

*Kilcummin N.S.
Kilcummin,
Killarmey,
Co. Kerry.*



*Scoil Náisiúnta,
Cill Chuimín,
Cill Airne,
Co. Chiarraí.*



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NEWSLETTER December 2020

Upcoming School Closings:

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

School will be closing on Tuesday, 22nd December, at 12pm for Christmas Holidays. School will re-open on Monday, 6th January 2021.

Sacraments 2020:

Congratulations and well done to our Third Class pupils who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday, 5th December. Thanks to Fr. Niall Howard for the lovely ceremony. Thanks to Class Teachers, Mr. Murphy & Miss O' Connor, and SNAs, Margaret & Teresa, for preparing the pupils. Thanks also to Ms. McCarthy for the lovely music. Confirmation will take place at 2pm on Wednesday, 9th December, for last year's Sixth Class pupils. We wish them the very best. Please note that the mass will be live streamed on the church webcam.

Blessing of the school crib:

Our newly elected Student Council members will attend the blessing of our school crib on Wednesday, 9th December. Thanks in advance to Fr. Jim Lenihan, who will visit the school for the blessing. Unfortunately, all pupils will be unable to attend but the Student Council members will represent the classes. Thanks to Miss Donoghue for organising a socially distanced blessing and thanks to Mr. Paudie Cahill for setting up our crib.

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 and to mark the parish sacraments. 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** will be available for sale this week. Order envelopes will be sent home today. 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 Tuesday, 22nd December. 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. *Go raibh maith agaibh go léir!!* Calendars and cards have been distributed, so please contact the school if you did not receive your orders.

Croke Park/ Haddington Road Agreement Hours:

The teachers in Kilcummin N.S. have been completing Croke Park hours for a recent staff meeting, school website review and PDST Wellbeing training.

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:

Thanks to the many students who expressed interest in our recent Student Council elections. Elections were held on Friday, 27th November. Candidates from First Class to Sixth Class delivered speeches to their classmates as part of the election process. Well done to all! Our Student Council representatives for 2020/2021 include: Aodhán O'Halloran (First Class), Cian Lenihan (Second Class), Naoise Fleming (Third Class), Katie Brosnan (Fourth Class), Seán Fleming (Fifth Class) and Emma O'Donoghue (Sixth Class). Comhghairdeas libh! Our Student Council will meet (socially distanced) in the hall or school yard. Thanks to Ms. Donoghue for leading this wonderful initiative. We are really looking forward to hearing the students voice through the Class Representatives.

Community Spirit:

Good luck to Ms. McCarthy's Class, who will perform Christmas carols at the grounds of Our Lady Of Lourdes Nursing Home to spread some cheer for the residents. Best of luck also to Mr. Kelliher, who will be accompanied by senior pupils from Ms. Casey and Mr. Mannix's classes, who will perform on the grounds of Heather Lee Nursing Home on Friday, 11th December. Go n-éirí an bóthar libh! Well done to all!

Christmas Together Campaign:

A reminder that 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. Well done to Ms. Casey and Mr. Mannix's 4th, 5th and 6th Classes who have designed and written cards to each of the residents of Our Lady of Lourdes Nursing Home. Garda O' Donovan has forwarded details of the residents of the Chesire Home in Killarney also, so thanks to Mr. Murphy's Third Class for corresponding with the residents. Mile buíochas! Thanks to pupils and staff for extending the festive celebrations to the wider Kilcummin community. Please lend your support to the Christmas Together Campaign.

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 contact the school 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 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.

Thanks:

Thanks to **Mrs. Siobhán McSweeney, Fr. Kieran O' Brien, Fr. Jim Lenihan and Fr. Niall Howard** 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,** and our school Secretary, **Mrs. Danielle Kissane,** for all your hard work.

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 2020.
Nollaig shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh!*

Keep safe and well.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Gillian Sheehan,
Principal & Staff

