# St. Enda's National School

Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.
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Dear Parents

A quick update on the week gone and the week coming -

**Mass for the new school year**
A sincere thank you to Fr Robert who said Mass for the students of both Lisdoonvarna schools. It was, and always is, a pleasure to be in attendance. Fr Robert has such a kind way with the children and certainly speaks to the children rather than at them.

Staying with Church matters - it was my pleasure to convene a meeting with the student government yesterday. Our student government comprises all those on the various committees throughout the school. It really was a pleasure to discuss with them the matter of school patronage. Every student's views were listened to and respected and the adults in the room were in awe of the maturity on show. Findings from the meeting will be discussed at Board level next month. Safe to say - if this is the calibre of debate - the future is definitely bright.

Staff have also weighed in on the matter of school patronage. Parents have had their say through the survey conducted by the Dept in term 3 last year but I will be speaking to the Parents' Association to see if there are any points they would like to raise at the Board meeting.

**Parents' Association**
Speaking of the PA, they are hosting a Church Gate collection at 10am Mass this coming Sunday. I, personally, and the school in general would be grateful if you could support the PA in this matter as they continue to make the school a better place for us all.

**Cross Country**
Well done to all the boys and girls who competed at this week's Cross Country running event in Ennis. A special well done to the five children who won medals. On what is a chaotic day, our children were so well behaved and respectful.

**Immunizations**
Parents of our Junior Infants and new entrants throughout the school would have received forms regarding immunizations / hearing and vision testing. These forms should be returned by Monday at the latest if you wish your child to avail of these services.

**Fieldtrips**
Next week sees our commitment to Active Learning in full swing with three field trips. Instead of reading about the Burren, we are getting out and exploring it ourselves and instead of using a book to learn about coastal features, we're putting on our wellies and heading to the rock pools of Lahinch. Mr

Egan's class are heading away on Monday while Ms Murphy's class are double jobbing and heading away on Tuesday and Thursday.

Just to note - each fieldtrip costs in excess of €12 per child. It is because of the incredible work of the PA and the generosity of parents through, for example, voluntary contributions, we can offer these excursions at vastly reduced rates.

**Log In Book**
While 99% of parents report to the office when visiting the school, we are still having an issue with a tiny minority of parent(s) taking it upon themselves to collect their children from the classroom door. To have any visitor wandering the corridor unaccompanied is not acceptable for a variety of reasons. If you must visit the school during the school day, you should report to the main school door and wait on the step until a member of staff comes to the door. If you then need to come inside, you will be asked to sign a 'log in' book.

We ask that all unannounced visits are kept to the absolute minimum. Rest assured, your child's safety and well being trumps all else, including having to spend a couple of moments on the step. Any parents in breech of this will be reported to the Board for further action.

**Work to Rule**
As you may have heard in the news, both teacher and sna unions are preparing for industrial action. I am still waiting for communication of what this will look like in reality. I will communicate same to you asap.

That's all from me, have a great weekend,

Brian