



Dear Parents,

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

ROUTINES

It has come to our attention that young pupils are being dropped off and left unsupervised outside the school. As this is a main road we ask that all children be supervised until the bell rings at 9.05am. School begins at 9.15am. We ask that children are dropped off no sooner than 9.05am. School finishes at 2:55pm (1:55pm for Junior and Senior infants). The school authority will not be responsible for the children on the school grounds outside of these times. Parents/ Guardians are asked to collect children from the school gate, children will not be allowed to leave school grounds without an adult.

PARENTS WHO NEED TO COME INTO THE SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON

If you need to meet a teacher at any time, please make an appointment by emailing the teacher or ringing the school beforehand. Please note, you can contact individual teachers through their individual school email or by using the contact form on our website. All contact details are available on the website.

ATTENDANCE

If your child has to leave school for part of the day, please send in a note informing the class teacher of his/her absence on Aladdin. Children must be signed out by whoever is collecting them if they leave for part of the day. Again, if the child is returning the child has to be signed in. Absence notes must be submitted for all absences when the child returns to school.

HEALTHY LUNCHES AND FOOD

ALLERGIES

We encourage a healthy lunch. Chewing gum, fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets and crisps, are not allowed. We have pupils in the school with nut allergies. It is very important that pupils do not bring items to school that contain nuts. We ask parents and children to be vigilant as some products contain traces of nuts. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

BUS PARKING

There are young children on the bus so the bus needs to park at the gate. Please do not park on the bus stop.

Keep this free for bus parking especially on days when school is closed early.

CHRISTMAS

The pupils in Junior and Senior infants enjoyed their trip to the Kerry museum to see Santa Clause and the pupils in 1^s to 6th class enjoyed Cinderella in the Everyman in December. A big thank you to the PA who gave €1722 towards the cost of these trips.

LEE STRAND

Ten tokens are required for each homework journal. It is a whole school effort and we are asking you to start collecting the tokens from the 1 litre or 2 litre Lee Strand Milk cartons so that we can avail of free homework journals for all pupils next year. As you collect the tokens you can send them in to school with your child/children.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

A big thank you to all those who came for Grandparents Day. Thanks especially to the PA and the parents who provided refreshments and helped out on the day.

PANCAKE TUESDAY

Thanks to The Parent Association who provided pancakes for all the children.

BASKETBALL

Basketball will resume with Abbie on the 24th of February for 6 weeks, this will cost €6 for the six weeks for 3rd to 6th class and €3 for 1st and 2nd class. Abbie intends to enter 2 teams into the Super Sevens basketball competition this year so the training is essential coming up to the competition.

BRICKS4KIDZ

Bricks4kidz lego workshops will be delivered to each classroom on the 26th of February. This lego workshops go beyond the ordinary offering a blend of education and entertainment to the children and are an important part of the STEM curriculum

ENGINEERING LESSONS

Martin O Shea is delivering Engineering Lessons to 1st and 2nd class over the next 5 weeks. This is part of the Junior Achievement Initiative and he will

introduce simple age appropriate engineering concepts to the classes. A big thank you to Martin for this, it is a great opportunity for our pupils.

FOOTBALL

Our 6th class pupils have been invited to play at half time in the National League Cork v Kildare team on the 14th of March. Thank you to Ian O Connor and Lorraine O Connor for organising drives etc.

CLOTHES COLLECTION

The Parent Association have organised a clothes collection as a fundraiser for the school. Clothes can be dropped to Knocknagree GAA club rooms on Thursday 19th March from 7 to 8pm
Saturday 21st March from 11 to 12 midday

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the 25 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 17th of February. A big Thank you to all the pupils who sang in the choir, to Ms O Shea and Ms Doolan for preparing the choir and organising the church and to Joan and Sheila for their support with the choir in the weeks coming up to the ceremony and for helping out on the day.

FIRST CONFESSION

The First Confession ceremony for 2nd class pupils will take place on the 11th of March @1pm in the church. We ask that at least one adult attends for each pupil receiving the Sacrament of Penance. However, if the weather is bad, it may take place in the school.

STAFF MEETINGS

Staff meetings will take place on the 11th of March and the 6th of May. School will close for all pupils @1:55pm on both days. After school will run as normal on those days.

SCHOOL TOURS

The Junior room will travel to The Gap of Dunloe while the children in other classes will go West Cork Secrets in Kilbrittan. These outings will take place on 29th May. More details to follow later in the year.

ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE

The pupils of Knocknagree NS are invited to take part in the St. Patricks Day parade in Knocknagree village, on the 17th March at 11am. We ask that children meet us at 10.45 at the playground. Children are invited to dress up in green for the occasion.

SWIMMING

Swimming will start on Friday the 17th of April and will run for six weeks for all classes. We will travel by bus to the Killarney Leisure Centre. As Aquatics is an important part of the Physical Education curriculum, it is strongly advised that all children attend these lessons regardless whether they attend lessons outside of school hours or not. The more exposure children have to the water, the more chance they have to practise this very important life skill. If your child(ren) cannot attend for a medical reason, please submit a medical certificate. With increasing needs in the school and if your child is sick and cannot enter the water, they should be collected from school prior to the swimming lessons as we do not have sufficient staff to supervise children on the balcony, Children will not be allowed travel on the bus or sit out on the balcony if they are sick. Children will need swimming hat, swimwear, goggles, towel, plastic bag for wet clothes. It is advisable that younger children wear togs under their clothes and ensure all clothe etc are labelled with child's name. The dates of swimming lessons are: 17th and 24th of April, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 28th of May. (Please note no lesson on 1st of May - this is rescheduled to Thursday 28th May).

INITIATIVES

GREEN FLAG



All classes have had fun learning our School's Green Code based on the Theme of 'Travel' since Christmas and participating in more healthy walks including some fabulous WOW days (Walk on Wednesdays) over the past few weeks. The Green School's Committee have been very busy also carrying out some repeat surveys such as a 'Travel Survey' to see how children get to school each day and an 'Idling Survey' at the school gates at collection time. The Committee are thrilled to report that compared to last year when we did our first Survey the

numbers of children walking, carpooling and taking the school bus have increased while the number of cars idling at the school gate in the afternoons have decreased. The Committee would like to thank everyone for their fantastic efforts to help make Knocknagree GREEN!!!!

The Committee also organised a fun 'Day of Action' on February 4th where all classes did a lot of work on Road Safety and participated in a walk to the Fairfield Sensory Garden and playground. Our Fifth and Sixth class enjoyed a wonderful History trail around the village with Andy O' Halloran. All younger classes then enjoyed creating some incredible inventions of a mode of transport that is environmentally friendly and can be powered without fossil fuels. Definitely some future budding artists and scientists in the mix! While the older classes shared some amazing recount stories of the history they had learned about their local village.

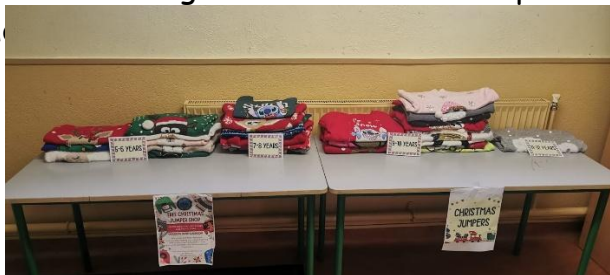


AMBER FLAG

THE AMBER FLAG
Promoting Positive
Mental Health

A busy few weeks for the Amber flag. Huge congratulations to the boys and girls who were elected for the student council. The students completed great application forms and presented their ideas to the class. We look forward to hearing the students views and opinions. As part of the Amber flag we will be participating in a fundraiser for Pieta House on the 6th of March. Each class will partake in bingo games with exciting prizes on offer, all in aid of a great cause. We are looking forward to the day.

Our first Christmas Jumper Swap Shop was held in early December and was a great success. It was wonderful to see the preloved jumpers go to new homes. Christmas jumpers are only worn a few times before kids outgrow them so passing them on to others is great. Gather them up for later in the year. We hope to have another swap shop later in the year also.



GAELBHRATACH

We have been busy using our Gaeilge over the past few months to work towards getting a Gaelbhratach for the school. We learned the words to Rudolf an Fia Rua with the Kerry Cowboy and lots of other schools in the run up to Christmas. Our coiste(committee) enjoyed brioscaí agus seacláid te at our monthly meeting in December. We extended a Céad Míle Fáilte to all our seantuismitheoirí at Grandparents' Day in January. We have lots of fun plans for Seachtain na Gaeilge in March. Stay tuned!



Red Day.

On the 13th of February, we held our first red day for autism assistance dogs Ireland. The children and staff wore red to celebrate the day. It was lovely to see so many different versions of red on the day. Thank you to everyone who donated to our fundraiser. At the moment, we have raised €520, this will make such a difference in supporting children with autism. Thank you everyone.

SAY YES TO LANGUAGES



The 5th and 6th class enjoyed their Spanish lessons before Xmas. Thank you to Maria for delivering the lessons.

CREDIT UNION QUIZ

A big thank you to the children who took part in the Credit Union Quiz. Our under 13 team came 3rd and consisted of Zach Linehan, Alana Hickey, Muireann O Connor and Doireann O Sullivan. Our under 11 team also came 3rd and comprised of Maeve O Connell, Cathal Moynihan, Cara Fitzpatrick and Liam O Connell. We are very proud of both teams.

DATES TO REMEMBER

11 th March- First Confession and staff meeting (School finishes at 1.55)	6 th May Staff meeting (School finishes at 1.55)
16 th and 17 th March closed Bank Holiday	Monday 30 th March- Friday 10 th April Closed Easter Holidays
25 th April @10:30am- First Communion	22 nd April- school closed for staff training
1 st May- Official opening of Ms O Shea's class, modular and playground by Minister Michael Moynihan @1:30pm	4 th May- Bank Holiday
School tours 29 th May	1 st June- Bank Holiday
17 th June- Graduation	23 rd June closing midday Summer Holidays
29 th June – 10th July- Summer Programme (In school)	