

Kilcummin N.S. Scoil Náisiúnta,

Kilcummin, Cill Chuimín, Killarmey, Cill Airne,

Co. Kerry. Co. Chiarraí.



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NEWSLETTER December 2021

**Upcoming School Closings:**

School will be closing on Wednesday, 22nd December, at **12pm** for Christmas Holidays. School will re-open on Thursday, 6th January 2022.

**Blessing of the school crib:**

Our Student Council members attended the blessing of our school crib on Friday, 10th December. Thanks to Fr. Jim Lenihan, who visited the school for the blessing. Unfortunately, all pupils will be unable to attend but the Student Council members will represent the classes. Thanks to Mr. Paudie Cahill for setting up our crib.

**Pre-School opening:**

The Board of Management of Kilcummin N.S. is delighted to announce that we will be opening a Pre-School in the new school year. We will keep you updated as soon as an operator is appointed. Bookings will be taken by the new Pre-School operator.

**PA Christmas Memory Tree:**

Our **Christmas Memory Tree** was lit at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at the weekend to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. Please light a light to remember a loved one on this year’s Christmas Memory Tree. Forms are available at the Post Office.

**Parents’ Association Christmas DVD Sale, Christmas Hamper and Christmas Jumper/Non-Uniform Day:**

Our virtual **Christmas concert DVD** is available for sale. Order envelopes have been sent home to the youngest family members. Please contact your child’s teacher if your child did not receive an envelope. **Christmas Hamper** envelopes (for adult and child hampers) will be distributed next week. 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. In a huge effort to spread some Christmas cheer, our PA will hold a **Christmas Jumper** day on Wednesday, 22nd December. Children are invited to make a €2 donation. There will be a raffle a festive goodie bag for each class. This will be a fun day for our pupils, ahead of the Christmas holidays. We really appreciate your generous support as fundraising initiatives have been hugely curtailed this year. Thanks again to our Parents’ Association and to you all for your generous support.

**School Calendars and Cards:**

Thanks to our Parents’ Association members who have been busy designing, producing and ordering our Christmas calendars and cards over the past number of weeks. I would like to acknowledge and thank all the members of the Parents’ Association for your time and commitment, especially at this very busy time of the year. Thanks yet again to Pádraig and Sinéad O’ Connor for capturing our class photographs. Go raibh maith agaibh go léir!! Calendars will be distributed shortly, so please contact the school if you did not receive your orders.

**Green Schools:**

Children are normally invited to make a **decoration** for display on the school Christmas tree, but this year, we are limiting any items coming into the school. Please feel free to continue this tradition at home and forward any photographs to your class teacher by email. Recyclable materials can be used preferably. We will hopefully be back to normal again next year.

**Student Council:**

Students are invited to express interest in our new Student Council elections. Elections will be during the week. Candidates from First Class to Sixth Class are invited to deliver a short speech to their classmates as part of the election process. Best of luck to all! Thanks to Miss McCarthy for leading this wonderful initiative. We are really looking forward to hearing the students voice through the Class Representatives yet again this year.

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

A monthly reminder to please notify the school immediately if your child has any COVID-19 symptoms or a contagious/ infectious illness (including head lice). 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 view a copy of our Covid-19 Response Plan on our school website. 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 yet again this month 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, especially all of our pupils from Third Class to Sixth Class who are now wearing masks at school.

**Debating Competition:**

Congratulations to the Sixth Class pupils who recently represented Kilcummin N.S in the second round of the Concern Primary Debating Competition. 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 guiding his students yet again. Thanks also to Mr. Kelliher for his technical expertise and to SNA Margaret Nagle O’ Neill for their help. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

**Thanks:**

Thanks to **Mrs. Siobhán McSweeney, Fr. Jim Lenihan and all the priests that work in the parish** for all your help and support since our return to school in late August.

Thanks to our Parents’ Association members: **Mr. Derek O’ Leary, Chairperson; Mrs. Geraldine O’ Halloran, Secretary, Ms. Claire Troth, Treasurer,** and the PA class representatives and committee members for your help and support with school fundraising activities.

Thanks to all at the **Post Office** and **The Friary Mass Office** for their ongoing support to Kilcummin N.S.

Thanks to all our **parents, families and friends** for your support.

Thanks to our Caretaker and Cleaner, Mr. Paudie Cahill for all your work at Kilcummin N.S.

A final word of thanks goes to the **pupils and staff** of Kilcummin N.S. for their dedication and commitment to our school. Ní neart go cur le chéile!

*On behalf of the Board of Management, the staff and pupils of Kilcummin N.S., I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year.*

*Many thanks for your co-operation during a challenging 2021.*

*Nollaig shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh!*

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Keep safe and well.

Le gach dea ghuí,

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Gillian Sheehan,

Principal & Staff