St. Enda's National School

Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.
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16/10/2026

Dear Parents

An update on what was a disrupted week-

Strike
As you are aware, there was a Public Service Strike day this past Wednesday which forced the closure of the school. There is another Strike day planned for this coming Wednesday - hopefully this can be averted. I will keep you updated on this. Unfortunately, in the mean time, the work to rule is still in operation.

'Threatening' email (hoax)
Staying with Wednesday, I regret to inform you that the school, like many, many others throughout the country, received a threatening email. I have followed all steps advised and the Gardaí have been informed. They have reassured us that the email was a hoax.

Rest assured, your child's safety is always the most important factor in any decisions made in school.

Training Day
This past Tuesday saw the teachers engage in training in the new curriculum, with particular focus put on the wellness/PE aspect of schooling. A very worthwhile day was had and the Lead Trainer was very impressed with the measures already in place.

Field trip
Yesterday saw children from Senior Infants to 2nd class take a field trip to the wooded area near the Falls Hotel in Ennistymon. They played games, explored the different plant life and did PE exercises. The children's behaviour deserves special praise as it's a big operation bringing over 45 children away for the day.

Board of Management Meeting
On Monday, the Board of Management held a special meeting to discuss the issue of school patronage, as mandated by the Department of Education. After a discussion on the various elements of feedback, it was agreed that the evidence was overwhelmingly pointing towards the desire to remain a school with a strong Catholic Ethos. The Board formally agreed with these findings and we will be communicating same with the Diocesan Office in Galway.

Parental Views / Ideas to alleviate issues at the gate in the morning
To date, one parent has gotten in touch with their views on the issues in the morning at the school gate. The school, be it staff or Board, really want to help parents in any way we can. Our hands are tied, however, by insurance issues. I think the idea of a walking bus from a set point in the town would help matters and would be happy to set up if we had enough volunteers.

Please get in touch at principal@lisdoonvarnans.ie if you have any ideas. Thank you to the one parent who has already done so.

Visits next week
There are two authors planned to visit next week to do some reading with the children. As county Clare is twinned with Croatia for the duration of Ireland's Presidency of the EU, we expect to welcome the Croatian Ambassador to Ireland to the school next week. There will likely be photos taken so please let me know if you do not want your child to participate.

6th class visit to the Secondary school
Our 6th class students will visit the secondary school for a series of taster sessions in various subjects next Tuesday. This is always a fun, immersive experience.

Disco next week
And finally, a date for your diary - the 23rd of October - next Friday - our Parents' Association are hosting a disco in the Pavilion with all funds going towards the cost of equipment for the Sensory Garden.

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

Brian