

SEPTEMBER 2013

NEWSLETTER (2)



The School will be closed on Friday next 4th October 2013 as it is being used as a Polling Station for the Referendum.

NOTICE TO CAR USERS, PEDESTRIANS & CYCLISTS.

Working at keeping the place safe.

Parents and the Board of Management are constantly concerned about the dangers to their children, caused by the traffic situation in the school grounds. We need to be very careful when driving on or around the school premises. **Remember over 900 children under 13 move in and out morning and afternoon!** In order to minimise the danger of any accident or injury to your children we ask all car users, pedestrians and cyclists to follow the directions set out below.

In the first instance you are asked to remind traffic offenders that they are breaching the regulations and putting their own and everyone's children at risk.

Parents can then report offenders by writing to the Board of Management enclosing the name and address (or the registration number, make and colour of the car of the offender.) An explanation of the nature of the offence should also be given. A form is provided for this at the back of the newsletter. We will not act on anonymous complaints. Your name will remain confidential to the Board and school admin staff. Offenders will be contacted and advised of concern in relation to their breach of the regulations on the first occasion.

On subsequent occasions the Board of Management will report persistent breaches of the regulation to the Gardai. The Gardai are prepared to prosecute drivers who pose unnecessary risks to children's safety.

Car Users

Please remember that almost 1,000 children pass in and out of the premises each day. Drive slowly certainly no more than 10 KPH.

You may drop your children off outside the school entrance or if you wish to bring your car on to the premises please use the **Church Car Park Only**.

We have had a request from the residents of Standhouse Lawns that parents would not park around the entrance to that estate as it makes going in and out very dangerous.

Car users should use the **entrance on the Standhouse Road** as the entrance at **The Oaks** is closed to vehicular traffic in order to leave it free and safe for **pedestrians only**.

Please do **not** use or park in the **Staff Car Park**. Cars parked in the staff car park that do not belong to staff will have warning stickers placed on the wind-screens.

Pedestrians:

All pedestrians should cross at the Traffic Warden Crossing and enter the school grounds by the entrance nearest the Junior School . They should walk inside the barriers and not through the Staff Car Park. The Junior School children should be encouraged to walk on the walkways from the Church Car Park. When leaving the school grounds the same applies.

Cyclists:

Cyclists are required to alight from their bicycles **outside** the school grounds and walk in by the pedestrian entrance as cycling is not permitted in the school grounds. When leaving the school grounds cyclists are required to walk with their bicycles. They should only be mounted outside the school grounds. If going in the town direction bicycles should only be mounted after the cyclist has crossed by the Traffic Warden Crossing.



Parking:

While it is OK to use the area outside the school boundary wall as a drop off point you are asked not to park there as this space is needed for buses.

When parking in the Church Car Park please keep the **in-out** route clear.

It is important to keep the staff car park free of all traffic (vehicular and pedestrians) at all times.

Please do not park on the roundabout or on the route out of the school grounds. Double yellow lines are there to remind drivers of this.

Cars parked inappropriately will have stickers put on their windscreens.

In the interest of safety it is vitally important that every parent observe these regulations on **both** wet and dry days.

Avoid an accident. Please respect the regulations. Keep all our children safe. Report the offenders.

It is school policy to get the permission of each new employee to be vetted by Gardai. If you are aware of any threat to the safety of a child please contact the class teacher or a social worker. There is a responsibility on everyone to ensure that innocent children are protected.

During this year this policy will be applied to all people who volunteer to help out in the school.

We are worried that this will discourage people from volunteering. **We still need up to eighty volunteers.**

The Gardai vetting forms are available from Ms. Prendiville and she we will get clearance for you to work as a volunteer.

Child safety report form.

I saw car number _____ causing a risk to the children's safety by,

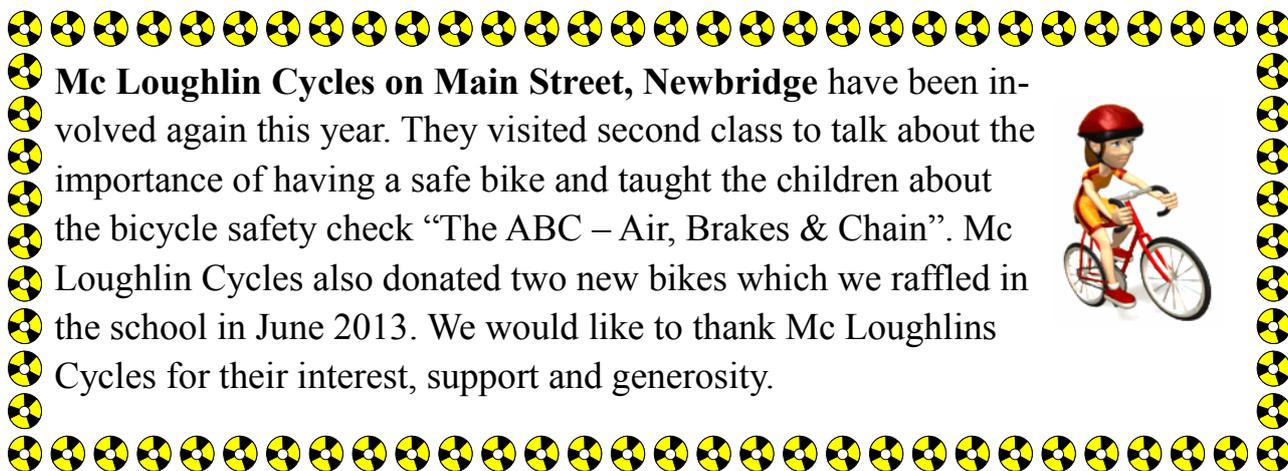
The make of the car is _____. The colour of the car is _____
_____.

The owner of the car is _____.

Signed: _____.

Telephone Numbers.

It is vitally important that we have up to date phone numbers for every child. **If you change your number please send a note to your child's teacher to let us know the new one.** If children are worried or frightened they need their parents immediately. We will always contact parents but we must have up to date phone numbers.

 **Mc Loughlin Cycles on Main Street, Newbridge** have been involved again this year. They visited second class to talk about the importance of having a safe bike and taught the children about the bicycle safety check "The ABC – Air, Brakes & Chain". Mc Loughlin Cycles also donated two new bikes which we raffled in the school in June 2013. We would like to thank Mc Loughlins Cycles for their interest, support and generosity.



Stay safe messages for children.

The distressing incidents in Athlone highlight how vulnerable children are. As part of the RSE curriculum we teach the Stay Safe Programme to children. It is important not to frighten the children. The essence of the message is to build children's confidence so that they can say 'no' if they find themselves in vulnerable situations. If you have any concerns about your child or any other child's safety make an appointment and let us know. Teach the children the following messages:

If someone offers you a treat:

Say NO!

If someone wants you to keep secrets:

Say NO!

If someone asks you into their house:

Say NO!

If someone offers to take you home from school:

Say NO!

If you get lost and someone asks you to go with them:

Say NO!

If someone tries to touch you:

Say NO!

If someone offers you a lift:

Say NO!

If someone says they'll buy you something:

Say NO!

If you are not sure, don't say 'yes':

Say NO!

