



# Scoil Náisiúnta Bhantiarna Lourdes

"Mol an óige 'is tiocfaidh sí"

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Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Our Board of Management has decided to combine the two Voluntary Schemes in operation in the school - the Arts/Crafts & Photocopying Scheme and the Book Rental Scheme. **This year one single payment of €60 will cover both.** This we hope will reduce the administration work required.

The cost of Book Rental and Arts/Crafts & Photocopying has been very good value because we have kept the number of new books in Book Rental to a minimum and used DEIS funds to provide a wide selection of class novels for the Book Rental Scheme. We also supplemented the Arts/Crafts & Photocopying Scheme with over €3000 from the School Completion Programme funds. Without these extra funds the real cost to parents would be substantially higher.

The Board does appreciate that in current economic circumstances not all families may be in a position to pay this €60 in one payment. Arrangements can be made to have the money paid in a number of instalments and the school will be as accommodating as possible in this regard. Should you wish to speak in confidence with the school's HSCL about this or any other matter please do not hesitate to contact Miss Dee on 087-6083773.

## **Arts/Crafts & Photocopying: What is this money spent on?**

Paper, card, paint, brushes, modelling clay, Pritt-Stick, PVA glue, glitter, White Tack, scissors, markers, rubber stamps, craft sticks, pipe cleaners, chubby crayons, flashcards, plastic folders, pencils, ink etc. Photocopying – additional worksheets, class tests, information handouts, infants' homework, supplementary resources for many areas of the curriculum such as for Gaeilge etc. There are also certain times of the year when class teachers spend additional funds on resources such as First Confession, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, preparing for entrance tests to secondary school etc.

## **How do I join this Combined Voluntary Arts/Crafts, Photocopying & Book Rental Scheme?**

Please put the €60 in an envelope with your child's name and class clearly marked on the outside and give it to the class teacher. A receipt will be given by the teacher. Alternatively the money can be given to our secretary Helen who will also issue a receipt.

**Of course this is a voluntary scheme and parents can decide not to join the scheme but to get the arts and crafts materials and books for their child/children themselves.** In this case the teacher will give a list of the required materials and books to the parents so they can purchase them for their child/children.

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A detailed breakdown of all books in the Book Rental Scheme will be available on our school's website quite soon. Books will be collected on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June but books will not be given out until the start of the new school year. This means that pupils will not have heavy bags of books to bring home on the day of the holidays and then to bring back when school reopens on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**To qualify for admission to this Voluntary Scheme the contribution must be paid on or before Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Families supported under the Department's Assistance Grant Scheme will pay €40 per child.**

Following the completion of enrolments for the coming school year the classes will be divided as outlined below for the next school year. The guiding principles in the division of classes are to ensure, as far as is practicable, equal access to the curriculum for all children and due consideration for their educational and developmental needs throughout their school life. Teachers, in conjunction with the principal, are responsible for allocating pupils to classes. Parents and guardians are responsible for communicating all necessary information about a child to the school, so that an informed decision can be made on the division of classes and on allocating pupils to split or combined classes. **If there is any information you feel the teacher should know before children are allocated to classes for the next school year please let the class teacher know before Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014. Once the class division is made it will not be changed.**

- ✓ Junior Infants
- ✓ Senior Infants
- ✓ First Class
- ✓ Second Class
- ✓ Second Class & Third Class
- ✓ Third Class
- ✓ Fourth Class
- ✓ Fourth Class & Fifth Class
- ✓ Fifth & Sixth Class
- ✓ Sixth Class

Results of standardised testing in for pupils in First Class – Sixth Class in Spelling, Gaeilge, Reading and Mathematics will be available on the Parents Portal through Aladdin over the coming weeks. You will receive a text message to let you know each time a new test result is available. If you have forgotten your password please contact the school so it can be sent by text message to your phone.

With sincere thanks for your continued support,



Principal

**Please note:** School reopens for 2014/2015 on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August. The school calendar for next year is now available on the school's website.