



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

Newsletter

September 13th 2022

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: We have been advised that there are no new COVID-19 requirements for schools. The importance of good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, together with adequate ventilation and cleaning are emphasised and will continue to be important. If your child is presenting with symptoms please err on the side of caution and keep them at home

School Times: We have been advised by our insurer to inform you of the following- The school will open to receive pupils this year 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.

CCTV: Arising from the vandalism that occurred at the end of June, the Board of Management decided to install CCTV externally on the premises for the purpose of enhancing the security of the building. The CCTV system is in operation in the external environs of the premises during both the daylight and night hours each day. CCTV surveillance at the school is intended for the purposes of:

- protecting the school buildings and school assets, both during and after school hours;
- reducing the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour (including theft and vandalism);
- supporting the Gardaí in a bid to deter and detect crime;
- assisting in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders.

Say Yes to Languages: Towards the end of last year we applied to take part in a programme called “Say Yes to Languages”. We were successful in our application and as a result classes 4th, 5th & 6th will receive an hour of French lessons every week for 8 weeks. These lessons started on Monday Sept 5th . We have received funding for this programme so there is no cost to parents. The lessons will be delivered during the school day by Rachel Frawley.

Building: As of yet we have no timescale for the move to Gurteen or work to start on site here. The OPW are conducting a site visit here next week and we’re hoping that we might get some indication after that visit. As soon as we are informed we will let the school community know.

Wellness: The following two initiatives are currently underway in the school as part of our overall plan for pupil wellbeing

- **Feeling Good In Body And Mind: Your Way To Well-Being:** This 3-session in-class webinar series for 4th to 6th class students aims to give children the opportunity to reflect on their well-being and resilience, as well as providing them with some practical ideas to enhance their own well-being and mental health for the year ahead. These webinars started last week and will continue for the next two Tuesdays
- **Nutrition is our mission:** Each webinar in the series is approximately 30 minutes long and will be done in classes 2nd-6th .
 - Webinar 1: Fuel for School - In this first webinar of the “Nutrition is our Mission” series, children will learn how to choose healthy and nutritious foods to best fuel their brains and bodies for a day in school. We will discuss the sugar content of different foods and gain an understanding of the sugar rollercoaster which certain foods may put us on. Healthy options for breakfast and break times will be suggested.
 - Webinar 2: Eat the Rainbow...Mindfully: The second webinar of the “Nutrition is our Mission” series aims to encourage children of all ages to improve and support their overall nutrition by including a wide variety of colourful foods in their

lunchboxes. Children will have a chance to investigate the contents of their own lunchboxes and discuss the nutritional benefits of different coloured food, while also engaging with a simple mindful eating exercise, allowing them to become fully present and pay attention to what they are eating.

- Webinar 3: Support your Sport - The third and final webinar of the “Nutrition is our Mission” series aims to highlight the benefits of a healthy and balanced diet in helping to support sporting performance and recovery. Pupils will have a chance to hear from some stars of the sporting world about what they eat and drink to help fuel their performance during games or events.

Staff: Joyce Purcell will be leaving us at Christmas. We wish Joyce all the best in the next chapter of her life and thank her for her years of service to teaching in Knockanean. We hope that many exciting adventures lay ahead for you.

Edel Griffin will be going on maternity leave on Oct 3rd and we wish Edel all the best over the coming weeks. A replacement teacher has yet to be appointed.

Home school communications: All teachers have provided you with their school email. Should you wish to contact them/send in a sick note/explain an absence etc this must be done via email or through Aladdin .

Appointments: 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. **Please note you can update pupil absences yourself on Aladdin Connect.** 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 on your child enrolment or 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 child's lunch box.

Birthday treats: As mentioned above due to the high number of children in classes with various allergies we ask that you do not send in cakes/treats etc for your child's birthday

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: Break times are as follows:

Sos: 11.00- 11.10 a.m. All classes

Lunch: 12.20 pm – 12.50 pm Infants- 2nd

1.00p.m. – 1.30.p.m 3rd – 6th

On wet days classes stay in their rooms as normal during break and are supervised by the teachers on yard duty. If your child is sick please keep them at home as we cannot facilitate them staying in classrooms during break times.

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 2022/2023 school year: The following are the initiatives that will take place in the 2022/2023 school year.

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 programme continues to be rolled out this year
Spelling for me- 3rd, 4th & 5th 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.

Wellbeing: Weaving Wellbeing is being piloted in 3rd and 5th classes

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

Swimming: Swimming will take place this year for all classes from 1st – 6th in Shannon .
You will be notified in advance of when your child's class will be going

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 €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 the on-going increases in the cost of living and the possible family financial circumstances related to this

The following are the Art & Craft and Administration Fees for the year 2022/2023.

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

School calendar for 2022/2023

School opens on Monday August 29th 2022

Midterm break- School closes on Oct. 28th - reopens on Nov 7th

Christmas Holidays: school closes on Dec. 21st - reopens on Jan 5th

Feb Bank Holiday: School closed Fri Feb 3rd & Mon Feb 6th

Mid Term Break Feb: School closed Thurs Feb 16th & Fri Feb 17th

St Patrick's Weekend: School closed Thurs March 16th & Fri March 17th

Easter Holidays: school closes on March 31st - reopens on April 17th

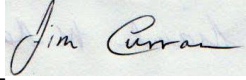
May Bank Holiday: School closed Mon May 1st & Tue May 2nd

June Bank Holiday: School closes Fri June 2nd –reopens Mon June 12th (Week)

Summer Holidays: School closes on Fri June 30th 2023

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

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Curran".

Jim Curran.