



Scoil Bhríde
Nurney, Co. Kildare
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2nd September 2026
Dear Parents/Guardians



New pupils in our school

Best wishes to all the new boys and girls who have joined our school. We extend a warm welcome to:

Seán, Millie, Michaela, Eoin,
Bobby, Aoibhín, Freya,
Muhammad, Conor, Everly,
Lucy, Quinn, Donnacha, Joshua,
Alannah, Elliot, Teju and Arwa.



Dates for your diary

- Welcome back to school mass – details to be confirmed
- School Photographer – October 2nd 2026
- Annual School Book Fair –booked for Spring 2027
- 4th Class Annual Cycle Safety Training Course – an eight-week course for 4th class starts Monday September 7th. Details regarding payment from parents issued last week

Swimming

A six-week course of swimming classes in K-Leisure Athy for 5th class starts on September 2nd. Details regarding payment from parents issued last week

A six-week course of swimming in K-Leisure Athy for all other senior classes will start as follows:

3rd class – November 4th 2026

6th class – January 6th 2027

4th class – April 14th 2027

Child Protection

From Monday September 14th we ask all parents/guardians to allow their child (including all new junior infants) enter through the green fence gate unaccompanied at the morning drop of time.

School staff will be there seeking that this request is carried out. This will allow us to monitor with ease any unwanted and unsupervised adult access to your child. If you wish to remain outside the new yard gate with your child till the bell goes at 9:20am that is fine too. Thanks for your co-operation.

All parents/visitors entering the school building must report to the school office/Principal to inform staff of your presence. All parents/visitors must not enter the school play yard during school hours without permission, please report to the school office/Principal.

Beginning Monday September 14th, a teacher will generally stand at the fence gate in the morning to:

- Prevent pupils leaving the school premises without permission
- To manage adult access to the children's play area. **In accordance with National Child Protection and Safety standards 'no member of the adult public' should have unauthorized access to the school yard or the school building and therefore unsupervised access to other children.** Adults are putting both themselves and the other children at risk regarding child protection. These standards are followed by every childcare facility and club dealing with young people across the country. Primary schools are no different. If adults did, they (a) may place themselves at risk in terms of accusation in terms of possible interpretation of words and actions and (b) place the school in an unfair position of possible neglect of pupil safety and welfare. In a recent Irish case, an adult who accessed a busy morning school yard without authorization was accused by a pupil of inappropriate touching and conversation. As required by child protection law the school was obligated to report the matter and all parties therefore became involved in a HSE Child and Family Agency investigation. The HSE found there to be no case to answer in this instance however. The bottom line is that everyone loses. So please allow the pupils their own space, where all other business, no matter how urgent you think it may be, can be dealt with by appointment. Remember ***"an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"***.

Code of Behaviour Policy

The school's Code of Behaviour can be viewed or downloaded from our school website at <https://www.nurneyns.com/policies>

Nut Allergy

Just a reminder that we have pupils in our school with a nut allergy. For that reason, our entire school is a nut free zone (and that includes all forms of chocolate spread). Thank you for your continued vigilance in this matter.

Good Hygiene Practice

To reduce the spread of germs in our school please find attached a HSE description of good hand washing technique. For important information on the management of infectious diseases in schools please go to:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wiDurTYQGfTH5ohW3SNz5AgaXoq4XFhZ/view?usp=sharing>

School Pupil Insurance

You will receive from the school a Pupils Personal Accident Insurance Form. This is an optional insurance scheme offered by Allianz insurance. The cost for pupil insurance for school activities is €6 and for 24-hour cover is €9. If you wish to partake in the scheme, please do **one** of the following:

- Fill in the form, ticking either the school activities option or ticking the 24-hour cover option and send it back with your cash or cheque payment to the class teacher *by 3pm Friday September 18th*
- Fill in the form, ticking either the school activities option or ticking the 24-hour cover option, return it to the class teacher and pay online (*by 3pm Friday September 18th*) following the payment access link sent to you on your mobile device. On your online payment page, you will be offered the choice of paying for either the school activities option or paying for the 24-hour cover option. Just tick the one relevant to you.
- If you have already paid online just fill in the form ticking either the school activities option or ticking the 24-hour cover option and return it to the class teacher *by 3pm Friday September 18th*

School office opening hours

- 11 – 1pm (Mon-Fri) and 1.30pm – 3pm (Mon-Thurs)
- Sat-Sun: Closed

Online payments

If you have not received any link for paying for items online, please let the school office know your child's name and class and what online payment you wish to make and a new online link will be sent to you.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!



IN ORDER TO:

- * **KEEP YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL SAFE.....AND**
- * **ENSURE ALL STAFF ARE AVAILABLE TO WORK....AND**
- * **TO PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE PUPILS**

WE NEED TO KEEP SICKNESS OUT OF OUR SCHOOL IN THE AUTUMN AND WINTER MONTHS AHEAD.

IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL, PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. THANK YOU...

In light of the popularity and recent surge in public use of social media platforms, and the introduction of both current and new hate-speech laws, please find attached to this week's school newsletter some useful Social Media Group Guidelines for the school year ahead.

THINK BEFORE YOU POST!!

Thank you...



Wednesday Note and school information also available

on www.nurneyns.com

Thank you for your co-operation with the above.

Dr. Vinny Thorpe – Principal

*Ed.D (SL) M.Ed (SL), MA.Comp.Mus,
H.Dip.Prim.Ed, H.Dip.Mus.Tech,
P.Grad.Dip.Ed.St(SEN), B.Mus.Ed(H.Dip.Ed),
Dip.Mus.Ed, T.Dip.ICT*





Social Media Group

Guidelines

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Many of you may be members of WhatsApp or other social media groups that connect parents in a particular class. Ideally, group chats can be useful places to share information, receive updates and reminders, as well as sharing advice. Most of the time, group chats can be a great resource. But, as with many things in life, there are those unfortunate times where someone in the group may say something inappropriate or spread misinformation. For peace of mind and to comply with current best practice and law, here are some guidelines which you may find useful:

- If you have a query or concern about a teacher or the school management team, it is best to go and talk to them directly by prior appointment. Face to face is always the best way.
- Please be mindful about how you behave online. Reflect on the example you are setting for those closest to you. Social media posts have in the past been compared to 'mob road rage' behind 'one' wheel. Avoid blaming, shaming and comparing.
- When writing, remember that whatever you say on social media may be forwarded to someone else, and in a few minutes, it may be seen (whether by text or screenshot) by the entire school (including pupils and staff).

- If you feel uncomfortable about what's being written in a group of which you are a part, for your own well-being and non-implication, the advice would be to leave the group. The law in Ireland is very strict about posting negative, libel and defamatory statements about people through social media platforms.
- Parents/Guardians and pupils in all class levels who engage in any social media forum must, at all times, demonstrate respect for all members of the school community (including pupils and staff).
- Parents/Guardians and pupils must not breach confidentiality, defame or make threats to any person in the school community.
- The Board of Management does not tolerate any form of defamation or intentional harm practiced through social media platforms. The school is clear in its policy for parents and pupils about the use of social media outlets and/or forms. Instances or evidence (such as screenshots etc.) of proven and intentional breach of the above will result in sanctions, that may include suspension from the school and/or referral to the Gardaí.

Food for thought! Please read below for some interesting statistics!

- a) Research carried out by Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2018 found that false stories are 70% more likely to spread on Twitter than the truth. A similar pattern can emerge on parents' WhatsApp groups.
- b) There's a lot at stake if parent-school relationships break down. The University of Sussex found positive school-family relationships are a predictor of academic achievement.
- c) A 2021 Ipsos MRBI Veracity Index tracking public trust in key professions found that social media influencers are trusted by only 6% of the population. Teachers are trusted by 88%.
- d) A study in the International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research into school WhatsApp groups, found that there is no substitute for face-to-face/phone communication, which creates trust and a 'formal' professional working relationship between parents and educators.

Think before you post and please be safe online!

Thank you for your assistance with all of the above.