

Kilcummin N.S. Scoil Náisiúnta,

Kilcummin, Cill Chuimín, Killarmey, Cill Airne,

Co. Kerry. Co. Chiarraí.

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**NEWSLETTER November 2021**

**Upcoming School Closings:**

School will be closed on Wednesday, 8th December 2021- Feast of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day.

**Sacraments 2021:**

A reminder that Confirmation will take place on Tuesday, 22nd March 2022, for our Sixth Class pupils, and First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 28th May 2022, for our Second Class pupils.

**Parent-Teacher Meetings:**

Following the publication of the Supporting Collaboration with Parents in Primary School last year, the Department of Education has granted permission for Parent-Teacher meetings to proceed using video conferencing and phone calls in place of face-to-face meetings this year. Parent Teacher meetings were scheduled to take place on Thursday, 25th November. However, with large class sizes, and in an effort to give reasonable consultation time for each parent, it was necessary to schedule appointment times during the school days around this date. Please contact your child’s class teacher if you have not yet had a meeting with your child’s teacher and we will organise same. Thank you all for your support with the Parent-Teacher meeting this year.

**COVID-19 symptoms/ Contagious/ Infectious Illnesses/ Rashes/ Head Lice:**

If your child has any COVID-19 symptoms or a contagious/ infectious illness (including head lice), please notify the school immediately. Please ensure that children are not sent to school if they are unwell. It is advisable to contact your GP for advice and follow all HPSC isolation guidelines. Please see link below for parent-focused public health advice about COVID-19 symptoms.   
https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#health-advice-for-parents

Please check out our school website if you require a copy of our Covid-19 Response Plan. If your child has experienced any reaction to the school hand sanitiser, please email your child’s teacher immediately. We would like to take this opportunity to commend all our students for their ongoing commitment to adhering to our Covid-19 procedures in school. Well done to all the boys and girls.

**Parents’ Association Chritsmas Events:**

Thanks to our Parents’ Association committee members, Mr. Derek O’ Leary, Chairperson, Mrs. Geraldine O’ Halloran, Secretary, and Ms. Claire Troth, Treasurer, and our P.A. Class Representatives for your hard work and help to the school. Thank you all for supporting the PA initiatives so generously. We look forward to receiving the PA calendars (thanks to the wonderful photography skills of Sinéad and Pádraig O’ Connor). Please note that the Christmas cards, designed by our talented pupils in Kilcummin N.S., have been distributed, so please contact your child’s teacher if you have not yet received your cards. Calendar order forms will be distributed shortly. A special word of thanks to Sinéad and Pádraig O’ Connor for capturing our class photographs. We are grateful to you both- mile buíochas! Another special word of thanks to our PA Chairperson, Derek O’ Leary, for providing the school with recording equipment, which is being used currently to record our class Christmas performances. Our virtual **Christmas concert DVD** will be available for sale shortly. A quick reminder regarding some upcoming PA activities: Our **Christmas Memory Tree** will be lit at Our Lady of Lourdes Church again this year from 13th December 2021 until 6th January 2022. Light a light to remember a loved one on this year’s Christmas Memory Tree. Forms are available at the Post Office and will be available from school shortly. In a huge effort to spread some Christmas cheer, our PA will be holding a **Christmas Jumper** day on Wednesday, 22nd December- children are kindly asked to make a €2 donation and our PA will raffle a festive goodie bag for each class. Our PA will also holding a Christmas Hamper draw also. Buy a line (€2 for one line or €5 for 3 lines for Christmas Hamper worth €100- €1 per line for children’s hamper) to enter the draw. Thanks again to our Parents’ Association and to you all for your generous support.

**Food Dudes:**

Kilcummin N.S. is participating in the Food Dudes Healthy Eating, which aims to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables. The Department of Health recommends that children (and adults) eat 5 - 7 portions of fruit and vegetables each day. However, many children currently eat less than this. The programme is managed in Ireland by Bord Bia and receives financial support from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the European Union through the School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. Fruit and vegetables will be delivered to the school for 5 days, starting on 29th November. Please check your emails for the consent letter. Please do not hesitate to inform your child’s teacher, if for any reason you do not want your child to take part (e.g. if they are allergic to a certain type of fruit or vegetables).

**School Christmas Concert:**

Please note that our face to face annual Christmas performance will not be possible this year unfortunately, but we look forward to celebrating this gathering again, when it will be safe to do so. In the interim, we are busy preparing and recording class performances for you to enjoy. Thanks to all the staff and pupils for their hard work in preparing performances. Thanks also to Mr. Kelliher for recording and accompanying the performances. Thanks to our Parents’ Association for their help with this. DVD of our virtual Christmas performances will be available shortly. Further details will follow from the Parents’ Association.

**M.S. Readathon:**

Well done to all the children who are taking part in the M.S. Readathon this year. Thanks to all who have sponsored our readers this month. Please note that the Readathon will finish at the end of November, when sponsorship money will be donated to the M.S. Ireland Society on behalf of the pupils of Kilcummin N.S. Pupils are asked to return any further sponsorship cards and money collected for the M.S. Ireland Society to the school. Well done and keep up the great reading!

**Christmas Shoe Box Appeal:**

Well done to all who prepared Christmas Shoe boxes for Team Hope. This is an excellent initiative and has yet again highlighted the wonderful spirit of generosity within our school community. Thanks to our SNAs Teresa and Jennifer for delivering almost 50 Christmas Shoe Boxes to the collection point at the Killarney Advertiser office prior to the Halloween break. Go raibh mile maith agaibh go léir!

**Football Training:**

Thanks also to our football trainer, Mr. Vince Cooper for his time and commitment to sport in Kilcummin N.S. We are delighted that Vince can be with us. Our training sessions are ongoing in the school as part of our P.E. programme.

**Debating Competition:**

Congratulations to the Sixth Class pupils who recently represented Kilcummin N.S in the Concern Primary Debating Competition. It was a great opportunity for the team and they did themselves and the school proud. We are delighted with their win. The team members were Niamh Bowler, Sophie Carroll, Colm Fleming, Emma Houlihan, Rebecca Murphy, Sadbh O’ Halloran, Grace O’ Sullivan, Comhghairdeas leo! Thanks to Mr. Murphy for entering this exciting competition. Thanks also to Mr. Kelliher for his technical expertise and to SNA Margaret Nagle O’ Neill and Mr. Mannix for their help. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

**Croke Park Hours:**

The teachers in Kilcummin N.S. have been completing Croke Park hours. During the month of November, we have been planning upcoming Parent-Teacher meetings. Staff members have updated their Children First Tulsa e-learning training, as part of our Child Protection policy. Staff members have also attended a diabetes webinar..

Le gach dea ghuí,

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Gillian Sheehan,

Principal & Staff