

## **For parents speaking to public representatives regarding accommodation at Gaelscoil Philib Barún**

A Thuistí,

Go raibh maith agat as cabhrú linn.

Thank you for your help in canvassing the support of local public representatives for our campaign for a new building. Please note the following facts while you are lobbying.

- Gaelscoil Philib Barún was set up by parents in 1985.
- It has a current enrolment of 200 pupils and is a school under the patronage of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.
- It has been in temporary accommodation for 24 years. (1985-89 Tramore House, 1989-2003 Stella Maris House, 2003- presently prefabricated buildings on a site at Crobally Upper owned by the Department of Education).
- In 2002 the Department of Education and Science chose to accommodate the school in these temporary buildings until a permanent structure was built on the adjacent land. An application for a permanent building has been gathering dust in the Dept. since 2005. In that time the school has doubled in size.
- Other schools' accommodation needs are addressed urgently. Prefabs seem to be acceptable in Tramore but not in other developing areas, eg. North Dublin.
- Gaelscoil Philib Barún's needs should be prioritised as it is in unsatisfactory accommodation for so long.
- The school board has always striven to ensure that accommodation is safe and comfortable. We cannot claim that we are in breach of health and safety regulations. When prioritising projects to be progressed the due diligence shown by the school authority should not be used effectively to delay the application.
- 7 of the school's prefabs initially installed in 2002 are owned by the DES. This is another indication of how permanent the *temporary* arrangement is!!
- The school in its frustration with the DES has independently and without Departmental approval appointed architects to draw up plans for a 12 classroom school on the site at Crobally Upper. We had been waiting for 2 years for this to be done.
- We seek the support of all public representatives in Tramore for this planning project which will save time money.
- We invite public representatives to contribute to the consultative process in drawing up plans for what will be a landmark building in Tramore.
- We ask that our case be highlighted at every opportunity and at every public forum.
- Our current expenditure on prefabs is €60000 per annum.
- Is there any other school waiting on permanent accommodation for so long?

*Is mise le meas,  
Daithí de Paor, Príomhoide.*

9<sup>th</sup> January 2009