



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

Newsletter

September 20th 2023

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 Louise Conheady and Cillian Rouine , who will be with us for the year .

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.

CCTV: As you are aware we have CCTV on the school premises. 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 French lessons once per week, for a total of 8 weeks. This will take place in the third term . 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.

Music Club/ Choir: Music club has started up again for this year. It will be on every Tuesday from 2.45 to 3.45. Children from 1st class up who can already play an instrument are more than welcome. Please note it is not a beginners class. Children need to be able to play their instrument. In the music club they play a mixture of traditional and popular music. It is an opportunity for the children to play together as a group, have fun and learn a few tunes along the way..

Sport: Boys and girls football training has already started back. Competitions will commence in the next two weeks. Cross country running will take place on Thurs September 28th

Morning Club: This service is run by teachers in the school. It runs 5 days a week, Monday-Friday from 7.45am- 8.45am. Parents can drop off their child/children anytime from 7.45am. During Morning Club, children will play together, read, colour, finish homework, do arts and crafts and play board games. We do not provide breakfast but you are welcome to give your child/children a snack to eat whilst they are at Morning Club (no foods containing nuts or kiwis please). If you would like your child/children to join Morning Club this year, please reply to the following email address sinead.flaherty@knockaneannationalschool.com.

Homework Club. This is a service run by the teachers in the school. It runs 4 days a week from Monday to Thursday. Homework Club finishing time has been extended to 4pm this year. During Homework Club, the children will do their homework and the teachers will assist them with any part of the work that needs help. If the children are finished their homework, other activities will be provided for the children such as reading, art, colouring, sports, board games etc. If you are interested in your child doing Homework Club this year, you can reply to the following email address.knockaneanhomeworkclub@gmail.com

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 you 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 and kiwi fruit, we ask parents to refrain from putting kiwi fruit, nuts or products containing nuts (such as chocolate spreads of any kind; peanut butter, some cereal bars etc) into their child's lunch box.

For those pupils with EpiPens, could you please send in **two** Epipens to your child's class teacher.

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 navy trousers/tracksuit pants/skirt. **Please note that branded tracksuits are not allowed.**

Initiatives for 2023/2024 school year: The following are the initiatives that will take place in the 2023/2024 school year.

Literacy: Literacy Power Hour: First Class

Guided Reading: First Class

Accelerated Reading: 2nd – 6th Classes

Literacy Stations - Junior infants – 6th as needed

Reading Buddies (6th Classes and Infant Classes)

Spellings: The following programme continues to be rolled out this year

Words Their Way: First and Second Classes

Spelling for me- 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes

Numeracy: Ready, Set, Go Maths –Stations in classrooms for Junior and Senior Infants

Station Teaching: In class or small group withdrawal. 1st -6th classes as needed

Science & Technology: Coding Buddies (6th Classes and First Class)

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) S.T.E.A.M: Sustained Support for school Year 23/24

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

Wellbeing: Weaving Wellbeing: 3rd, 4th and 5th classes

Primary Language Curriculum: P.L.C: Sustained Support for Staff with PDST

Revised Maths Curriculum: In school and Education Centre Training for implementation of same

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. 6th class are starting this week

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.

Wellness Over the course of this year we hope to engage in the School Self Evaluation process to introduce and implement the School Wellbeing Framework. Parents and pupils will be surveyed to investigate their opinions on wellbeing in the school and responses to this data will help us to identify our focus targets for our School Improvement Plan.

Children's Well-Being This year the staff will receive in-service from the author of Weaving Well-Being Fiona Forman. Weaving Well-Being is the first Irish designed positive

mental health programme of its kind which aims to enhance well-being in children. This Positive Education programme consists of 10 lessons for each class level and is grounded in evidence-based interventions from the rapidly expanding field of Positive Psychology. Positive Psychology is the science of well-being. It is underpinned by the concept that a state of well-being is not simply the absence of the negative, but the presence of the positive.

Weaving Well-Being gives children the opportunity to weave positivity into their daily lives through a range of activities in a variety of areas. These areas include identifying and using their authentic character strengths, boosting positive emotions, developing and nurturing positive relationships and connections, building practical resilience skills (including mindfulness) and developing self-efficacy through empowering beliefs.

The lessons are designed to be implemented within the framework of the S.P.H.E curriculum.

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 €8 per pupil, which represents excellent value for money. E payments has been enabled for payment of same

Administration /Art and Crafts Charges

The Board of Management have decided to continue with the reduced prices 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 costs for the year 2023/2024.

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 for any school related activity , please do not hesitate to contact the Principal. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

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 2023/2024

Midterm break- School closes on Oct. 27th - reopens on Nov 6th

Christmas Holidays: school closes on Dec. 22 - reopens on Jan 8th

Feb Bank Holiday: School closed Fri Feb 2nd & Mon Feb 5th

Mid Term Break Feb: School closed Thurs Feb 15th & Fri Feb 16th

St Patrick's Weekend: School closed Mon March 18th

Easter Holidays: school closes on March 22nd - reopens on April 8th

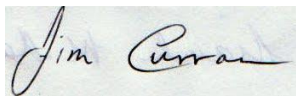
May Bank Holiday: School closed Mon May 6th, Tue May 7th & Wed May 8th

June Bank Holiday: School closed Mon June 3rd, Tue June 4th & Wed June 5th

Summer Holidays: School closes on Fri June 28th 2024

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Curran". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Jim Curran.