'll begin Thursday choir practice and we're delighted that this year 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class choir participants have been invited to sing in the Peace Proms concert in the RDS on either February the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. In order to be involved, choir members need parents to complete a consent sheet. Please complete this fully and return to the class teacher as soon as possible. Any queries please ask Anne Marie or Jenny, thank you.

### ***Well Done Sophie***

We were all amazed and astounded at the achievement of Junior Infant and First Class parent Sophie Braidwood during her Channel swim attempt. The money raised by Sophie will be used for PE and yard equipment as well as some chess sets.

Have a great weekend,

Beir Bua (Best Wishes),  
Eddie





# Bug Busting Head Lice Treatment Method

The wet-combing method involves removing the head lice by systematically combing the hair using a special fine-toothed comb with a spacing of less than 0.3mm. Your pharmacist can advise you on which combs are suitable.

No medicated products are necessary for wet combing. This can be beneficial because head lice are becoming more resistant to the insecticides that are commonly used to remove them.

However, the success of the wet-combing method depends on adopting a painstaking approach that involves regular and thorough combing.

The wet-combing method is described below.

- Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo and apply ample conditioner (do not rinse it out), before using a wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse detection comb. Make sure that the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with the bevel-edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.
- Draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke and check the comb for lice.
- Remove lice by wiping or rinsing the comb.
- Work methodically through the hair section by section so that the whole head of hair is combed through.
- Rinse out the conditioner and repeat the combing procedure in the wet hair.
- **N.B. Repeat the procedure on day five, nine and 13 in order to clear the young lice as they hatch, before they have time to reach maturity.**

The time that it will take to comb your child's hair will depend on the type of hair that they have and its length. For example, short, straight hair can be quickly prepared and can be fine-toothed combed in a few minutes, whereas longer, curlier hair will take longer to comb.