



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

**February Newsletter 2022**

**11/2/2022**

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Carpark:** 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.

**R.S.E:** The RSE Programme will continue in all classes this term. RSE is part of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE). RSE provides children with structured opportunities to develop the knowledge, attitudes, values, beliefs and practical skills necessary to establish and sustain healthy personal relationships as children and, subsequently, as adults. RSE seeks to provide children with opportunities to acquire knowledge and understanding of relationships and human sexuality, through processes which will enable them to form values and establish behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework. Further information on the content of the R.S.E programme can be found under the parents section on our website and in a letter sent out yesterday.

**Active School Walkway:** A series of walkway signs have been put up around the school. The home base is at the oil tank and you follow the route around the ground. A map distributed to all teachers details where the signs are. At each station the idea is to do a number of fundamental movement skills, with the aim of increasing each pupil's level of exercise. Each teacher has been given an "Active School Walkway Ideas Booklet". This walkway not only increase pupil activity but it can also be used for such activities as Mapwork, Maths, Walk and Talk, Geography, Mindfulness, Orienteering etc

**Wellbeing week:** In the build-up to our Purple Ribbon Day for Cystic Fibrosis on February 18<sup>th</sup>, we will lead up to it with some Wellbeing/Mindful/Breathing activities and incorporate it into a Wellbeing week. The Active Schools committee have been busy planning this with activities distributed to all the classes for "Mindful Monday", "Valentine's Day" "Thoughtful Tuesday" "Wellbeing Wednesday" "Triumphant Thursday" and "Feel Good Friday"

**Assistant Principal 2 Post:** Following the retirement of John Corbett, Ms Tina Gavin has been appointed to the role of Assistant Principal Grade 2 in the school

**Stability Dog:** As mentioned in a previous letter outlining the need for this stability dog to come on the premises, I just want to let you know that Mario has started here since Monday last and all is going really well. Prior to him arriving I spoke to all classes last week and he has received a warm welcome! The pupils on the yard in the morning have been amazing, giving both Annie and Mario the space they need.

**Purple Ribbon Day:** At this time each year, we usually do a Pink Ribbon Day fundraiser, but this year we are having a Purple Ribbon Day in aid of Cystic Fibrosis on Friday Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be the last charity fundraiser of the current school year. All the proceeds of this fundraiser will go to the Cystic Fibrosis unit in University Hospital, Limerick.

We are suggesting a contribution of €3 but it is entirely discretionary how much, if anything, that you contribute. There is no obligation on any parent to make a donation.

The children can wear anything purple or lilac that they wish-for example a purple jersey, a ribbon, dress, a scarf a hair band or if they have none of the above, their purple uniform. E payments will be enabled for this collection and you can contribute from now until March 1st.

**Walking Bus:** As you are aware, we are getting our walking bus back on track .We meet at Fahy Hall, at 8.10 a.m., on Tuesday and Friday and leave from there at 8.20 a.m. sharp. This initiative is coinciding with The Big Travel Challenge which is happening all around Ireland in the month of February. The walking bus from the Creggaun side of Knockanean, will meet at Sinead Ryan's house (V95WN2D) at 8.25 a.m on Tuesday and Friday morning. Children from 1st class up are welcome to join. Younger children (anyone in Juniors and Seniors) must be accompanied by a parent.

**Green School Flag:** On Friday the 18th February, Senator Róisín Garvey will officially launch our travel flag which was awarded to the school in June 2021. Thanks to you our parents and your children, we proved how we could make a change.

**Covid 19:** Like all schools, we have experienced a number of positive Covid cases since our return in January. I just want to sincerely thank you for your continued support and the responsible manner in which you are helping us to keep the number of Covid cases as low as possible.

**HEPA filters:** We have installed these filters in all the classrooms. HEPA filters remove more than 99.9% of the particles from the air stream that passes through them. These particles can be allergens, viruses, bacteria, chemical compounds, dust and many more. Each room was measured by an engineer to ensure each HEPA filter is set to the correct level

#### **Sacrament Dates:**

##### 2nd classes Communion

Sat May 14th in the Church of Our Lady Roslevan at 11.00 a.m. for Tina/Aileen's class

Sat May 14th in the Church of Our Lady Roslevan at 1.00 p.m. for Michéle's class

##### First Confession:

Mon March 7th in the Church of Our Lady Roslevan at 7.00 p.m. for both classes

Enrolment Ceremony: Tue March 1st in the Church of Our Lady Roslevan at 7.00 p.m. for both classes

### **6th Class**

Confirmation: Fri May 13th at 12.00 noon in the Church of Our Lady Roslevan

Enrolment Ceremony: Mon Feb 28th at 7.00 pm in the Church of Our Lady Roslevan

**Building Update:** As mentioned in the Christmas newsletter the OPW report on revised costings was sent to the Department of Education for final approval. The OPW have since replied to more queries from the Department of Education. The OPW last responded on 20<sup>th</sup> January and we are still awaiting a response from the Department of Education

### **Sport:**

- Damien Burke is in every Tuesday as schools coach, taking classes in their bubbles. We have included infants and 1<sup>st</sup> class this term
- Basketball has started after school for 6<sup>th</sup> class on Friday evenings
- Swimming is back on March 7<sup>th</sup> for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. Each class will go separately to the pool
- We are hoping that restrictions on classes mixing are lifted soon so we can resume normal school activity including football/hurling/camogie training and possibly get to play some interschool's matches. Schools are awaiting approval from Cumann na mBunscol to do this

**Health and Safety:** A fire drill was conducted in all buildings on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

### **Policy Review:**

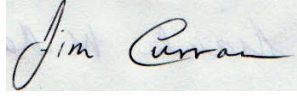
**Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment / Anti Bullying Audit:** The Board of Management wishes to inform you that its annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment and Anti Bullying Policy was completed at its meeting on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2022. This review was conducted in accordance with the checklists set out in the Department's "Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools" and "Anti- Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools". Notification of both of these reviews has been forwarded to the Parent's Association and to the patron.

**Job-sharing policy:** This policy was also reviewed at this meeting. It was agreed to maintain the existing policy, to be reviewed again in February 2024.

**Next BOM meeting:** Provisionally April 5<sup>th</sup> 2022

Have a good weekend

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 background.