



*Knockanean
National School*
Knockanean, Ennis, Co. Clare.

September Newsletter

September 15th 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A big welcome back to school to everyone. A very special welcome to all our new infants and to the new children who started in other classes. We wish them all the best for their time in Knockanean N.S. We wish last year's 6th class all the best as they start their new secondary schools.

Welcome back to all the staff and we wish them well for the year ahead. We welcome three new members of staff to the school – Mr Jamie Ryan in Special Education, Ms.Edel Griffin in 2nd class and Ms Fiona Clancy as a part-time SNA.

School Times: We have been advised by our insurer to inform you of the following- The school will open to receive pupils at 9.15 a.m. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9.30 a.m. Classes will end each day at 2.10 p.m. for Junior /Senior Infants and at 3.10 p.m. for all other classes. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate and the person to escort them should be at the school no later than 2.10 p.m. in the case of infants and 3.10 p.m. for all others, as the school cannot accept responsibility for supervising the children after the official finishing times or investigating any incidents that arise after these times.

Appointments: It is important that appointments are made if a parent wants to discuss academic or social progress of a child with the class teacher/principal. Teachers are more than willing to meet with you, but please arrange a time that is mutually agreeable to you both. Appointments can be made by ringing the school or putting a note in your child's diary.

Pupil Absences: (Education Welfare Act 2000). All absences totalling more than 20 days have to be reported to the National Education Welfare Board. Written confirmation to your child's teacher is required, out-lining the commencement date, the return date and the reason for being absent. Phone calls to the school or verbal messages to the teacher are not sufficient. Please see the back of your child's homework diary for a template for reporting absences to the class teacher.

Complaints Procedures: The Board of Management has adopted the INTO/CPSMA Complaints Procedure which provides a mechanism for dealing fairly with parental complaints. This can be viewed on our website

Healthy Lunch: Well done to everyone who is making the effort with the healthy lunch policy-not alone is it healthier but it is also cheaper.

Please Remember: The following are not allowed in school: Crisps, Fizzy Drinks, Chewing Gum

As there are a number of children in various classes throughout the school who suffer from serious allergies to nuts we ask parents to refrain from putting nuts or products containing nuts (such as chocolate spreads of any kind; peanut butter) into their children's lunch box.

Personal belongings/Clothes: We would ask every parent to make sure that there is a name tag on all jackets/tops, lunch boxes, drinks bottles etc.

School Breaks: Please note that it is the school policy for the children to play outside during break-time, (weather permitting, of course). Sometimes children inform us that they have to stay inside. If your child has to stay in at break time we require a note from the parent or guardian informing us of same.

Mobile Phones: Mobile phones are forbidden in the school. If a pupil is caught using a mobile phone in the school then the phone will be confiscated and will not be returned for a period of one week. It will only be returned to a parent at that time. If a parent finds it necessary for their child to have a mobile for use after school, then the parent must send in a letter to the school requesting same. The pupil is then responsible for handing in the phone to their teacher in the morning at the start of school and collecting it in the evening at 3.10 pm.

Videos/ Photographs: Please note that parents/guardians are permitted to take photographs or videos of school events for private, personal use only, and that they must not be uploaded to any website to be viewed by others (e.g. Facebook).

Birthday invitations: Birthday invitations are not to be given out in the school or school grounds. The Board of Management has chosen to adopt this policy so that no pupil feels left out when birthday invitations are being handed out.

Photographs/Website: From time to time a photographer from the Clare Champion or The Clare People etc. visits the school. If anyone does not wish to have their children photographed, it is your responsibility to please let us know in writing.

Photos of pupils are also posted on our website displaying their work, in sports teams, in school plays etc. If you do not want your child's photo posted on the website it is your responsibility to let us know in writing

E payments: The ePayment system allows you to make secure payments to the school using your credit or debit card. The purpose of the ePayment system is to facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians and to reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent into our school in line with recent central bank directives. If you have not already done so please email the school (cnocanein@gmail.com) with your email address. If you need further information on this system please contact the office.

Parking: Please try to be sensible and considerate about parking in and around the school when dropping and collecting your children. Please do not park in front of the school gates, in front of empty parking spaces or in front of another car, thereby blocking their exit. Please be mindful of the local residents and the need for them to be able to access their property at all times. Please do not park in front of their driveways. A little patience on everybody's part can make all the difference. **As mentioned in an earlier text, the disabled parking space to the right of the school gate must be left free for use by a pupil in junior infants.**

Football Training: Football training for 4th, 5th and 6th class girls will take place on Monday evenings and training for 4th 5th and 6th class boys will take place on Friday evenings, both in our school pitch between 3.10p.m. and 4.00 p.m. This will continue until the Halloween break, weather permitting. You will be informed of any changes to the above days /times.

School Uniform: The uniform consists of a crested sweat shirt top in either Jade Green or Purple and crested polo shirt in the same colours. Children are allowed to choose which colour they would like to wear along with the alternate colour polo shirt i.e. purple sweatshirt with a jade green polo shirt or jade green sweatshirt with a purple polo shirt. The bottom part of the uniform is **dark navy trousers/tracksuit pants/skirt. Please note that branded tracksuits are not allowed.**

Literacy and Numeracy Initiatives

Literacy Lift Off: Following a very successful year of Literacy Lift off last year we will continue this initiative this year in Senior Infants and First class. Literacy Lift Off is an intensive programme of Reading and Writing, which gives the pupils lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency. It gradually lifts the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing by equipping them with the necessary problem-solving skills. The aim of Literacy Lift-Off is to make pupils constructive learners. It teaches them 'how' to problem-solve independently.

Guided Reading: As a follow on from Literacy Lift Off, Guided Reading will continue in Infant classes to Second inclusive. Guided reading is a small-group reading instruction designed to provide differentiated teaching that supports students in developing reading proficiency. The small group model allows children to be taught in a way that is intended to be more focused on their specific needs, accelerating their progress.

Ready, Set, Go Maths: This school year we will introduce a maths initiative in the Junior Infant classes. This initiative is based on the guidelines outlined in the practical handbook Ready, Set Go Maths. A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used to develop key concepts and skills in early number work The small group model will be used here also.

Parent Portal: The school is currently in the process of piloting the Aladdin Schools Parent Portal to parents/guardians of children in 6th class. The Parent Portal will give you secure access to messages from the school and to details of your child's attendance, reports cards etc. via secure login from your internet browser. The Parent Portal is a fantastic way to enhance a school's communication with parents. It enables parents to stay connected and informed about their child's education by:

- Ensuring that the school has their most up to date contact information
- Keeping parents apprised of their child's attendance
- Keeping parents up to date on school and classroom news via noticeboard messages
- Allowing parents to view what items their child had for homework today

- Allowing parents view their child's approved report card
- Giving parents the option to opt in to share contact information with their child's classmates' parents via the Parent Privacy option for the class list.

Along with strengthening our home/school partnership, we also envisage the Parent Portal helping the school by:

- Helping to improve attendance by allowing parents to keep track of any school days their child may have currently missed, along with late arrival and early leaving information.
- Helping to reduce the amount of class/school notes being sent home
- Helping the school/ teachers communicate with parents when the need arises
- Reducing costs by eliminating the need to send school report cards by post
- Reducing costs by reducing the number of text messages that need to be sent

More details on the roll out of the parent portal to all classes to follow.

Swimming: The following are the dates for the swimming sessions for the 2017-2018 school year.

Swimming Wednesday 2pm-3pm for First Term; Thursday from 3-4pm for second and third terms

Dates	Class Group
September 6 th 2017-October 11, 2017	Sixth Class
October 18 th 2017- November 29 th 2017	Fifth Class
December 6 th 2017- December 20 th 2017	Fourth Class

Swimming Thursdays 3pm-4pm for Second and Third Terms

January 11 th 2018-January 25 th 2018	Fourth Class
February 1 st 2018- March 15 th 2018	Third Class
March 22 nd 2018 - May 10 th 2018	Second Class
May 17 th 2018 - June 28 th 2018	First Class

The cost of swimming depends on the number in the class attending. Also this year, we are organising a bus to take the children from school to the pool. There will be a charge for this included in the cost of the swimming. **Please note parents must collect the children from the pool.**

Intel Mini Scientist: This competition is an initiative which allows students from 4th, 5th and 6th classes to develop science related projects which are then exhibited at school level. We hope to have this exhibition on the week leading into the Halloween break **from 1.00 – 3.15pm** where parents and family can drop in and view all of the projects. The 1st placed team selected at school level will be invited to take part in the Mini Scientist Grand Regional event usually held in Intel Shannon. More details closer to the time. Pupils in classes 4th – 6th have already received information about this exhibition.

Useful websites: www.intelminiscientist.ie and www.primaryscience.ie

Personal Insurance: The school offers the facility of a Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Scheme. This offers 24 hour cover including social, domestic and leisure cover as well as school activities. Full pupil participation in the scheme is recommended. The cost of the scheme is €7 per pupil, which represents excellent value for money.

Homework Diary: These custom made diaries can be now purchased from the class teacher at a cost of €3

Buses for sporting events: Cost of busses to matches / events etc. will now be collected on the day, instead of at the end of a half term.

Administration and Art and Crafts Charges

Following consultation between staff, Board of Management and Parents Association there is no change in these fees for the coming year. The following are the Art & Craft and Administration Fees for the year 2017/2018.

One child	€40
Two children	€65
Three or more children:	€80

This helps to cover items such as art & craft materials, photocopying, texting to parents and other administration expenses for the year.

If any family find themselves under financial pressure, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

Please complete the forms attached and return to the school. Cheques should be made payable to Knockanean National School

Dates for your Diary

Meeting for Parents of Communion class Wed Oct 11th at 8p.m in Auburn Lodge

Meeting for Parents of Confirmation class Wed. Oct 25th at 8 p.m. in Auburn Lodge

First Confession: February 7th Church of Our Lady, Roslevan

Confirmation: March 3rd 2018

Holy Communion: April 28th 2018

School closures: A full list of school closures for the coming academic year was issued in the Board of Management report at end of year report. These dates are available on the home page of our website. They are also listed below for your convenience.

(Halloween) School closed Oct 30th – Nov 6th

(Christmas) School closes on Dec 22nd – Jan 8th

(February midterm) Feb 15th & 16th

St Patrick's Weekend- school closed Mon March 19th

(Easter) School closes on March 23rd – April 9th

(May Bank Holiday): School closed Bank Holiday Monday and Tue May 8th

(June Bank Holiday): School closed for a week- (June 4th – June 11th)

Close for summer holidays on Fri June 29th 2018

School Website: Don't forget to visit the school website at www.knockaneannationalschool.com. Many thanks to Ms Noonan for all her work over the past number of years in keeping the website so up to date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Curran". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jim Curran. (Principal)

P.S Please complete both coloured sheets which accompany the newsletter and return to the school by Friday September 22nd 2017 . If there has not been a change in your address or telephone numbers there is no need to complete the Record Update .

Record Update

Please complete and return to the school or email the information to : cnocanein@gmail.com

Pupils Name _____

Pupils Name _____

Pupils Name _____

Parent Name (1) _____ (2) _____

Address (1) _____

Address (2) if different from (1) _____

Home Telephone No. _____ Mothers Mobile No. _____

Email address _____

Father's Mobile No. _____ Emergency Contact Name and No. _____

Mobile Number to which Texts from the school should be sent _____

If there is any change in family circumstances please inform the school. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

Record Update

Please complete and return to the school or email the information to : cnocanein@gmail.com

Pupils Name _____

Pupils Name _____

Pupils Name _____

Parent Name (1) _____ (2) _____

Address (1) _____

Address (2) if different from (1) _____

Home Telephone No. _____ Mothers Mobile No. _____

Email address _____

Father's Mobile No. _____ Emergency Contact Name and No. _____

Mobile Number to which Texts from the school should be sent _____

If there is any change in family circumstances please inform the school. Confidentiality is guaranteed.