



Gorey Educate Together National School

Scoil Náisiúnta Foghlaim le Chéile, Guaire

Principal's Newsletter

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*Educate Together -
Equality-Based Schools*

October is Internet Safety Month in Gorey Educate Together

This campaign is being run by the PTA committee.

This Week's Tip – Prepare an agreement or contract with your child, covering their mobile device and internet usage. Ask your child for suggestions and contributions when preparing it e.g. how much time online per day, when the device needs to be switched off, where it can be used etc. A sample agreement, prepared by a GET parent is on the back of this newsletter.

This Week's Fact – School-aged children who spend seven hours or more a week using computers or mobile video games triple their risk for myopia or near-sightedness. Source - PLOS One scientific journal. Advice on screen time for parents can be found here. www.webwise.ie/parents/screen-time-advice-for-parents/

Last week a short tutorial about parental controls on Apple devices phones was posted on the **PTA Facebook page**. This week, a tutorial for Kindle devices will be posted. Please see www.facebook.com/GoreyEducateTogetherPTA

The **poster competition** about "Staying Safe on the Internet" or "Limit your Screen Time" will commence in the school this week for 1st to 6th classes. There are great prizes – a €15 voucher for the winner in each class, plus two runner-up prizes. **Entries will need to be signed by a parent/guardian.** CHILD'S NAME AND CLASS TO BE PRINTED CLEARLY ON THE BACK OF EACH ENTRY. (ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CHILD, 1ST–6TH CLASSES.)

- from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) committee



**School bus, taxi or car -
always wear your seatbelt.**



Friday 19th October: The children on our School Council invite you to attend our School Disco. Optional dress-up theme, as voted for by 1st–6th classes: "Halloween"

Times: Infants & 1st class: 6pm-7.30pm; older classes 7.30pm-9pm. (Families with siblings: come at the time that will work best for you, but get older children to sit out for the younger section and vice versa.)

Entry: €2 per child; pre-schoolers free; maximum family charge €5. Also, tuck shop open on the night.

Please note that this event is for current Gorey Educate Together families only - we wouldn't have room for cousins, neighbours, past pupils, etc.

For safety: no long, dangling jewellery; no toy 'weapons' - guns, swords, lasers, pitch-forks, etc.

As usual, many parents will stay with their children. However, we also need specific parents to join a rota of hall & door supervisors and shopkeepers.

Parent Supervisors & Shopkeepers needed: please return this slip to the school office or text your Parent Class Rep. (Event can only go ahead if we have enough volunteers.)

Name: _____

Contact number: _____

Preferred time (please circle)

6-7pm 7-8pm 8-9pm



Friday 19th October: Annual 'Breakfast Together' at our school.

Friday 19th October: School Disco. (For details, please turn the page.)

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd October: Dogs Trust visit our 4th, 5th and 6th classes. 'How to stay safe around dogs. How to be a responsible dog owner.'

Thursday 25th October: 'Buddy Walk' at our school. Details to follow.

Friday 26th October: Classes end at the usual times, 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Mid Term Break. School reopens Monday 5th November.

Parents of Junior Infants: Please find attached to this newsletter - 'Jolly Phonics' actions, leaflet about the *Aistear* programme and Healthy Lunches leaflet. (As mentioned during last week's information meeting.)



Parents and pupils are reminded to be punctual. Lateness (after 8.50am) significantly disrupts the classes and late collection (after 1.30pm and 2.30pm) can upset the child and interrupt the work of the staff.



'Breakfast Together,' Friday 19th October in aid of the charity *ChildLine*.

All children will be offered a bowl of *Cheerios* cereal with milk. The children need to be able to talk about their food allergies.

Parent helpers are needed: please meet in the staffroom at 9am. Thanks! (No need to put your name down in advance.)

Suggested donation €2 per child. (Maximum €5 per family.) The children on our school council will collect the donations from the classes.



Sweaters and jackets without nametags are seldom returned to their owners. Our overflowing Lost and Found cupboard (on the ground floor hallway) will be emptied at the end of next week. (Remaining items will be taken to a Recycling Centre.)



Girls and boys: please remember to look after your belongings.

INTERNET SAFETY CONTRACT

When online on any device, be it viewing, downloading, sharing, or updating, I _____ will always abide by these rules, and will seek advice from my parents when unsure.

- I will not befriend people online who I have not met in real life unless I have the permission of my parents.
- I will not have conversations with people online who I have not met in real life.
- I will stop talking immediately and tell my parents if a conversation becomes uncomfortable or threatening in any way.
- I will never use inappropriate language online, and I will keep personal conversations I need to have with friends in real life.
- I will not bully or say anything unkind about anyone online.
- I will not forward or copy any unkind or mean messages written from others.
- When pop up messages appear I will not click onto them, instead I will close them with the X button.
- I will never use a credit card for any purpose without my parent's permission.
- Before signing up for anything on the Internet I will always get my parent's permission.
- I will never give out my passwords to anyone other than my parents, not even to my friends.
- I will not download games, software music etc., without my parent's consent.
- I will not order anything online even if it's free without the consent of my parents.
- I will stick to the time limits that I and my parents have set and will not argue when asked to turn off the technology.

In order for my child to be safe online on any device, I as the parent/guardian _____ will abide by the following

- Know the websites and services that he/she uses.
- Know the names and usernames of online friends that they have, including those I have not met in person.
- Use blocks and filters to protect him/her from inappropriate material.
- To talk openly about our internet and mobile communication, and promise to listen to his/her concerns regarding same.
- To take action and protect him/her should I/we find any threatening, abusive or inappropriate material online.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED AGREE TO THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITONS.

CHILDS NAME _____ PARENTS/GUARDIANS NAME _____ DATE _____