Dear parents and guardians,

 We hope this message finds you well. As we embark on a new academic year, we want to extend our warmest greetings and appreciation for entrusting us with the education and care of your children. It is an honour and privilege to partner with you in fostering their growth and development.

 At Brackloon NS, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating learning environment that promotes both academic excellence and personal growth. Our dedicated staff are eager to support and guide your children on their educational journey, helping them discover their passions, develop critical skills, and cultivate a lifelong love for learning.

 This academic year, we have exciting plans and initiatives lined up to enhance the educational experience for our students. We are implementing innovative teaching methods, integrating more technology to enrich teaching and learning and to begin the gradual introduction of the new curriculum. We believe in a holistic approach to education, focusing not only on academics but also on character building, social skills, and emotional well-being.

 Communication between home and school is essential for the success of our students. We encourage you to stay involved and engaged in your child's education by attending school events, and staying updated through our communication channels. Your support and active participation play a vital role in creating a strong and cohesive school community.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have throughout the school year. Our doors are always open, and we value your feedback as we continually strive to improve and provide the best possible learning environment for our students.

We look forward to a productive and fulfilling year ahead, filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

 Warmest regards,

Danny O Connor

Principal

Please find updates below:

**School works**

I'm sure that you have seen all the fantastic work that has been completed over the break. The fencing, painting, walkway and lift will help develop our facilities for all the community. The lift is due to arrive next week along with handrails for the new steps. Thanks for your patience and understanding as we finish off this project. Once completed we will hold a special opening day to welcome all parents and community members to view our amazing facilities.

**Junior Infants**

We would like to welcome our four new Junior Infants pupils and families to Brackloon N.S. The Junior Infants will be on a shortened day and finish at 12:20 for the first two weeks as they settle into primary school.

**School break time**

We want to make the best use possible of the school grounds. With this in mind it is our intention to allow the pupils on the pitch when the weather is dry. This may mean that they have wet socks and shoes so we would encourage pupils to bring in a pair of wellies/spare shoes that they can leave in the shed.

**After school club**

 The after school club starts on Monday the 4th. After school will run Monday to Thursday evenings based on demand. The after school hours will be finalised when registration is complete and demand is established. The club will be registering with the NCS and parents will be able to apply for **a minimum €1.40 discount** per hour. Contact Jill to discuss charges and info on 0851403795.

**School stationery**

All the books and stationEry needed by the pupils this year is provided by the school with no charge. Pupils will need a set of crayons and pencils just for home to complete their homework.

**Voluntary contribution**

We are very aware of the economic climate and the strains that are on families at present. With this in mind we will not be asking for a contribution to the arts, craft and photocopying at this time.

**Drop off**

The school is especially busy in the morning with drop offs. We ask that parents drop and go from the assigned area in the car park to ensure there is room for the next drop off. Brackloon NS is open to accept primary school pupils from 9:10. The main gate is to remain closed and the pedestrian gate used for entering the school.

 **Office hours**

Lorraine is in the office from 9:30-12:30 Monday to Thursday. You can contact her on 091848376 or by email on secretary@brackloonns.com

**Staff**

I am delighted to announce that our SNA allocation has been increased which means that both Alison and Maria will have increased hours in school this year.

 If you wish to contact any of the staff you can do so on the following email addresses:

Principal@brackloonsn.com

cfinnerty@brackloonns.com

kcolohan@brackloonns.com

 **County Photos**

County Photos will be in school on the 8th to take photos of the pupils. A reminder will be sent out closer to the date.

**School Calendar**

Please find a link to the school Calendar for reference.

<https://www.brackloonns.com/school-calendar.html>

**Hurling/camogie**

We intend on starting back with hurling/camogie next Friday.

**Homework**

With the forecasted good weather arriving next week we will not be giving homework to the pupils until the following week.

**Personal insurance form will be sent home with pupils next week**– please return as soon as possible. I would highly recommend the 24hr cover as it represents excellent value for money. It costs 9 euro and it provides cover for accidents at home during weekends, holidays and at school all year round. In the event of an accident, you may access A&E at the Galway Clinic. It’s much quicker.

Thanks for your continued support,

Brackloon NS