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NEWSLETTER November 2020

Upcoming School Closings:

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

Sacraments 2021:

A reminder that Confirmation will take place on Friday, 26th February 2021, for our current Sixth Class pupils and First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 17th April 2021, for our current Second Class pupils. We are awaiting dates for last year's postponed Confirmation and Communion and will keep you updated as soon as we receive any further information.

Parent-Teacher Meetings:

Following the publication of the Supporting Collaboration with Parents in Primary School, 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, 26th 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 have any of the following symptoms: a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more, a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell or shortness of breath. If a child has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, living with someone who is unwell and may have COVID-19 or if they have an existing breathing condition that has recently got worse, they should remain at home. It is advisable to contact your GP for advice and follow all HPSC isolation guidelines. Please feel free to contact the school if you require a copy of our Covid-19 Response Plan. This will be available on our new website shortly. 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 commitment to adhering to our Covid-19 procedures in school. Well done to all the boys and girls.

Parents' Association:

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) and Christmas cards, designed by our talented pupils in Kilcummin N.S. 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 on the week of 7th December.

A quick reminder regarding some upcoming PA activities: Our **Christmas Memory Tree** will be lit at Our Lady of Lourdes Church again this year. 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. Our PA will be 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. Further details to follow. In a huge effort to spread some Christmas cheer, our PA will be holding a Christmas Jumper day on Tuesday, 22nd December- our PA will raffle a festive goodie bag for each class. Thanks again to our Parents' Association and to you all for your generous support.

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 next Christmas, 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 concert will be available shortly. Further details will follow from the Parents' Association.

Spreading Christmas Cheer:

Thanks to our Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class pupils, Mr. Mannix and Ms. Casey for designing and writing Christmas cards for the residents of Our Lady of Lourdes Nursing Home. Thanks also to First and Second Class pupils and Ms. McCarthy, who will visit the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes Nursing Home on Wednesday, 9th December, to sing some Christmas songs, as we are spreading some Christmas cheer in the parish. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be able to visit the Nursing Home, so it will be great to be present on the grounds this year. Junior Infants and Third Class will be organising Zoom calls to spread some virtual Christmas cheer to families at home. Thanks to Mr. Murphy for organising this. Well done to all!

Wellbeing:

In these challenging times, we are placing a focus on wellbeing throughout the school. Thanks to Ms. Donoghue for registering the school on the 5 Step Positive Primaries initiative. We are currently introducing a Positive Thought for the Week in school, so please feel free to forward any thoughts to your child's class teacher. Each class engages in a mindfulness 10 at 10, where children are afforded with an opportunity to listen to mindfulness colouring, meditation, expressive writing etc. for 10 minutes at 10am each day. A reminder to all to remind our pupils to stay connected with others, keep active, take notice of the world around, get involved and give. These are the Jigsaw 5 a day for Mental Health. Keep safe and well.

Student Council:

Thanks to Ms. Donoghue for organising our new Student Council. Elections are ongoing for pupils from First-Sixth Classes. Thanks also to Ms. Donoghue and Ms. Casey for registering the school in Ireland's National School Photography Awards. We have taken the first step of our Positive Primaries Journey.

Christmas Together Campaign:

Killarney Garda Station is currently organising a worthwhile Christmas Together Campaign. Killarney Gardaí are asking for donations of cards, pictures and small gifts which will be dropped by members of An Garda Síochána to local nursing homes, community hospital and retirement accommodation. Examples of requested gifts include cards, drawings and pictures of good will; puzzles, candles, magazines, bathroom essentials; sweets and chocolates; clothing items such as slippers, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets and knitting equipment etc.; and small non-perishable gifts. Please contact Garda Brendan O' Donovan at 064-6631222 or Brendan.j.odonovan@garda.ie if you wish to donate a gift.

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. The team members were Emma O'Donoghue, Thomas Brosnan, Caoimhe Murray, Liam Breen, Alison Pigott, Lukas McGough, Abbie McGuire and Ronan O'Connor. Comhghairdeas leo! Thanks to Mr. Mannix for entering this exciting competition. Thanks also to Mr. Kelliher for his technical expertise and to Mrs. Condon and Mrs. Dineen for their help. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Correspondence from Award Winning Author:

Emma O'Donoghue, Sixth Class, recently wrote a letter to award winning author Michael Morpurgo of 'War Horse' fame, detailing her love of books and writing. Mr Morpurgo recently wrote back to Emma offering her advice on writing and telling her about his upcoming projects. Maith thú Emma!

M.S. Readathon:

Well done to all the children who took part in the M.S. Readathon and all those who sponsored our readers during October/ November. Please note that the Readathon will be finishing at the end of November. A reminder that donations can be made online this year.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal:

Well done to all who donated to the Christmas Shoe boxes appeal for Team Hope. This is an excellent initiative and has yet again highlighted the wonderful spirit of generosity within our school community. Unfortunately, we were not in a position to collect boxes this year, but please feel free to support this worthy cause online.

Football and Hurling Training:

Thanks to our GAA trainers, Mr. Vince Cooper and Mr. Colm O' Brien for their time and commitment to sport in Kilcummin N.S. Covid-19 compliant football and hurling training sessions are ongoing in the school as part of our P.E. programme.

Croke Park/ Haddington Road Agreement Hours:

The teachers in Kilcummin N.S. have been completing virtual Croke Park hours for staff meetings. We look forward to reviewing our new school website on Monday, 30th November.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Gillian Sheehan,
Principal & Staff