

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



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

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Charity No:20205567

Newsletter September 2024

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

A very warm welcome back to our pupils, parents and the staff to Kilcummin N.S. A special welcome is extended to the children who are beginning Junior Infants this year, to the new pupils in our new Pre-School and to our new children who have joined us in other classes. We hope that all will have a happy, enjoyable, healthy and safe school year.

As this is the first newsletter of the new school year, there are lots of things to mention. Please note that we love to celebrate any successes in the community, especially involving pupils from our school community. Please email any news items to Ms. Sheehan at kill43163@gmail.com if you have any news items to be included in our monthly newsletter, website or PA Facebook page.

Summer News:

Community Games:

Kilcummin NS was well represented at the All-Ireland Community Games Final in Carlow recently. Well done to former pupil Ella Kate Pigott, current students Ella Lawlor (6th Class), Aodhán O' Halloran (6th Class), Colm Fleming (4th Class) and Colm's friend Ronan, on their fantastic successes with their projects in the All-Ireland Community Games final recently. They presented their projects to staff and students in Kilcummin NS on Thursday, 12th September. The children shared fascinating insights into the customs, traditions, and rich history of Kilcummin parish. It was a pleasure to see such dedication and passion for preserving our heritage. Congratulations also to our Second Class pupil, Chloe O' Riordan, who also participated in the final. We are all so proud of you all. Cill Chuimín abú!

Fléadh Cheoil na hÉireann:

Congratulations to our Kilcummin NS pupils (under 12's mixed set) who were crowned All Ireland Champions at Fléadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Wexford. Well done to Elena O' Riordan, Colm Fleming, Ian Condon, Ava O' Sullivan, Leigh O' Connor, Ella Lawlor, Aodhán O' Halloran and Shane O' Sullivan. Congratulations to all involved. Maith sibh go léir!

East Kerry Football:

Congratulations to our U13 East Kerry Football champions Seán O' Connor, Aodhán O' Halloran, Liam O' Donoghue, Shane O' Sullivan and Cillian Sheehan. Thank you for showcasing the East Kerry Shield at school and for spreading cheer with news of your great win. Comhghairdeas libh!

Cumann na mBunscol:

Best of luck to our Cumann na mBunscol Boys team, who will participate in the first round of the competition on Friday, 27th September, at Spa GAA pitch from 10.30am. Thanks to Vince and all the staff for supporting the boys. Cill Chuimín abú!

Sympathy:

Our deepest sympathies are extended to our former Principal, Tom Dalton, on the death of his wife Anna Dalton, to our Caretaker Paudie Cahill, on the death of his brother Tom Cahill and to our Treasurer, Brian Murphy, on the death of his sister-in-law, Gráinne Kavanagh Ennis. May their souls rest in eternal peace and may their families be comforted during these sad and difficult times. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse.

Confirmation and Communion in Kilcummin:

Please note that our Confirmation will be held on Friday, 28th March (morning- time to be confirmed). Our First Holy Communion mass has been scheduled to take place on Saturday, 31st May.

Welcome back to our GAA Football & Hurling Coaches:

A special word of thanks to Mr. Vince Cooper who recommenced football training for yet another year at Kilcummin NS, on Tuesday, 24th September. Vince Cooper will be working with senior classes initially as they prepare for this year's Cumann na mBunscol competition. Vince will be with us every second Tuesday. Thanks also to Mr. Colm O' Brien who will be back with the junior classes for hurling training on Wednesday, 2nd October. Classes will be notified about school tracksuits.

COVID-19

A gentle reminder that Covid-19 is still present in our community. Our hand sanitising, hand washing, classroom ventilation and school cleaning procedures are still in operation. The health, safety, and well-being of all members of our school community is of paramount importance. Please continue to be vigilant regarding Covid-19 testing and symptoms. Ní heart go cur le chéile.

Please read the following carefully:

School Closings / Calendar Update:

Please contact the school if you require a school calendar for 2024/2025. Parents/Guardians will be notified about any changes to our school calendar in our monthly newsletter or on Aladdin. We are due to have staff in-service training in relation to the new Maths Curriculum on Monday, 21st October. This closure was not marked on our calendar. Any other updates will feature on our website also, so please monitor us on www.kilcumminns.com

School opening / closing times:

School opening hours 9.00am - 2.40pm.

Children are hopefully now accustomed to their new entrance and exit doors and will be received by teachers in their classrooms. Please ensure that your child washes their hands upon leaving home.

Infant children finish at 1.40pm. All others finish at 2.40pm.

Morning break 10.50am- 11.00am (Junior Break) 11.00am - 11.10am. (Senior Break)

Lunch break 12.40pm - 1.00pm (Junior Break) 1.00pm. - 1.20pm. (Senior Break)

These arrangements ensure that class groupings have their own yard zones to ensure that children have an opportunity to socialize with their peers. On wet days, class groups will use the school hall.

Parents of infant children are reminded of prompt collection of children at 1.40pm.

- If a parent/ guardian/ minder is late, please contact the school. The child **MUST WAIT IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS**. Parents are asked to email your child's class teacher granting your child permission to walk home or walk to your car.
- In the interest of safety and traffic management, we would appreciate your cooperation in dropping your children in a safe location outside the school, moving off promptly and considering other pupils, parents, and staff. Similar procedures should be applied at pick-up time at 1.40p.m. and 2.40p.m. Thank you for your understanding.
- If your child is being collected for an appointment, it is necessary that a note/email/ Aladdin message is sent to your child's class teacher. Class teacher or teacher on yard supervision should be informed when your child is leaving. The person collecting should ring the school upon arrival, and we will organize the drop off, whilst minimizing any class disruptions. A staff member will walk your child to the school gate for collection.
- A reminder that persons mentioned on the enrolment form can only collect your child. Please forward an email/note if arrangements need to be changed.
- If a child is late to school for any reason, parents should ensure that their child reaches the classroom safely and should not interrupt the smooth running of the classes.
- If your child is late for school, they may miss important activities and may be marked absent on Aladdin. It is essential that your child is in school at 9.00am.
- If a child will be late due to a hospital, dental or doctor's appointment, please let the class teacher know- otherwise they will be marked absent. Please try to arrange such appointments for times that minimize your child's absence from school.

Kilcummin N.S. Staffing:

Junior Infants: Ms. Gillian Sheehan (Principal/ Designated Liaison Person- Child Protection)

Senior Infants/ First Class: Miss Charlene O' Connor (Assistant Principal II).

2nd & 3rd Class: Mr. Michael Murphy (Deputy Principal/ Deputy Designated Liaison Person- Child Protection)

4th Class: Ms. Deirdre Poff

5th and 6th Class: Mrs. Marie Condon/ Mrs. Marguerite Dineen

Special Education Teachers: Mr. Michael Kelliher, (Assistant Principal II), Ms. Christine Desmond, Mrs. Bríd Casey (covered by Miss Sarah Kemple currently)

Welcome to our Shared Special Education Teachers Ms. Anita Foley and Miss Sinéad O' Donnell.

S.N.A.s: Ms. Rena Daly/ Ms Shauna O' Connor (Job Share), Mrs. Margaret Nagle O'Neill, Ms. Teresa Cremin & Ms. Jennifer O' Sullivan (covered by Mrs. Laura Dillon Fleming).

Please feel free to contact teachers at the following email addresses or at the school email address kill43163@gmail.com

Ms. Sheehan: g.sheehan@kilcumminns.com

Miss O' Connor: c.oconnor@kilcumminns.com

Mr. Murphy: m.murphy@kilcumminns.com

Ms. Poff: d.poff@kilcumminns.com

Mrs. Condon: m.condon@kilcumminns.com

Mrs. Dineen: m.dineen@kilcumminns.com

Mr. Kelliher: m.kelliher@kilcumminns.com

Ms. Desmond: c.desmond@kilcumminns.com

Ms. Casey: b.casey@kilcumminns.com

Miss Kemple: s.kemple@kilcumminns.com

Ms. Foley: a.foley@kilcumminns.com

Ms. O' Donnell: s.odonnell@kilcumminns.com

Breakfast Club & After School Service:

Best wishes again this year to Victoria O'Carroll and her team, who will be running the Breakfast Club and After School Service. These services are now subsidised for parents, thanks to Victoria's hard work. Victoria can be contacted at 086 3007357. Please note that this service is available from 8am, should anyone need to drop their children off early to school.

Attendance/ Punctuality:

One of our top priorities at school continues to be everyone's health. While it is accepted that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress we must continue to make exceptions. We thank you all for erring on the side of caution - keeping children home who are unwell, getting GP advice when children are unwell or displaying symptoms of illness. This may mean that attendance figures may be lower. However, if we manage to keep one another well, we are doing the right thing. Please continue to let us know details of all absences by email/Aladdin and thank you for your continued support.

The school is obliged to inform Tusla when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 school days in one school year. Obviously, the whole idea is to miss as little time as possible. As teachers must fill in the category of absence when informing Tusla, it is essential that an email/ Aladdin message is sent after every absence, outlining the reason for the absence. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Communication with Parents:

If a parent has a worry, no matter how small, please reach out and we will do our best to resolve any issues. Please phone the school or email your child's class teacher if you need to make an appointment. It is especially important to keep in regular contact, even informally, with your child's teacher. If you wish to talk to the teacher formally or have a specific issue that you wish to discuss with a class teacher/SET, 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 other staff members. This is for the safety and well-being of all. It is essential that this rule is adhered to. Please find a copy of the Revised Parental Complaints Procedure on our website or at this link: <https://cpsma.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=678cc95a0cae678dbaa86b177&id=52d5d3d2a6&e=82bf419176>

Parent/Teacher meetings will be scheduled later during the first term. In the interim, if you wish to talk to a teacher or the principal, our appointment system will facilitate this. Generally, communication with parents will be through our monthly Newsletter, Aladdin notice, school website or other short notes. Please take the time to read all correspondence from the school. The school may need to communicate urgent messages to parents/guardians by sending notices on Aladdin. Please notify school if you have changed mobile numbers or email address or if you are having any technical issues with Aladdin.

Chicken Pox/ Covid-19 symptoms/ Contagious/ Infectious Illnesses/ Rashes/ Head Lice:

If your child has Chicken Pox, 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 symptoms of COVID-19 or any other infectious illness, especially Chicken Pox. If a child has tested positive for COVID-19, the current advice is to continue to isolate. This is subject to change, so please check the HSE website. If there are any cases of Chicken Pox in your household, please notify the school immediately. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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.

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.

Anti-Bullying/ Buddy Bench:

The aim of the school's Anti- Bullying policy is to counteract bullying behaviour. Each child participates in an anti-bullying programme. Generally, we find that pupils benefit greatly from this programme and are aware of the sanctions in place to deal with bullying behaviour. We would kindly ask you, as parents and guardians, to discuss this programme with your child regularly and explain the benefits of ensuring that our school is a bullying free zone. Children will be able to access the Buddy Bench, and please advise your child to chat to the adults supervising in the yard if any issues arise. We will continue to strive to ensure that our pupils enjoy a happy break with friends.

Art/Craft & Photocopying:

A reminder to forward the school contribution of €35 per child (€60 for two children, €75 for families with three or more children) to cover art/craft and photocopying costs for the coming year if you have not yet done so. Please forward to class teacher before the beginning of October. Receipts will be issued. Please contact the school if you have not yet received a receipt for your payment.

Lee Strand Milk Tokens:

Please continue to send Mighty Mikey mascots, featured on the Lee Strand milk labels to school. Tokens collected last year were used for our school diaries and for entry into Lee Strand competitions during the year. We have to present 10 tokens for each diary, so we would encourage you to collect as many token as possible throughout the school year. Míle buíochas.

Insurance :

Thanks to the Parents' Association of Kilcummin N.S. for funding the 24 hour Personal Accident Insurance of each child in the school to cover accidents during school hours or while participating in school related activities. Please contact the Parents' Association if you have any queries regarding this.

Uniforms:

Please ensure that all children wear their school uniform or tracksuits, practical and sensible footwear and make sure all personal belongings are labelled clearly. All items of clothing should be clearly labelled. Unclaimed lost property will be included in our Used Clothes Collection or donated to a local charity. Please contact the school immediately if your child is missing any items of clothing. Children are invited to bring a warm (labelled) gilet/body warmer jacket for school use, as we will continue to ventilate rooms. These jackets/ body warmers can be left in school. Coats will be required as normal. Please feel free to alternate the uniform and tracksuit to best suit your child's needs. Your child's teacher will let you know when they will be completing PE. The current arrangements are as follows: Junior Infants: Tuesday & Thursday; Senior Infants and First Class: Monday & Friday; 2nd & 3rd Class: Wednesday; 4th Class: Thursday; 5th & 6th Class: Wednesday. Class teachers will notify their classes if extra PE lessons will take place. Uniforms will be monitored on all other days.

Lunches:

Children have two short breaks in the day and should bring easy to eat food. We do not encourage sweets, fizzy drinks or any foods with high sugar content in daily lunch boxes as these are unhealthy, bad for children's teeth and can have an adverse effect on behaviour. Please notify the school if your child has any allergies, if you omitted this information in the School Enrolment form. Please remember to include healthy snacks such as fruit and vegetables in lunchboxes. We will not be in a position to provide snacks or water, so please ensure that your child brings their lunch and drink to school. We would remind you also not to include products containing nuts or eggs in lunchboxes, as there are pupils in the school who are allergic to eggs and nuts. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries regarding this. We are delighted to let you know that the Food Dudes initiative will be starting again on the week of the 30th September. More information to follow

Reminder: Mobile Phones.

Please remind your child that phones are not permitted in school. If it is necessary to provide your child with a phone, all phones **MUST** be given to the class teacher or principal for the duration of the school day. Phones will be returned after school. We cannot guarantee phone safety, and they will be confiscated if they are seen or heard during school hours.

Mobile Library:

Teachers are using the library service for the provision of novels. We are delighted that the Mobile Library service is up and running again this year. The next visit to Kilcummin will be on Monday, 2nd October. It will be visiting the school at 11.30 and is available for community use after the school visit until 12.45pm. Please continue to encourage your children to read each day.

Parents' Association- Tom Crean Day:

Thanks to our Parents' Association who continue to work tirelessly to raise much needed funds for the school. Please note that the PA welcomes new committee members. Please contact the school if you are interested in joining. We will keep you updated regarding exciting fundraising events and other news from our PA. We hope that everyone enjoyed the Tom Crean experience presented by Anthony Galvin on 13th September. Anthony presented a captivating workshop on Irish and polar exploration, featuring the stories of Tom Crean and Ernest Shackleton

REMINDER REGARDING PEANUTS AND EGGS IN SCHOOL:

The school is enforcing an outright ban on nut items in lunch boxes. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT CHILDREN DO NOT BRING PEANUTS, NUTS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS OR EGGS TO SCHOOL AS PART OF THEIR LUNCHESES.** Please note that all nuts, sesame sticks, hazelnuts, pine nuts, monkey nuts, barmbrack, chocolate spreads, peanut butter, almond butter, chocolate biscuits and eggs etc. are not permitted in school. We have a number of other children who have allergies to nuts /eggs and we are anxious that they do not come in contact with them. Being in the vicinity of nuts/eggs can trigger a serious shock for some people. Products will have to be removed as exposure to products containing nuts will cause serious reactions. Please ensure that hands are washed carefully each morning after breakfast, to ensure that any traces of nuts/eggs are removed before school also. Please be extra vigilant.

Safety Issues:

These rules are for the safety of all children:

At Kilcummin N.S., our school day will commence at 9.00am. Please note that if your child is arriving in the school prior to this time, they can attend of our Breakfast Club. Our Breakfast Club and After-School co-ordinator, Ms. Victoria O' Carroll, can be contacted (086 3007357) regarding a morning drop-off and afternoon collection service for children.

Please ensure that children are collected promptly. If children are permitted to walk home, please forward an email giving your consent for this.

Please exercise caution in the mornings and in the afternoon. Children should not walk/climb on the school walls and will follow our new yard marking to their assigned entrance door.

Junior and Senior Infants parents, please ensure that your children stay with you when leaving the premises as the road can be very busy and we are concerned for their safety.

Pedestrians and cyclists 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. (Please remember to lock your bicycle!) Pedestrians should enter and leave the school through the main gates.

Green Schools Used Stamp Collection

Please send any used postage stamps to school for recycling. This is part of the school's recycling initiative, while raising funds for charity. Stamps will be given to the Rural Development Office on a monthly basis as part of this initiative.

Green Schools

Walking to school on Wednesday (W.O.W.) and cycling to school on Wednesday (C.O.W.) has re-commenced for families. We continue to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school, where possible. We will be monitoring this on a whole school basis. Best of luck to all who may be able to participate in the Green Schools Walk to School Week, which will take place from 7th-11th October. We are encouraging children to walk/ cycle/ park and stride to school where possible. We greatly appreciate your support, as we will continue to work on our Green Flag initiative. A special word of thanks to Mr. Murphy (Green Schools co-ordinator) our Green School committee members and all teachers and staff for your dedication to the Green Schools Project.

Enrolment Details

Please forward a copy of your child's Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate to school if you have not already done so. Your child's PPSN is required for our Primary Online Database, so we would be most grateful if you could forward this at your earliest convenience. A draft of our Admissions notice for the 2025/2026 school year has been posted on our noticeboard and is available for viewing on our school website at www.kilcumminns.com, along with our Enrolment Application Form.

Pre-School

Best wishes to our pre-school operator Victoria O' Carroll and the team at our onsite pre-school. We hope that our new pre-school students are settling in well and we wish them the very best for the pre-school year ahead. Victoria can be contacted at 086 3007357.

Thanks!

Thanks to our Board of Management, Parents' Association, parents and all those who helped organise school activities, during the last school year. Our children, staff and school have benefitted enormously from all your hard work and time. Our work together ensures that the ethos of the school permeates all we do. Sincerest thanks to the priests of Killarney Parish, especially Fr. Kieran O' Brien, Fr. Joe Begley, Fr. Vitalis Barasa and Fr. Jim Lenihan, along with Mrs. Siobhán MacSweeney, the Rural Development Office, Recreational Hall committee and the Post Office for your help and support.

Most especially, thanks to all members of the teaching staff and our SNAs, who ensure that all our children are educated in a happy, safe and respectful environment. Thanks to our secretary Cornelia and caretaker Paudie for your dedication to our school. We are indebted to you all for your dedication and teamwork.

Thank you all for your support and help and we hope you and your child/ children will have a happy and successful school year.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Gillian Sheehan,
Principal and Staff