



# Knockanean National School

Knockanean, Ennis, Co. Clare.

## Newsletter

September 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

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. The pupils have been quite simply amazing and have followed all the guidelines and routines impeccably. We are extremely proud of them as should you their parents.

**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 if they have not already done so. 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 moment. We will review this throughout the term. 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. If you do not use Aladdin Connect to update your child's absence, **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 was sent to you when your child enrolled or it 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, some cereal bars etc) into their children's lunch box.**

**Cycling:** Again this year, we have noticed large numbers of pupils cycling to school, 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 pupils 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 2021/2022 school year:** The following are the initiatives that will take place in the 2021/2022 school year. Due to 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 -2<sup>nd</sup> Class

Accelerated Reading: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class

Literacy Stations - Junior infants – 6<sup>th</sup> as needed

**Spellings:** The following two programmes continue to be rolled out this year

Spelling for me- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes

Words their way programme – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 -6<sup>th</sup> 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 at the moment, but will be reviewed throughout the term

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. To log in to Accelerated Reading go to the school website [knockaneannationalschool.com](http://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 €7 per pupil, which represents excellent value for money. 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 continue with the reduced 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 2021/2022.

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 May newsletter. These dates are available on the home page of our website. They are also listed below for your convenience.

**School opens** on Thurs August 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Midterm break-** School closes on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> - reopens on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>

**Christmas Holidays:** school closes on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> - reopens on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>

**Mid Term Break Feb:** School closes February 18<sup>th</sup> – reopens on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> (Week)

**St Patrick’s Day:** School closed March 17<sup>th</sup> & March 18<sup>th</sup>

**Easter Holidays:** school closes on April 8<sup>th</sup> - reopens on April 25<sup>th</sup>

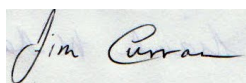
**May Bank Holiday:** School closed Mon May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**June Bank Holiday:** School closed Mon June 6<sup>th</sup>, Tue June 7<sup>th</sup> & Wed June 8<sup>th</sup>

**School closes** for the Summer on Tue June 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Curran". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

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Jim Curran.