

Kilcummin N.S. Scoil Náisiúnta,

Kilcummin, Cill Chuimín, Killarmey, Cill Airne,

Co. Kerry. Co. Chiarraí.

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 27th February 2021

Dear Parents,

We hope that you are all safe and well. Thank you all for your support over the past number of weeks. It has been a very challenging time for everyone, so please know that we appreciate all that you have been doing.

Further to our message during the week, Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class and Second Class will return to school on Monday, 1st March, as part of the government’s phased reopening of schools. It is planned that Third Class- Sixth Class will join us on Monday, 15th March. We will keep you updated.

We are delighted that our junior pupils will return on Monday. Please feel free to allow your child to wear their tracksuits for the first two weeks. We would greatly appreciate if all books and copies could be returned to school on Monday. The Department of Education letter to parents was forwarded to all last week. Please contact your child’s teacher if you did not receive this by email.

Please remind your child/children about the continued importance of handwashing, sanitising and social distancing, as these measures remain unchanged. We will revisit these routines with our classes on Monday. We have collected data pertaining to allergies to hand sanitisers, but please let your child’s teacher know if there are any specific requirements regarding your child. School access will operate as before Christmas, so we would ask that you would kindly remind your child to follow the footsteps and social distance markers on the yard. Staff members will be on duty in the morning to help with this. We will continue to use separate exits at 2pm and 3pm, to ensure that children from different class bubbles will not mix.

A gentle reminder for adults to wear a mask and to exercise social distancing at the morning and afternoon drop off and collection times. Parents/ Guardians are reminded also to ring the office to make an appointment, as in-person visit will not be possible. Our secretary, Danielle, will be present on Monday- Thursday (9am-12pm) if you need to make an appointment. Alternatively, please feel free to email your child’s teacher regarding same.

A reminder that we are accepting **enrolment applications** at this time, so please contact the school if you or anyone you know requires an enrolment form.

We are delighted to let you know that we have upgraded all of our Interactive Whitebaords with new interactive panels in each classroom. We have purchased additional iPads and laptops also with school ICT grant funding. A considerable investment has been made for this **whole-school ICT upgrade**, thanks to Kyotech Print and Technology Solutions. We look forward to using this new equipment from Monday.

We will be holding our **World Book Day on Thursday, 4th March 2021**, for our junior classes, so pupils are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. This will be a non-uniform day.

Please note the following in relation to school on Monday:

* Parents must complete a **Return to Education Form** in respect of children returning to school and after any absence from school. (Please find same attached to the end of this document). Please return this on the evening prior to your child’s return to school. We are kindly asking that you would return this to your child’s class teacher after 3pm tomorrow afternoon, ahead of our return on Monday morning.
* School times remain unchanged.
* Please ensure that your child enters the school yard in a staggered manner, as applied prior to Christmas.
* As outlined in the Minister for Education’s recent correspondence, we remind parents of the importance of not congregating at or near the school. **PLEASE DROP AND GO.** Communication with the school must take place by phone or email. The school email address is kill43163@gmail.com
* **Parents/Guardians cannot enter the school except by prior appointment. Thank you for your understanding regarding this.**
* If you are collecting a child by prior arrangement, please ring the school when you arrive at the school gate and a staff member will accompany your child to the gate. Otherwise a tracing form must be filled and will be destroyed after 4 weeks.
* As mentioned previously, the wearing of face masks is mandatory and must be worn by all adults if entering the school (by prior arrangement) and at drop off and collection times.
* We remind parents not to send children with symptoms of Covid-19 to school. We remind parents also not to send children to school if they are a close contact of a person with Covid-19, are awaiting a test or are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.
* We advise parents not to send pupils to school if they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19 or if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus.
* We advise parents not to send pupils to school if they have travelled outside Ireland- in such instances parents are advised to consult, and follow, latest government advice in relation to foreign travel.
* We advise parents to cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school.
* Buses will run as normal from Monday, 1st March.
* Our Breakfast Club and After-School Club will not be in operation next week. Please contact Jennifer (087 9663770) if you have any queries in relation to this service.
* Children may wear tracksuits for the next two weeks.
* Please return all school books and copies to school. Teachers will advise you regarding requirements thereafter.
* Please ensure that clothing and books etc. are clearly labelled.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for the fantastic work on Seesaw and Zoom since January. A sincere word of thanks to our hard working pupils and to you, their parents and guardians. We are in this together and the fruits of this incredible team work will benefit each and every one of our pupils. We are looking forward to welcoming our junior classes on Monday and we hope to see our senior classes on 15th March.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help in any way.

Keep safe and well.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Gillian Sheehan

Please complete the following on Sunday, 28th February 2021 and return to your child’s teacher (Junior Infants0 Second Class). This forms will be required prior to any absence from school also.

Thank you

Kilcummin N.S.

