



Knocknagree Mallow Co Cork  
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Roll no. 18549D

12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents,

Follow our school blog at [www.knocknagreens.ie](http://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 **2:55pm (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. 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

Please note that cars must not park on 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

In December we had a very successful Bake Sale and raised over €800 for the school. Thank you to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class students, their parents and grandparents for all the baking and to Evelyn and Michelle for helping out on the day.

Our Christmas Carol Concert was lovely. Well done to all our talented pupils.

Thank you to the PA and Lisa's Little Lions for organising and sponsoring the Christmas Hampers for each classroom.

## 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.

## INITIATIVES



### BLUE STAR

The pupils of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class are enjoying taking part in the Blue Star programme. We are now onto the art and creative aspect of the programme and the children are making various landmarks in Europe.



### SAY YES TO LANGUAGES

Our Blue Star programme is complimented by the Say Yes to Languages programme. The pupils of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> are learning German every week until the Easter holidays. A big thank you to Mrs. O Sullivan who is delivering these lessons to the children.

### GREEN FLAG



Green Flag committee members have undertaken various actions to support our goal of reducing the water consumption in school. They placed bottles filled with stones into all toilet cisterns, there are basins in two sinks to help when washing art materials such as brushes, jars etc, a letter was written to Rathmore Credit Union and sponsorship was

successfully secured from them to purchase a 'Water Butt' for the school. Water engineer Charles O' Leary visited the school and gave third to sixth classes a lovely talk in December informing them where the water in Knocknagree comes from and where wastewater is treated. The water meter was read daily morning and evening during the first week of December and the Committee are thrilled to announce that we have successfully reduced water consumption in Knocknagree N.S. by over 10% since last year. 'Clean Coast's Development officer' Elaine Doyle had to postpone her visit after Christmas but she is now expected to deliver her workshops in all classes on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Cork County Green Schools Officer David Macilwraith also paid a visit to the school on January 18<sup>th</sup> to view the work going on in our school about the theme of water and he spoke to the committee members and was very impressed with all the different initiatives undertaken. Third to Sixth classes had a very enjoyable visit to Tralee Bay Wetlands Visitor Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February as part of our acknowledgment of 'World Wetlands Day 2024'. The committee will be submitting the final application for our second Green Flag in the coming weeks.

### CURIOUS MINDS



#### (SEAI workshops)

The pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class participated in SEAI workshops on January 31<sup>st</sup>. We are focusing on "Engineering" this term. The pupils in the senior room will integrate this into their Blue Star programme and construct famous landmarks from around Europe. We are looking forward to seeing the finished constructions! Other engineering focused activities will take place over the next few weeks as we prepare to submit our application for our Curious Minds award in the summer term.



### AMBER FLAG

Children's Mental Health Week was celebrated during 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February. There was a different focus each day where we completed a variety of activities to promote positive mental health, mindfulness and wellbeing. It was a fun and active week engaging in Thankful Tuesday, Wellbeing Wednesday, Terrific Thursday and Feel-Good Friday. In every class the Amber Flag committee members were given the title 'Wellbeing Warriors' for the week and they were responsible for promoting and encouraging positivity. We also had a non-uniform day on Thursday - 'Inside Out Day' where children were encouraged to wear a piece of clothing inside out to promote talking about our thoughts and feelings.

### CREDIT UNION QUIZ

A big thank you to the children who took part in the Credit Union Quiz, our U13 team; Daniel Donnelly, Killian Moynihan, Saoirse Rahilly, Caoimhe Dineen and our U11 team; Denis Donnelly, Caoimhe Lenihan, Muireann O'Connor and Zach Linehan. We are very proud of our U11 team who came 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day.

### GRANDPARENTS DAY

A big thank you to all those who called in for Grandparent's Day in January and to the PA and the senior pupils who provided refreshments and helped out on the day.

## IRISH DANCING

The children will start Irish Dancing after Easter. These lessons will be delivered by Áine Murphy from the Áine Murphy School of Dancing. The parent's association have very kindly offered to pay for the lessons which would otherwise cost €12 per child.

## NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Our new Board of Management took over on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

The members are:

Jeremiah Goulding (Chairperson)

Fr Pat O Donnell (Patron's rep)

Eleanor O Connell (Secretary)

Carmel O Sullivan (Teacher rep)

Norita Casey (Parent rep)

Darren Moynihan (Parent rep)

Frances O Sullivan (Community rep)

Irene Lucey (Community rep)

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Parents Association Financial Report September to December 2023

Date	Income Activity	Expenditure Activity	Amount
September 2023	Clothes Collection		€980
October 2023		Junior Room Books	€3,215
November 2023	Unity Ribbon Tree		€1,070
December 2023	Church Gate Collection		€383.70
December 2023	Carol Singing		€338.57
November 2023		Toy Show Bags & Jumper competition vouchers	€268
December 2023		Bus trip to cinema	€400
December 2023		Christmas Hampers & Selection Boxes	€260.50

The Parents Association would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support of all our fundraising efforts throughout the year.

### Important events this term:

- Clothes collection - Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April 7-8pm, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 9 - 10am.

- Sensory room launch and official opening - TBC

We are very excited to share that it has been decided to organise an official opening of the new multi-sensory room in Knocknagree school. Details to follow in the coming weeks!!!

### CONFIRMATION

Best of Luck to the 17 boys and girls who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation tomorrow. They enjoyed their trip to the Nano Nagle Centre on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January for the Confirmation retreat. A big thank you to Fr Pat and the parish for organising this for our pupils.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### School closed

15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Feb- Midterm break

5<sup>th</sup> March - School closing for all pupils at 1:55pm for Staff meeting

8<sup>th</sup> March - closed (due to referendum)

18<sup>th</sup> March- Bank Holiday

22<sup>nd</sup> March- Half Day

25<sup>th</sup> March -7<sup>th</sup> April- Easter Holidays

8<sup>th</sup> April School reopening

29<sup>th</sup> May School tour for all classes

6<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June -School closed for bank holidays

5<sup>th</sup> June- School closing for all pupils at 1:55pm for Staff meeting

12<sup>th</sup> June - Graduation for Sixth class pupils

17<sup>th</sup> June-Millstreet Sports Day

22<sup>nd</sup> June-Half day for Summer Holidays