

## September Newsletter

September 25<sup>th</sup> 2018

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 two new members of staff to the school – Ms Aisling Reynolds in Special Education and Ms. Ciara Felle in 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

**School Times:** We have been advised by our insurer to inform you of the following- The school will open to receive pupils at 8.45 a.m. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9.00 a.m. Classes will end each day at 1.40 p.m. for Junior /Senior Infants and at 2.40 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 1.40 p.m. in the case of infants and 2.40 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 2.40 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.

**Aladdin Connect:** The school uses the Aladdin Schools software service [www.aladdin.ie](http://www.aladdin.ie) for administrative purposes and Connect 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 or Aladdin Connect App .Aladdin Connect is a fantastic way to enhance a school's communication with parents.

If you have had difficulties in signing up for Aladdin Connect, or need the link to be sent to you again, please let Madge know by dropping in to the office or phoning the school on 065 6840088

Please check your contact details are correct-do we have the correct telephone number for you? Is your address correct? Have we an emergency contact number for somebody other than you, the parents? We only use this contact if we are unable to reach you. You must receive permission from your nominated emergency contact person, to (a) give us their number and (b) for us hold their phone number on our system.

**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.

**Football Training:** Football training for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class girls and boys will take place on Fri evenings in our school pitch between 2.40 p.m. and 3.40 p.m. This will continue until the Halloween break, weather permitting. You will be informed of any changes to the above days /times.

**Sport:** The following is a rough guide to the schedule of interschool competitions undertaken in the school for the year:

Sept:	Cross Country Running
Sept/Oct:	Boys and Girls Football
Oct:	Horse-riding
Jan/Feb:	Indoor Camogie and Indoor Hurling
Feb / March:	Basketball
March / April:	7 aside Hurling/Football and Camogie
May /June:	Hurling, Camogie, Golf and Swimming

Throughout the year classes may also get the opportunity to play inter school non-competitive blitzes in hurling /camogie and football

**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 **only**. **Please note that branded tracksuits are not allowed.**

#### **Literacy and Numeracy Initiatives for 2018/2019**

- LLO in senior infants, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Ready Set Go Maths in junior and senior infants
- Guided Reading in senior infants, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Accelerated Reading introduced in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> class
- STEAM ( Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) workshops being undertaken this year in classes 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> which we intend to spread to 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>
- Senior classes have entered the Intel Mini Scientist competition. Exhibition to take place in the school on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>

**Scratch:** Colm Mullen is currently running a Scratch programme with 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils after school. Scratch is a visual programming language and online community targeted primarily at children. Using Scratch, users can create online projects and develop them into almost anything by using a simple block-like interface. When they are ready, they then share, and also discuss their creations with each other. The service is designed to help children (ages 8 and up) learn to utilize their imaginations, practice common sense, and, most importantly, to interact with computers.

**Music Club:** Music Club has started up again for another year. All children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class are invited to bring along their instruments every Tuesday evening from 2.45 to 3.45. Children need to be able to play their instruments as this gathering is for playing music together rather than music lessons. We don't have time for individual tuition. We use the letter system i.e. ABCDEFG rather than reading music on the stave. So if your child would like to come along every Tuesday evening to play music together, we would be delighted to see them. There is along a ukulele class every second week on Wednesday at lunch time in 3<sup>rd</sup> class. If you have a ukulele gathering dust why not dust it off and bring it along!

**Swimming:** The following are the dates for the swimming sessions for the 2018-2019 school year.

**Swimming Wednesday 2pm-3pm for First Term; Mondays from 11 am-12 noon for second and third terms. Please Note: The time and day for swimming after Christmas is provisional. We will inform you of any changes to these times and dates.**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Class Group</b>
September 5 <sup>th</sup> 2018-October 10, 2018	Sixth Class
October 18 <sup>th</sup> 2018- November 28 <sup>th</sup> 2018	Fifth Class
December 5 <sup>th</sup> 2018- December 19 <sup>th</sup> 2018	Fourth Class

### **Swimming Monday 11am-12noon for Second and Third Terms (Provisional)**

January 7 <sup>th</sup> 2019 -January 21 <sup>st</sup> 2019	Fourth Class
January 28 <sup>th</sup> 2019 – March4 <sup>th</sup> 2019	Third Class
March 11 <sup>th</sup> 2019 – April 29 <sup>th</sup> 2019	Second Class
May 6 <sup>th</sup> 2019 - June 17 <sup>th</sup> 2019	First Class

The cost of swimming depends on the number in the class attending and also the cost of the bus. **Please note parents must collect the children from the pool between now and Christmas**

**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 Thurs Oct 25<sup>th</sup> from **10.00 a.m. – 12.30pm** 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](http://www.intelminiscientist.ie) and [www.primaryscience.ie](http://www.primaryscience.ie)

**Accelerated Reading:** Accelerated Reader (AR) is a whole-group reading management and monitoring programme that aims to foster the habit of independent reading among primary age pupils. The internet-based software initially screens pupils according to their reading levels, and suggests books that match their reading age and reading interest. Pupils take computerised quizzes on the books they have read and earn AR points related to difficulty. This initiative has already started in classes 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th and will extend to 5<sup>th</sup> class later in the term.

As we require a large number of books for the Accelerated Reader programme, we would be very grateful if parents checked any books they were disposing of, on the following link, <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> and if the books are part of the Accelerated Reader Programme, we would be delighted to receive them as donations.

**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:** Like last year the 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 2018/2019.

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 17th at 8p.m in Auburn Lodge**

**Meeting for Parents of Confirmation class Wed. Oct 24th at 8 p.m. in Auburn Lodge**

**Confirmation: Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Holy Communion: May 11<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**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.

**New Primary Language Training: School Closed Oct 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Presidential Election: School closed Oct 26<sup>th</sup>**

**(Halloween) School closed Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – Nov 5<sup>th</sup>**

**(Christmas) School closes on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Jan 7<sup>th</sup>**

**(February mid-term) Feb 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**St Patrick's Weekend- school closed Fri 15<sup>th</sup> & Mon March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**(Easter) School closes on April 12<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>**

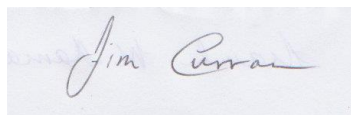
**(May Bank Holiday): School closed Bank Holiday Monday May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**(June Bank Holiday): School closed for a week- (June 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 10<sup>th</sup>)**

**Close for Summer holidays on Fri June 28<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**School Website:** Don't forget to visit the school website at [www.knockaneannationalschool.com](http://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,



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Jim Curran. (Principal)

**Please check Aladdin Connect that your contact details are correct.**

**Please find attached page re administration fees and Pupil Personal Accident Insurance. Please complete and return to class teacher by October 5<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

**Administration/.photocopying and Arts & Craft Fees for 2018-2019**

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 and return to the school. Cheques should be made payable to Knockanean National School*

*Pupils Name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Class* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pupil's Name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Class* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pupil's Name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Class* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pupil's Name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Class* \_\_\_\_\_

*Please tick appropriate boxes.*

*I do require Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Insurance at €7 per pupil.*

*I do NOT requires Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Insurance*

*I will be paying by ePayments*

*I enclose* \_\_\_\_\_

*Admin./Photocopying/Arts& Crafts fee*

*I enclose* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pupil Personal Accident Insurance*

*Total amount enclosed* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signed* \_\_\_\_\_ *Parent/Guardian* *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

