



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

Newsletter

September 29th 2020

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.

Covid 19: Once again can I thank you for your continued cooperation and patience with our return to school protocols. As a result of your support our first few weeks back have gone very smoothly and hopefully it will continue to do so. As mentioned in a message shortly after reopening, the pupils have been quite simply amazing and have followed all the guidelines and routines impeccably. We are extremely proud of them.

School Times: We have been advised by our insurer to inform you of the following- Due to Covid 19 arrangements, the school will open to receive pupils this year at 8.40 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.

Home school communications: All teachers will provide you with their school email this week. Should you wish to contact them/send in a sick note/explain an absence etc this must be done via email.

Appointments: All appointments with teachers are by phone call only for the foreseeable future. Appointments can be made by ringing the school or sending a message directly to the teacher by email.

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 by email** to your child's teacher is required, out-lining the commencement date, the return date and the reason for being absent. Please do not send in any written notes. Phone calls to the school or verbal messages to the teacher are not sufficient.

Sick Cert: If you have a sick cert from a doctor/hospital explaining your child's absence please take a photo of this cert and email it 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.

Cycling: We have noticed a huge increase in the number of pupils cycling to school this year, which is wonderful to see. We ask that pupils please wear a helmet at all times and be mindful of the traffic on the road. We also ask that motorists be mindful of those cycling and walking to school and exercise extreme caution and patience as you approach and leave the school

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 we cannot facilitate pupil staying in at break times this year as class bubbles are not allowed to mix. On wet days classes stay in their rooms as normal during break

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 email 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: If anyone does not wish to have their children photographed, it is your responsibility to please let us know by email.

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 by email.

E payments: The E payment system allows you to make secure payments to the school using your credit or debit card. The purpose of the E payment 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. E payments are through Aladdin and if you need further information on this system please contact the office. **All money collections this year will be enabled for E payments.**

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 driveway. A little patience on everybody's part can make all the difference. **The disabled parking space must be left free for use by pupils in the school.**

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.**

Initiatives for 2020/2021 school year:The following are the initiatives that will take place in the 2020/2021 school year. Due to strict government guidelines surrounding Covid 19, the format and the roll out of these initiatives may have to be altered or delayed as required

Literacy: Literacy Lift Off Senior Infants – 1st Class
Guided Reading Senior Infants -2nd Class
Accelerated Reading: 2nd – 6th Class
Literacy Stations - Junior infants – 6th as needed

Spellings: The following two programmes are being piloted this year
Spelling for me- 3rd classes
Words their way programme – 1st classes

Numeracy: Ready, Set, Go Maths –Stations in classrooms for Junior and Senior Infants
Station Teaching-6 week intervention blocks. In class or withdrawal. 1st -6th classes as needed

Aistear : Framework for Early Childhood Education- Teaching through play- Junior and Senior Infants.

We will also continue to embrace and implement the Primary Language Curriculum

Swimming/ After school activities: No swimming or after school activities will take place in school for the foreseeable future

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 will continue this year in classes 2nd - 6th. To log in to Accelerated Reading go to the school website knockaneannationalschool.com and select the AR icon.

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 €9 per pupil, which represents excellent value for money. E payments has been enabled for payment of same

Homework Diary: These custom made diaries can be now purchased from the class teacher at a cost of €3. E payments has been enabled for payment of same

Administration and Art and Crafts Charges

Following consultation between Board of Management and Parents Association we have decided to reduce our fees for this coming year due to Covid 19 and the possible family financial circumstances related to this

The following are the Art & Craft and Administration Fees for the year 2020/2021.

One child €30

Two children €45

Three or more children: €60

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

E payments has been enabled for payment of same

Cheques should be made payable to Knockanean National School

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

Dates for your Diary

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

Midterm break- School closes on Oct. 23rd - reopens on Nov 2nd

Christmas Holidays: school closes on Dec. 22nd - reopens on Jan 6th
Mid Term Break Feb: School closes February 12th – reopens on Feb 22nd (Week)
St Patrick’s Day: School closed March 17th
Easter Holidays: school closes on March 26th - reopens on April 12th
May Bank Holiday: School closes on April 30th –reopens May 10th (Week)
June Bank Holiday: School closed Mon June 7th
School closes for the Summer on June 30th 2021

School Website: Don’t forget to visit the school website at www.knockaneannationalschool.com.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Curran.

