



**September 2024**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our students. We hope you all enjoyed a happy and restful summer. This year nine children started in Junior Infants We welcome Diana, Jacob, Eimear, Ellie, Kayla, Rosie, Daniel, Ella & Shay. We wish them every success and hope their time here will be happy and filled with good memories.

### **NEW STAFF**

Ms. Éabha Ní Cathasaigh will replace Ms. Karen O Sullivan who is out on maternity leave.

Congratulations to Ms. O'Sullivan who had a baby girl last week.

Mr. Liam Twomey will teach EAL for the next year.

Mrs. Carmel Murphy has taken up position of SNA

### **SMART PHONES - AGREE TO AGREE**

Knocknagree N.S. will be 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 internet enabled devices. There will be 2 meetings in 2024 and 3 in 2025. They will take place at a time yet to be arranged. If interested in taking part please inform the school. We will be asking for a representative from the parents to attend these meetings.

### **PUPIL PERSONAL ACCIDENT**

This year the pupil personal accident insurance is part of the photocopying/arts & crafts contribution which all families pay at the beginning of the school year.

### **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 2.55 pm (1.55 for Junior and Senior Infants). The school authority will not be responsible for the children on the school grounds outside of these times. Children are not allowed to leave the school grounds unless an adult is there to collect them.

### **PARENTS WHO NEED TO COME INTO THE 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 our website. All contact details are available on the website.

### **PARENT CONTACT**

It is imperative that parents do not send children to school if they are showing symptoms of any illness whatsoever. Any child who is sick will have to be sent home immediately as there are still regular positive cases of Covid-19 in the community. It is vital that parents/guardians are contactable at all times throughout the school day in case of children becoming ill.

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS, TEL, NO**

If any of your child/children's details have changed e.g. address, contact details, illness, etc. please contact the school as soon as possible. Thank You.

**MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS** We have a facility for texting parents. This is very important now that we have set up the **E-Payment system**. If you have not received any text message from Knocknagree N.S. please let us know. The text automatically goes to the listed mobile phone numbers.

### **E-PAYMENT SYSTEM /CONNECT**

The e-payment system is up and running. We thank all parents who have paid for Photocopying Arts/Crafts and Book Rental so far this year. We have started using Aladdin Connect for sending notes home and to allow parents to add absences for their children. Last week a permission form was sent on connect, any parent who has not yet replied please do so as soon as possible.

### **UNIFORM**

Our normal school crested jumper/half zippie is required. Plain navy unbranded tracksuit / shorts and a blue polo shirt. Children can occasionally mislay their jumpers, and jackets during the school day. Please ensure that jumpers, cardigans and jackets are marked with child's name.

### **.ATTENDANCE**

*If your child has to leave school for part of the day, please update the school on the Aladdin app informing the class teacher of his/her absence. Children must be signed out by whoever is collecting them, if they leave for part of the day they must be signed back in when they return. All Absences must be accounted for.*

### **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 with nut allergies. It is very important that pupils do not bring items to school that contain nuts. We ask parents and children to be vigilant as some products contain traces of nuts. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.*

## SCHOOL LOTTO

The school lotto continues to run on a weekly basis. This enable the school to raise much needed funds. By joining the school lotto you are helping your child and the school to obtain more benefits. You can contribute €2.50 for one line or €5.00 for three lines. The lotto can be accessed on

<http://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/knocknagreens>

## PARENTS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication of our Parents' association over the last two years. Your contributions, whether through organizing events, volunteering, or fundraising, have made a significant impact on our students and school environment. Their partnership is truly valued, and we were incredibly fortunate to have such a committed group of parents helping to enrich the educational experience for all. Thank you for the hard work and generosity! A new Parents Association will take over at the end of September. The new Parents Association consists of Carmel Hickey Kate Forde, Angela Dennehy, Maura Cronin & Jeremiah Moynihan.

## LEE STRAND

A big thank you to all the parents who collected Lee Strand tokens. We got 60 FREE HOMEWORK JOURNALS. Tokens are required for each homework journal. It is a whole school effort and we are asking you to start collecting the tokens from the 1 litre or 2 litre Lee Strand Milk. As you collect the tokens you can send them in with your child/children

## LIBRARY

The Mobile Library will visit our school every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. It will visit again on the 1<sup>st</sup> October All classes can avail of this service. Please complete and send in the green registration card so your child can visit the mobile library. We encourage parents to visit their local library as often as possible with their children. Visiting the Library will help in encouraging your children to read.

*"The more that you read,  
The more things you will know.  
The more that you learn.  
The more places you will go."*

Dr Seuss

## INITIATIVES



### GREEN FLAG

We raised our Green flag for the theme of "Water" in June.

All members of the Green Flag committee received a blue sports bag and blue water bottle from "An Taisce Green School's water team". They informed us that our school was among the top schools in the country when working on the Water flag and they were awarding these resources in recognition for outstanding work carried out. Congratulations to all the committee members for their dedication.



We would like to wish two of our members Killian Moynihan and Kate Rahilly all the best as they start their next chapter in secondary school. In the coming weeks we will be recruiting new members to the Green School's Committee and beginning work towards our third Green Flag which will be based on the theme of "TRAVEL".

### AMBER FLAG

'We are excited to announce that a new Amber Flag Committee will be selected this year! The Amber Flag initiative promotes positive mental health and well-being in schools, and our committee will work together to organize activities and events that foster a supportive environment for all. Mr. Doyle will oversee everything related to the Amber Flag this year and we aim to achieve our Amber Flag by the end of the school year. With the help of our dedicated students, staff, and community, we are confident we can reach this important goal.

### BLUE STAR PROGRAMME

This year fifth and sixth class will continue to engage in the Blue Star initiative. This is an excellent initiative which encourages primary school pupils around the country to get creative in how they learn and think about Europe through the Blue Star Programme!

The Blue Star Programme teaches primary school pupils about European cultures and the EU through creative activities and projects which complement the national primary curriculum.

## JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will also take part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme this year. The Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP) has given more than 112,000 primary school pupils on the island of Ireland the opportunity to experience practical, real-life business learning as part of their formative education.

Running over a 12 to 16 week period during the school year, JEP nurtures creativity, independence and problem-solving among pupils of all abilities, with every aspect of the Programme seamlessly blending into the primary school curriculum.

Under their teacher Ms. O' Connell, and with the inspiration of local entrepreneurs, the pupils will discover their strengths as individuals and as part of a team. Together, they'll choose, invest in and produce their own product or service from scratch, all the way to making it available for sale at a school-hosted JEP Showcase Day - and enjoying the profits at the end.

## SAY YES TO LANGUAGES

We are delighted to inform you that once again we have been successful in our application to the "Say Yes To Languages" programme. Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> will have a class for a period of 8 hours over 8 weeks.

## CURIOUS MINDS

This year, we are continuing the Curious Minds Initiative in the school. We successfully achieved the silver award last year, so we are working towards the gold award this year. The pupils will participate in various STEM activities throughout the school year and continue to develop their skills across the following areas: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

## SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

This year as part of our self- evaluation, we are focussing on setting up digital portfolios for the younger classes and we are encouraging self and peer assessment techniques in all classes. Digital portfolios offer children a dynamic way to showcase their learning progress and achievements, encouraging self-reflection and goal setting. They also enhance self and peer assessment by enabling students to track their own growth and provide feedback on peers' work, fostering collaboration and critical thinking.

## **NON UNIFORM DAY**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September the school will have a non-uniform day. This is a fundraiser for past pupil Kate Fleming who is travelling to Africa with Team Hope doing voluntary work.

## **HALLOWEEN DRESS UP**

The children can participate in a dress up for Halloween on the day of the mid term break Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

## **SHOE BOX APPEAL**

School will participate in Team Hope Shoebox Appeal again this year. Boxes must ready by 5<sup>th</sup> November. (Tuesday after midterm)

## **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS**

Parent teacher meeting will take place on the week of 25<sup>th</sup> November. PT meetings will be scheduled on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of November, school will close at 1.55pm on this day. However, we are happy to accommodate parents who may not be able to make the specified days and we will be available from 8:30am on the mornings of that week also.

## **SWIMMING LESSONS**

Every child from Junior infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class will have the opportunity to go swimming. Swimming will begin on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December inclusive.

## **LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**

Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will travel to the Everyman Theatre Cork to see "Little Red Riding Hood" Juniors & Seniors will travel to Siamsa Tíre to see their Christmas panto on a date yet to be confirmed. These events will be part funded by the Parent Association.

## **CHRISTMAS**

We are also hoping to organise a simple Christmas play/show where children can show off their many talents and abilities. This will hopefully be held in the hall. You will be notified with more information nearer the time.

## **FIRST COMMUNION DATE**

Enrolment Ceremony for First Communion children will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm. First Communion will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am. We encourage pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class to attend and to sing as part of our school choir on both occasions.

First Penance for First Communion children will take place in February 26<sup>th</sup> during school hours.

## LISA'S LITTLE LIONS

Children can avail of breakfast club in the school which begins at 7.30 every morning. Afterschool service is also available five days a week until 6pm for those wishing to attend. Please contact Lisa for further information.

## SNA APPRECIATION DAY

Be part of the first national SNA appreciation day on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Our special needs assistants make our school special. Every day in schools across Ireland staff show up to support students. SNA appreciation day is a way to highlight that support and celebrate the solidarity at the heart of school communities. This year Fórsa is launching a first ever Nations Special Needs Assistants Appreciation Day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. To celebrate a competition is being run. **WIN UP TO €1000 FOR YOUR SCHOOL. Any staff member of PARENT can enter and the more entries from your school the better the chance of winning!**

To enter the competition and thank our SNA's

Scan and submit.

School roll number 18549D

4 SNA's in our school.

## DATES TO REMEMBER 2024-2025

25 <sup>th</sup> September	Closed New Maths curriculum training
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct - 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Closed midterm
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Parent teacher meetings (School finishes @1.55pm)
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Red Riding Hood Everyman Theatre (1 <sup>st</sup> class up) Junior & Seniors Christmas outing (date to be agreed).
23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec - 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Closed Christmas Holidays
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Closed Bank Holiday
20 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb.	Closed Mid Term
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Staff meeting (School finishes @ 1.55pm)
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Closed Bank Holiday
14 <sup>th</sup> April-25 <sup>th</sup> April	Closed Easter Holidays
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Staff meeting (School finishes @ 1.55pm)
17 <sup>th</sup> May	First Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Bank Holiday
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Closing at midday for Summer Holidays



**FÓRSA**

# #ThankOurSNAs

Be part of the first National  
**SNA Appreciation Day**  
Thursday 26th September



## Special Needs Assistants make our schools special

This year Fórsa's Education Division is launching the first ever National Special Needs Assistants Appreciation Day on Thursday September 26th 2024. To celebrate we're running a competition.

## Win up to €1,000 for your school

**One lucky SNA will also win a voucher for €1000\***

Any school staff member and parent can enter, and the more entries from your school the better chance you have of winning!



Scan here to take part.



Scan here to join Fórsa.

\*Only SNA members of Fórsa are eligible to enter the SNA competition. Don't worry if you're not a member yet, to be in with a chance to win, join by 20th September.

## Join Fórsa today!

