



26th September 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been a pleasure to return to school and we really appreciate your help in getting this schoolyear off to a great start for pupils and staff

SCHOOL BLOG

Follow our new 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 (1:55 for Junior and senior infants)**. The school authority will not be responsible for the children on the school grounds outside of these times.

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 from on our website. All contact details are available on the website.

PARENT CONTACT

It is imperative that parents do not send children to school if they are showing symptoms of any illness whatsoever. Any child who is sick will have to be sent home immediately as there are still regular positive cases of Covid-19 in the community. It is vital that parents/guardians are contactable at all times throughout the school day in case of children becoming ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, TEL, NO

If any of your child/children's details have changed e.g. address, contact details, illness, etc. please contact the school as soon as possible. Thank You.

MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS

We have a facility for texting parents. This is very important now that we have set up the e Payment system. **If you have not received any text message from Knocknagree N.S. please let us know.** The text automatically goes to the listed mobile phone.

E-PAYMENT SYSTEM

The ePayment system is up and running. This year **we would appreciate it if you could use your debit/credit card for all payments to the school, as there are charges associated with cash and cheques**

We thank all parents who have paid for Photocopying Arts/Crafts and Book Rental so far this year.

Our normal school crested uniform is required. Tracksuit can be worn by all classes on Thursday and Fridays or as directed by the teachers. Children can occasionally mislay their jumpers, cardigans and jackets during the school day. **Please ensure that jumpers, cardigans and jackets are marked with child's name.**

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.

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,

PARENTS COMMITTEE ELECTION

We will be electing new parent representatives for all classes. Ballot papers will be issued shortly. The work done by the Parent Association should never be underestimated. The members of our Parents Committee require your help from time to time and I would encourage everyone to help out if at all possible. The parent's association is very important and offer great support to our school. They help to organise various events to fundraise for our school. This funding is essential so children get to experience extra-curricular activities, special outings, fun days and vital equipment and facilities for our school. Last year, the

parent's association helped to fund our outdoor classroom which is a great addition to our school. All classes have enjoyed using our outdoor classroom and will continue to enjoy it for many years to come. This year, all classes will get the opportunity to avail of swimming, gymnastics, Irish dancing and music classes. It is important to note, these activities could not go ahead without the support of funding by the parent's association.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of our current parent's association,

Denise Fitzpatrick

Lisa Dunlea

Lisa Riordan

Sheila Courtney

Ciara Guerin

for all their hard work, effort and commitment and for ensuring the children of Knocknagree school were able to engage in many fun and educational activities in recent years

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

LIBRARY

The Mobile Library will visit our school every 2nd Tuesday. All classes can avail of this service. Please complete and send in the green registration card so your child can visit the mobile library. We encourage parents to visit their local library as often as possible with their children. Visiting the Library will help in encouraging your children to read.

"The more that you read,

The more things you will know.

The more that you learn.

The more places you will go."

Dr Seuss

In Knocknagree N.S., we are passionate about reading and this year all children are encouraged to read regularly through a shared reading programme from junior infants to 3rd class using levelled readers. Children in the senior room are also encouraged to read regularly and various rewards/systems are in place in classrooms to encourage reading. As part of this initiative, we have recently invested in a wide variety of new reading materials for the school and we will take part in the Readathon in November, in order to raise funds for MS Ireland.

Strategies such as pair/peer tutoring and reading will be **used** from time to time during the school year, where older children are paired with younger children for reading and other activities. This is a very worthwhile strategy and is proven to improve children's readability, academic performance, social skills and most importantly their self esteem and confidence

INITIATIVES

Last year, we achieved our first Green Flag for Litter and Waste. We will continue to participate in Green Flag initiative this year, our theme is water and we will be working towards achieving our 2nd Green Flag for Water over the next two years.

All children enjoyed participating in the Amber Flag activities last year and we are delighted to continue with this initiative. This initiative is run by Pieta House and focusses on children's wellbeing.

SCHOOL SELF- EVALUATION

We have been asked to focus on Wellbeing as part of the school self- evaluation process this year. We feel the Amber Flag initiative will compliment this process. As

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent teacher meeting will take place on the week of 21st November. PT meetings will be scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 22nd and 23rd of November. However, we are happy to accommodate parents who may not be able to make the specified days and we will be available from 8:30am on the mornings of that week also.

The following are a list of activities which children are fortunate to have during the year.

SWIMMING LESSONS

This year swimming will be for the whole school every child from Junior infants to 6th class will have the opportunity to go swimming. The cost of the six lessons and transport will be €56.00 per child. Swimming will return on Friday November 11 until Friday 16th December inclusive.

CHRISTMAS

We are delighted to welcome back our local artist, Mary Sheehan, who will provide Christmas art for all children in December.

We are also hoping to organise a simple Christmas play/show where children can show off their many talents and abilities.

SHONA GRAY

Last year, the children really enjoyed the workshops provided by Shona Gray. She is hoping to return to Knocknagree school before Christmas to carry out biodiversity workshops, minibeast hunts and some Christmas activities.

FIRST COMMUNION

Enrolment Ceremony for First Communion children will be held on 15TH October. First Communion will be held on 6th May. We encourage pupils from 1st to 6th class to attend and to sing as part of our school choir on both occasions.

First Penance for First Communion children will take place in February/ March during school hours.

