

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23

IMPORTANT NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

24 August 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/boys,

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all the school community the very best for a successful and happy school year, to extend a very warm welcome to our new Junior Infants and to the boys in other classes who have joined us this year. A warm welcome, too, to all new staff who have joined the team.

Delivering Equality Of Opportunity In Schools (DEIS) Status

We are delighted to announce that the Department of Education has classified our school (and the girls' school) as Urban DEIS Band 1. In a nutshell, the DEIS programme focuses on targeting additional resources to those schools included in the programme to ensure every child has an equal opportunity to achieve their potential.

What does this mean for the school community practically speaking?

- **Extra teaching staff** as the pupil teacher ratio is more favourable in Urban DEIS 1 schools. This summer we've appointed three extra teachers as a result of the change in our status. This is brilliant news for *all* our boys.
- **A Home School Community Liaison Coordinator** (shared between the girls' and boys'). Our HSCL is Rachel Hayes & we wish her the very best in this new non-teaching role. The HSCL Coordinator works in partnership with parents, teachers and local community organisations to support positive educational outcomes for pupils. As part of her work, Rachel will meet parents during home visits, at courses for parents in the school and at other school and community events.
- Access to the **School Meals Programme**. Initially, all pupils will get a cold lunch every day likely starting from Monday 5 September. Note that this isn't mandatory and families can opt out if they wish. Hot meals will follow (possibly in January) when the infrastructure and staff are in place. More details to follow. I imagine your sons will still want to bring a lunchbox (for morning break) and a water bottle with water only.
- Other supports include:
 - ☐ Access to **literacy/numeracy support** such as Reading Recovery, Maths Recovery, First Steps, Ready Set Go Maths
 - ☐ **Additional funding** under Schools Book Grant Scheme
 - ☐ **DEIS grant** to target support for those most disadvantaged

School times

The school doors open at 9am. Do not drop your boy(s) off before this time.

Because of construction works (which unfortunately are stalled at the moment), ALL boys will enter the school through the main front door & go directly to their classrooms. The **exceptions** to this are the pupils in Room 2 (Ms Stapleton) and Room 3 (Ms Curry) who will enter and exit through their respective fire doors.

The infant classes finish at 2pm.

All other classes finish at 3pm. This includes the classes that were finishing at 2.45pm previously.

We anticipate that traffic will be a nightmare this term as the temporary car park is out of action & staff cars will be on the road. I would encourage you to walk with your children where possible, to cycle and to park 'n' stride from Tesco or the bottom of the hill. *Please do not park or drop off in the two disabled bays as a courtesy to those who need them.* If your sons are walking or cycling, chat to them about the importance of doing so sensibly and safely.

Calling to the school & signing pupils out

Please use the door at reception when calling to the school. There is an access control system in place so you have to buzz the office for entry.

If you must collect your child before finishing time, call to the main office. Arrangements are in place for your son to come down to meet you at reception/front door.

School timetable

All classes in our school have two 20 minute breaks. Junior Infants to Second Classes - 10.50-11.10am and 12.30 to 12.50pm Third to Sixth Classes - 11.20-11.40am and 1.00 to 1.20pm

Home-School Communication

Our main method of home-school communication is **Class Dojo**. If you've not signed up for Class Dojo, Rachel, our HSCL will assist you with this process if needed. The vast majority of school information/news is shared on Class Dojo so we'd encourage parents to check the platform at least once a day.

1st to 6th classes ONLY have a school journal. Our school website is active - www.cashelbns.ie. You can also follow us on Twitter - @cashelbns

Other bits In brief...

- **Shorts** (blue/navy, grey, black) can be worn for the month of September only. Indoor shoes are not required.
- **Tracksuit days for Junior Infants to Second Class** are Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.
- **Tracksuit days for Third to Sixth** are Tuesdays & Thursdays
- If you've not done so already, please **label** all belongings and in particular jumpers!
- Our new **Junior Infants** will be in school from 9.20am to 12pm until Weds 14 September. From Thurs 15 Sept onwards, they will finish at 2pm.
- **Payment links** for outstanding fees (book rental & parental contribution) will be sent out in September.
- **Covid**, unfortunately, is still part of the picture and this is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future. Please take due care & diligence. The most recent guidance re: schools/childcare and Covid is available by clicking on this link: [School, childcare and COVID-19 - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/childcareandchildhood/schoolsandschoolnursery/covid19/)

Mainstream classes for 2022/23

	Class (11 mainstream classes)	Classroom	Teacher
1	Junior Infants Beech	Room 2	Ms Laura Stapleton
2	Junior Infants Elm	Room 8	Ms Maryese Noonan
3	Senior Infants	Room 4	Mrs Alison Laffan
4	First Class	Room 3	Ms Rebecca Curry
5	First/Second Class	Room 1	Ms Sinéad Lawless
6	Second Class	Room 5	Ms Jennie O'Farrell
7	Third Class	Room 9	Mr Cathal Barrett

8	Fourth Class	Room 12	Mr Pat Molloy
9	Fifth Class	Room 13	Ms Caitríona Crosse
10	Sixth Class Oak	Room 10	Mr Tomás Kennedy
11	Sixth Class Ash	Room 11	Mr Laurence Coskeran

See you all soon & enjoy what's left of the summer hols!

Le meas,



Will Ryan

principal@cashelbns.ie