



Knocknagree Mallow Co Cork

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25<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents,

Following our school blog at [www.knocknagreens.ie](http://www.knocknagreens.ie) or our Instagram page will help ensure you are up to date with all our school news. Simply click on the latest post and you can easily scroll through the posts. All newsletters are available on the website under the parent's info. tab. Each family will also receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

### **DROP OFF AND COLLECTION ROUTINES**

School begins at 9.15am. We ask that children are dropped off no sooner than 9.05am. School finishes at 2.55pm (1.55pm for Junior and Senior infants). The school authority will not be responsible for the children on school grounds outside of these times. Parents/Guardians are asked to collect children from the school gate. Children will not be allowed to leave the school grounds without an adult. Please ensure there is space for the bus.

### **PARENTS WHO NEED TO COME INTO SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON**

If you need to meet a teacher at any time, please make an appointment by emailing the teacher or ringing the school beforehand. Please note, you can contact individual teachers through their individual school email or by using the contact form on the website. All contact details are available on the website.

### **ALADDIN SCHOOL APP**

**It has come to our attention that some parents are not checking their app. Please ensure your app is updated and you check it on a daily basis.**

### **NEW DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

We wish to congratulate Ms. Anne Marie Keane who has been appointed to the role of deputy principal.

### **ATTENDANCE**

If your child has to leave school for part of the day, please send a note informing the class teacher of his /her absence. Children must be signed out by who ever is collecting them if they leave for part of the day. Again, if the child is returning the child has to be signed in. Absence notes must be submitted for all absences when the child returns to school.

### **AGREE TO AGREE (SMART PHONES)**

Knocknagree N.S. is part of a pilot scheme with other schools in Kerry this year. Dr. Maureen Griffin will guide school communities through a collaborative process aimed at implementing positive change, fostering agreement and understanding among school stakeholders in order to establish a new norm for children's use of interned enabled devices. After Christmas The Parent Association will send a questionnaire to parents regarding this topic. See link to webinar for parents on Aladdin.

## **HEALTHY LUNCHES AND FOOD ALLERGIES**

We encourage a healthy lunch. Chewing gum, fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets and crisps are not allowed. We have pupils in the school who have nut allergy. We ask parents and children to be vigilant as some products contain nuts. If your child has an allergy please inform the school.

## **LEE STRAND**

Children are now receiving milk from Lee Strand Dairy. Ten Lee Strand tokens are required for children to receive a free homework journal next year. As you collect the tokens you can send them into school with your child.

## **AMBER FLAG**

Knocknagree National School is proud to embark on the Amber Flag initiative, a program dedicated to promoting positive mental health and well-being within our school community. As part of this effort, we will establish an Amber Flag Committee to guide our work and ensure everyone has a voice in shaping our activities. Together, we will set three key mental health awareness goals and engage in a variety of fun and meaningful well-being activities throughout the year. To build on our progress, we will also carry out an audit of existing efforts to foster positive mental health, identifying strengths and areas for growth. Through this initiative, we aim to create a supportive and inclusive environment where every student feels valued, understood, and empowered.



## **GREEN FLAG**

We are delighted to welcome three new members to our Green Flag Committee this year, Mary-Jane Murphy in 3<sup>rd</sup> class, Grace Donnelly and Donnacha Rahilly from 2<sup>nd</sup> class. We have begun working towards achieving our next flag for the theme of **Travel** which will be ongoing for the next two years. We have had two visits from the An Taisce 'Travel officer' Catherine Russell so far, on the 14<sup>th</sup> October and the 19<sup>th</sup> November. In her first visit she helped the committee members organise and carry out a "Travel survey" in all classrooms and in the second visit the committee undertook a "Walkability Survey" with her as far as the church carpark.



This week is "Clean Air Week" from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of November and we are doing various activities/lessons to raise awareness about the importance of clean air for our health and the causes and effects of air pollution, some interesting science facts about car idling as well as some fun colouring activities for the younger classes.

## **CURIOUS MINDS**

We have been busy since our last newsletter. We celebrated Maths Week in October. All classes carried out extra maths activities during that week and we had a whole school maths trail around the school grounds.

We celebrated Science Week in November. All classes attended a virtual science show at the start of the week. All classes carried out four experiments over the week. Some classes attended a virtual "Meet the Scientist" webinar where they explored- How can a concert create a mini earthquake? in greater detail. We will hold a "Show & Tell" event in December where each class will show the other classes their favourite experiment from Science Week.

Each classroom participated in experiments during science week. Each classroom covered the four stands of the science curriculum with an experiment conducted over 4 days of the week. The pupils enjoyed all the hands on activities throughout the week.

## **SWIMMING LESSONS**

Swimming lessons began on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November, it is great to see so many pupils participating in the lessons. Aquatics is a strand in the Irish Primary school curriculum and we encourage all children to participate in swimming lessons as it is an important life skill and they will be engaging in the PAWS programme where there is a focus on water safety. Please note this is different to swim lessons outside of school organised by swim Ireland. If pupils opt out, this will increase cost for everyone else and it may no longer be feasible for children to go swimming from school.

## **ONSIE DAY**

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November the children took part in a onsie day, where they wore their pyjamas to school and contributed to supporting children living with type 1 diabetes. The children raised a total of €393.80.

## **PARENT TEACHER/STAFF MEETINGS**

Staff meeting will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> School will finish at 1.55pm. The bus will run at these times also.

## **CHRISTMAS OUTING**

Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will be treated to a trip to The Everyman Theatre on 4<sup>th</sup> December .to see Red Riding Hood. On the same day the children in the junior will visit Santa in Tralee Bay Wetlands. This has been funded mainly by the former Parent Association. However, the children will have to pay a minimum amount. A link will be sent via Aladdin before the end of this week.

## **CHRISTMAS PLAY**

The pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> will put on a performance of NO ONE WRAPS LIKE AN ELF, while the Infant classes will sing some carols in the community centre on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Everyone is invited.

## **BAKE SALE**

We will have a bake sale on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We ask all families to bring in some baked goods. The bake sale will take place in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class room. Parents, grandparents and members of the community are welcome to visit our bake sale between 10am and 11am. Pupils in all classes will get the opportunity to visit the sale during the day. Children will need some money if they wish to purchase some tasty treats. Monies raises from the sale will be used to part fund Lego workshops, science workshops and Gymnastics.

## **GYMNASTICS**

Gymnastics will begin on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March for 6 weeks.

### Local St Vincent de Paul Food appeal

We will have a box in our school until 5<sup>th</sup> December where the children can bring in food items for St. Vincent de Paul collection. The following is a list of acceptable items. (Please ensure all food items are non-perishable) Tea, sugar, breakfast cereal, jam, marmalade, drinking chocolate, cocoa, soup, (tinned or packet) pasta, rice, ketchup, sauces, pasta, rice, sauce, jelly, custard, cornflour, bisto, tinned fruit/vegetable, tinned fish, beans, soft, drinks diluted drinks, Christmas cake/pudding, selection boxes, chocolate, mince pies, crisps, popcorn sweets. Non-food items Kitchen paper toilet paper toothbrushes toothpaste soap washing powder washing up liquid.

As it's the season of good will, the staff of Knocknagree National School have agreed that the children should not give any staff members presents of any sort but maybe give a donation to charity.

School will close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

To finish off I would like to wish you and your families a happy & peaceful Christmas, looking forward to seeing everyone happy healthy and well on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.