



Knocknagree Mallow Co Cork
064-7756237
office@knocknagreens.ie
Roll no. 18549D

13th February 2023

Dear Parents,

Follow our school blog at www.knocknagreens.ie. We will be updating the blog regularly so you can see what is happening in school. Simply click on the latest blog post and you can easily scroll through the posts which are archived monthly. All newsletters will be available under the newsletter tab, under parent's info tab on our website. Each family will also get a paper copy.

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION ROUTINES

School begins at 9.15am. We ask that children are dropped off **no sooner than 9.05am**. School finishes at **2:55 pm (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. 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.**

WHEEL CHAIR PARKING SPACE

Please note that cars must not park in the wheel chair parking or bus stop areas and cars must never obstruct other traffic. We would like to remind drivers to drive slowly and carefully at all times when in proximity of the school.

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Our Christmas play and show was a tremendous success. Well done to all our talented pupils.

SCHOOL CHOIR

We are delighted to see lots of our pupils singing in our school choir for the "Do This in Memory" masses. The community look forward to hearing them sing at these masses. Well done to all our pupils who have joined our choir so far.

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 carton **so that we can avail of free homework journals for all pupils next year.** As you collect the tokens you can send them in with your child/children

UNIFORM SURVEY

Following our survey, we have decided to allow all pupils to wear the school crested blue jumper, crested/uncrested polo shirt, **UNBRANDED** navy tracksuit pants and runners from now on. Children no longer need to wear their grey tie/trousers/pinafore/ blue shirt or black shoes.

INITIATIVES

ACTIVE FLAG

The Active Flag has been extremely busy over the last few weeks. We have introduced new yard games which take place every Tuesday and Thursday during break time giving everybody a chance to play different games. A huge thanks must go to our playground leaders who manage the different games and make sure everyone is partaking and having fun. Another new element to our yard is our Feel Good Friday Music where music is played on the yard so kids can dance and play while also enjoying some funky music. Our active flag committee have been excellent and have cleaned our sports shed and noted what resources are needed. Our next plan of action is to create a safe walkway for all school members around the school grounds.

GREEN FLAG

The Green Schools Committee have been busy working on the theme of Water. We have found out where our water comes from here in Knocknagree. Charles O' Leary has been helping us and we look forward to welcoming Charles to the school to tell us all about water, in the future.

AMBER FLAG

Our Amber Flag Committee has a long list of wellbeing initiatives planned for the coming months. To celebrate Valentine's Day the committee are leading a 'Compliments Day' to share how giving a compliment makes us feel just as good as receiving one. Our very popular

PJ day will be held on Wednesday 1st March to highlight how important sleep is in contributing to a healthy body, mind and brain. Buddies will be making a comeback across the school too very soon!

SCHOOL GARDEN

We would like to start a school garden where our pupils could learn new skills, while also having fun outdoors. **If there is any parent/grandparent or community volunteer who would be happy to help us out with this project, please contact the school.**

CREDIT UNION QUIZ

Well done to our four teams who participated in the Credit Union quiz especially to our Under 13 team who came third on the day. Well done to: Alex Hickey, Daniel Donnelly, David Fleming, Tadgh O Connor, Fia Brosnan, Saoirse Rahilly, Will Casey, Oisín Murphy, Charlie Dunlea, Caoimhe O Sullivan, Alana Hickey, Muireann O Connor, Jack Halloran, Denis Donnelly, Zack Linehan and Ellen O Connor.

CONGRATULATIONS

A big Congratulations to our SNA Siobhán, who had a baby boy, Lorcan in December.

GYMNASTICS

The children have started gymnastics lessons with Danny Farkas from Flares Gymnastics in Killarney. The lessons are geared towards children who have little or no basic gymnastic skills. Therefore, we ask that all children try and participate in these lessons.

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME

The pupils in 4th- 6th class have started to participate in the Junior Entrepreneur programme facilitated by one of our parents Ms Carmel Hickey. The pupils are really enjoying these lessons and are coming up with very innovative ideas. We certainly have some budding entrepreneurs in our midst. A big thank you to Carmel for offering this opportunity to our senior pupils.

DANCING CLASSES

Dancing classes will commence on 19th April for six weeks.

CONDOLANCES

As you may be aware Mrs. O Sullivan recently lost her father Denis Hickey. We in the school are extremely thankful to Denis who organised the football pitch for all school matches. He will be greatly missed. We offer our condolences to Mrs O Sullivan and all the family. May he Rest in Peace.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

Our last Board of Management meeting was held on the 30th of January 2023. The following points were discussed:

- Child protection
- School accounts

- Ratified policies -Admissions, Anti- Bullying, Code of Behaviour, Religion, Inclusion, SPHE, & SESE
- The need for new blinds in the school
- Extra support for children with additional needs was discussed and the necessity of extra support in the form of SNA support and special education teaching and resources
- The ongoing need for a sensory area in our school was discussed as it is deemed necessary to help all children especially those with additional needs, to regulate and self sooth, thus enabling children to manage their emotions.
- Difficulties with our drainage system and Kerry drains will come to investigate.
- Following the uniform survey, it was agreed the children in all classes can wear school tracksuit (uncrested navy trousers)/ blue crested/uncrested polo-shirt and crested blue jumper with runners from now on. They will no longer need to wear their grey skirt/pinafore/blue shirt and grey tie.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Apologies, the December newsletter stated that €3,777 was raised by the former parents' association, this was incorrect, please see total amount raised attached.

Our new Parent's Association have been very busy fundraising for our much needed sensory area/room. So far, they have organised:

Ribbon Tree, carol singing, church gate collection, refreshments and raffle during Christmas play, children's raffle in school, selection boxes for all the children and non-uniform day.

There will also be a used clothes collection over the coming weeks.

SCHOOL CLOSED: MONDAY the 20th March for staff training

DATES TO REMEMBER

16th and 17th February

-Midterm break

17th and 20th March-

St Patricks Day and staff training

31st March-

Half Day 12pm

3rd- 14th April-

Easter Holidays

17th April

School reopening

1st May and 5th June -

School closed for bank holidays

9th June

School tour for all classes

23rd June-

Half day for Summer Holidays