



September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our students. We hope you all enjoyed a happy and restful summer. This year 13 children started including 8 Junior Infants We wish them every success and hope their time here will be happy and filled with good memories.

School Blog

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 (1:55 for Junior and Senior Infants)**. The school authority will not be responsible for the children on the school grounds outside of these times. Children are not allowed to leave the school grounds unless an adult is there to collect them.

Parents who need to come to 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.

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/Aladdin Connect

The e-payment system is up and running. We thank all parents who have paid for Photocopying Arts/Crafts so far this year. We have started using Aladdin Connect for sending notes home and parents adding absences of their children. **Recently, a permission form was sent on connect, any parent who has not yet replied please do so as soon as possible.**

Uniform

Our normal school crested jumper is required. Plain navy unbranded tracksuit / shorts and a blue polo shirt. 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 update the school on the app 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 they must be signed back in when they return. All absences must be accounted for.

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.*

Parents Association

The Parents Association have been working very hard in the last 12 months. We wish to thank them for all the extra benefits the school has received including the new freezer, mobile oven/hob and elephant beanbag in our sensory room. They have donated over €3215 to the school so we can update our classroom library books and literacy resources from Junior Infants to 2nd class. They have also kindly offered to pay for the buses for our Xmas trip to the cinema on the 1st of December.

In the most recent clothes collection, the PA raised €980. A big thank you to everyone who helped out. Please see last year's PA accounts attached.

Please get involved! Parental input is always welcome and we are happy to hear any ideas and suggestions you would like us to explore.

After School Childcare/Homework club

The after-school service is set up and running in the school every day from 2pm. This is run by Lisa Riordan from Lisa's Little Lions. If you wish to book your child into the after school service, please contact Lisa on (087) 9365317.

Lee Strand

A big thank you to all the parents who collected Lee Strand tokens. We got 60 FREE HOMEWORK JOURNALS. 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. 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

Initiatives

We are continuing with the Green Flag for Water. This is a two year programme. We will be working towards achieving our 2nd Green Flag for Water over the next 12 months. 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. Last year, the pupils of Knocknagree N.S. received the Active Flag initiative, this is a very worthwhile initiative as it encourages a physically educated and physically active school community. We want our school to be one where, physical activity is promoted, valued and enjoyed by all. As part of this initiative, all children will participate in weekly basketball training sessions and basketball leagues will run at lunch time including children from 4th class up.

Blue Star Programme

This year 5th and 6th class will complete the Blue Star programme. This is an initiative that encourages pupils to learn about the European cultures through creative projects and ideas.

Say Yes to Languages

We are delighted to inform you that we have been successful in our application for the Say Yes to Languages programme. This is delivered to pupils from 3rd to 6th class for eight hours over a period of eight weeks. Mrs. Karen O' Sullivan will deliver this to our pupils from third class up in Term 2.

Curious Minds

With the support of Mrs. Keane and Ms. O Connell, the pupils in 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th class will take part in the Curious Minds programme throughout the year. The Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) encourage schools to participate in this programme to encourage the teaching of STEM, allowing teachers to spark fun both inside and outside the classroom.

Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra

As part of the creative school's initiative, SPSL has kindly invited our 5th and 6th class pupils down to the school this Thursday to enjoy a musical session. The pupils will be transported by bus. This session will last approximately 1.5hrs.

SPSL are having their open evening for 6th class pupils on next Thursday, the 5th of October.

School Self-Evaluation

As part of this process, we will continue to focus on Wellbeing as part of the school self-evaluation process again this year. We are focussing on the curriculum area of Wellbeing. As a result, we have adopted a new SPHE programme across all classes called Mindful Matters. The Amber Flag initiative will compliment this process. As part of this process, parent and pupil voice is sought and valued so it becomes a meaningful process for all parties involved. From time to time, we may ask parents and pupils to fill out online questionnaires, surveys etc. as part of the school self- evaluation process.

Halloween Dress-Up

All children will be asked to dress in their Halloween costume on Friday, the 27th of October. All types of costumes are welcome. We ask that every child bring in €2 on the day. All proceeds collected on the day will go to the Mercy hospital foundation.

Goal Jersey Day

All children can wear a jersey of their choice on Monday 13th November. It would be appreciated if children brought €2.00 each on the day the proceeds which will go to GOAL.

Shoe Box Appeal

School will participate in Team Hope Shoebox Appeal again this year. Boxes must ready by 7th November. (Tuesday after midterm)

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meeting will take place on the week of 27th November. PT meetings will be scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 28th and 29th 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.

Swimming Lessons

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 €60.00 per child. Swimming will begin on Friday 13th October until Friday 23rd November inclusive.

School Lotto Fundraiser

Knocknagree ns fundraiser lotto will be starting shortly. This is a fundraising initiative and the money collected will be used directly to support your children's education. It will be used to purchase IT and sports equipment, playground resources and classroom and teaching resources. More information will be provided on this in the coming weeks.

Board of Management

The Board of Management is due to be renewed this year for another four-year term. More information will be provided on this in the coming weeks.

Cinema Trip

As a treat for the children, all pupils will travel to the Gate cinema in Mallow on the 1st of December to see a Xmas movie.

Christmas

We are also hoping to organise a simple Christmas carol concert/show. This will have to be held in the church/school. You will be notified with more information nearer the time.

First Communion and Confirmation Dates

Enrolment Ceremony for First Communion and Confirmation children will be held on Saturday, the 21st of October at 7.30pm. Confirmation will be held on Tuesday the 13th of February in Rathmore church at 11am. First Communion will be held on 18th May at 11am. We encourage pupils from 1st to 6th class to attend and to sing as part of our school choir on both the Enrolment and First Communion ceremonies.

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

Knocknagree Parents Association - income & expenditure

January 2023 to June 2023

Income

Clothes Collection 25.02.23	€1,000	
Easter Raffle 31.03.23	€9,467	
Non uniform day 04.05.23	€124	
		Total income: €10, 591

Expenses

Sensory Room	€5, 330	
Appliances (Freezer & Hob cooker).	€ 436	
Lego Workshop for all children (21.06.23)	€ 525	
Sensory Beanbag	€ 170	
Easter Eggs & Easter Hampers	€ 161	
Stamps / Easter Cards	€ 35	
Communion Balloons and Party Bags	€ 60	
Graduation Refreshments	€ 57	
Prize for Raffle (O'Keefe's) voucher	€ 50	
		Total Expenses: €6,824

End of year balance

€6, 973.19

Treasurers

Michelle O'Hara Murphy

Helena Hickey