

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



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



E-Mail: [kill43163@gmail.com](mailto:kill43163@gmail.com)  
Phone: 064 6643163  
NEWSLETTER October 2020



### **Upcoming School Closings**

Closed: Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> - Halloween Break.

### **Retirement:**

We wish to congratulate our Deputy Principal, Mrs. Brenda Moynihan, on her recent retirement. Mrs. Moynihan retired on Thursday, 8th October, after a 30 year teaching career in Kilcummin N.S. We recognise and thank Mrs. Moynihan for her teaching service and wish her all the best in the future. Thanks to all for the lovely celebrations. Thanks to the pupils, staff, Parents Association and Board of Management for your contributions to mark Mrs. Moynihan's special occasion. Go n-éirí an bóthar go geal léi.

### **Fáilte:**

Welcome to our new First and Second Class teacher, Miss McCarthy. Congratulations on your permanent appointment in Kilcummin N.S. Welcome also to our new Part-Time Secretary, Ms. Danielle Kissane. Danielle will be with us on Mondays-Thursdays from 9am-12pm each week. We wish you both the very best for the future with us. Comhghairdeachas libh!

### **Child Protection:**

Mr. Murphy is currently our Acting Deputy Principal and our Acting Designated Liaison Person (Acting DLP). Ms. Sheehan is the Designated Liaison Person.

### **Christmas Annuals:**

Folens Christmas Annuals are currently available to order at school. Each Christmas magazine costs €3. Please forward any money in a labelled envelope to your child's class teacher. Orders will be placed on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, so please ensure that you have forwarded the order form and money to school ahead of this date.

### **Team Hope Christmas Shoe-Box Appeal:**

Children from Kilcummin N.S. are invited to take part in the online Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Up to now, children were invited to forward gift-filled boxes for 'Team-Hope' to the school. Kilcummin N.S. will be supporting Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. Unfortunately, this initiative has gone online, due to Covid-19 restrictions. This is a wonderful cause that we have supported at the school for many years, so we would encourage you to participate if possible. Please see [www.TeamHope.ie](http://www.TeamHope.ie) for further information. Please note that correspondence and colouring sheets were emailed to all from Team Hope for your attention.

### **Parents' Association:**

A word of thanks to our Parents' Association members Mr. Derek O' Leary (Chairperson), Mrs. Geraldine O' Halloran (Secretary) and Ms. Claire Troth (Treasurer), and the class representatives for all the outstanding work that you do to secure funds for the school. Thank you for hosting your AGM online recently. A text message was forwarded to all inviting new members to join the committee. Please email [kilcumminparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:kilcumminparentsassociation@gmail.com) if you are interested. Thanks again for all the wonderful work that you do for our school. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

### **Halloween Dress to Impress:**

Thanks to our Parents' Association for organising our annual 'Dress & Impress' event on Friday, 23rd October. Children are invited to dress in their favourite Halloween costume (or make their own costume), and are kindly asked to make a €2 donation to be in a draw to win a goodie bag. Friday will be a non-uniform day at school.

### **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.

In terms of headlice, it is wise to have a head lice shampoo or lotion, special fine combs etc. at home at all times, so that you are prepared if a request is made to treat your child's head. We advise that every parent/guardian fine combs their child's hair at least once a week. It is advisable for all children to be examined and treated, where necessary, immediately. The mid-term break is a good opportunity for you to examine your child's head for headlice and to treat them immediately if you notice them. Co-operation from everyone is appreciated to solve this problem in our schools.

### **Hand Hygiene:**

Children are reminded to wash their hands when leaving home in the morning and again upon arrival at home each evening. We will be washing hands regularly throughout the day and sanitising also. Thank you all for your cooperation and support. Please advise your child's teacher if your child is having any reaction to our sanitiser/soap. Well done to all the girls and boys on the great job that they are doing! Keep up the great work.

### **M.S. Readathon:**

October and November are busy reading months in Kilcummin N.S., when pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes are invited to take part in the annual M.S. Readathon. Children who do not wish to collect money can still take part by reading books and recording book titles that they have read. The Readathon will be held during the month of November. We hope that the pupils of Kilcummin N.S. will find time to read for this worthy cause, especially during the upcoming midterm break. Always remember that reading is a gift for life. Kilcummin N.S. is registered to participate in this year's MS Readathon. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, registration, donations etc. will all take place online. If you wish for your child to participate, please follow the following link <https://www.msreadathon.ie/fundraiser/KilcumminNS2898>, and you can follow the step-by-step instructions to finalise your child's registration. Please do not hesitate to contact the school or MS Ireland (01 6781624) if you have any queries. Last November, the pupils of Kilcummin N.S. donated €518.70 to the M.S. Ireland Society, following the MS Readathon. Well done and congratulations to last year's participants.

### **Green Schools:**

**National Tree day** was held on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Junior Infants were busy planting chestnuts, sycamore wings and acorns recently to mark the occasion. Recycled pots were used to reinforce the principles of the Green Schools programme. We would encourage you all to engage in planting activities at home.

Unfortunately our '**Walk on Wednesday**' initiative has not yet commenced this year. Well done to all our pupils, parents and staff for their great efforts in walking to school. Keep up the great work and remember to be safe and be seen at all times.

### **Croke Park Hours:**

Croke Park hours have been used to enable teachers to engage in staff meetings, Covid 19 meetings, Team Planning and Curriculum Planning to date.

### **Art/Craft & Photocopying:**

Thanks for forwarding the school contribution to your class teacher. Receipts are being issued by email. A reminder to forward a contribution to your child's teacher if you have not already done so. (€35 per child, €60 for two children, €75 for families with three or more children).

### Road Safety/ Travel Safety:

The strand unit of Safety and Protection is part of S.P.H.E. curriculum. We would appreciate your support in encouraging our pupils to travel safely at all times, eg wearing seatbelts and helmets, remaining in booster seats etc. Children should not walk/climb on the school walls. Please ensure that your child/children stay with you when leaving the premises. All are encouraged to use the small gate by the main road. Cyclists must dismount their bikes before entering the school grounds and when leaving the school grounds. The road is very busy. Please continue to be vigilant at all times. Kilcummin N.S. is still working closely with An Garda Síochána and the Seat Belt programme. Please ensure that children are seated correctly in cars, whilst wearing their seat belts.

### Computer Safety:

A reminder to all parents to be extra vigilant regarding internet safety in the home. Please ensure that you are fully aware of your child's online activities and review history of searches regularly. Webwise is the Irish Internet Safety Awareness Centre. It provides information and advice on internet safety topics, including cyberbullying and privacy.

### REMINDER REGARDING PEANUTS IN SCHOOL:

The school is enforcing a strict ban on nut items in lunch boxes. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT CHILDREN DO NOT BRING PEANUTS, NUTS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS TO SCHOOL AS PART OF THEIR LUNCHES.** Please note that **nuts, (especially peanuts)**, hazelnuts, pine nuts, monkey nuts, barmbrack, chocolate spreads, peanut butter, almond butter, chocolate biscuits etc. are not permitted in school. We have a number of children who have severe allergies to nuts (especially peanuts) and we are anxious that they do not come in contact with them. Being in the vicinity of nuts can trigger a serious shock. Products will have to be removed, as exposure to products containing nuts will cause further serious reactions.

As Halloween approaches, please do not send **barmbrack, monkey nuts** or other seasonal items into school.

Please be extra vigilant and feel free to contact the school if you have any queries regarding this matter.

Snacksafely.com provides information regarding permissible lunch ideas.

Children are reminded to bring healthy lunches. Fruit and vegetables are major 'Food Dude' lunch box items, so we would encourage all pupils to continue to bring vegetables and fruit, together with usual healthy lunch items.

### Communication with Parents:

If a parent has a worry, no matter how small, please come to us and we will do our best to resolve any issues. Unfortunately, we will not be able to receive visitors into the school building, so please phone the school or email your child's class teacher. Communication should be with your child's class teacher. It is very important to keep in regular contact, even informally, with your child's teacher. If you wish to talk to the teacher formally or you have a specific issue that you wish to discuss with a class teacher **an appointment must be made** so that arrangements can be made for the class to be supervised and a call can be facilitated privately. We would emphasise that if a parent has a complaint, then this must be dealt with through the class teacher and not directly with other children or staff. This is for the safety and well-being of all. It is essential that this rule is adhered to. Please email your child's class teacher if you request a copy of our Grievance Procedures. Please forward a mobile number to your class teacher if you have not been receiving school text messages (1 number per family).

We would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe midterm break.

Bainigí taitneamh as saoire na Samhna.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

---

Gillian Sheehan  
Principal and Staff