**Kilcommon N.S**

**Newsletter – November 2023**

**Walk to school.**

Our next walk to school takes place this Wednesday 8th November. Meeting at Riverside. Please drop school bags to school.

**Swimming:**

School swimming lessons for 1st & 2nd classes and 5th & 6th classes are almost complete with the final lesson this Friday 10th November.

Swimming lessons for Junior and Senior Infants and for 3rd/4th classes will take place on Thursdays, starting this Thursday 9th November, at Arklow Swimming Pool. Pupils will be accompanied by staff so there is no requirement for parents to join us. However, we know that the parents of some younger pupils like to join us and we will arrive at the pool at approximately 10:40am. Only vetted parents can enter group changing rooms. Teachers will share a note this week on seesaw with extra guidelines.

In the lead up to lessons, it is a great help for younger pupils to practice drying themselves and getting dressed independently after showers and baths. The purpose of these lessons is to focus on swim stroke development, but it is also to increase safety and confidence in the water and to promote the enjoyment of swimming.

**School Closure:** We have just received notice that the school will be closed on Wednesday 15thNovember to facilitate our staff’s participation in national teacher inservice training in the new Maths Curriculum.

**School AGM:**

The school AGM takes place Thursday 16th November at 8pm**.** Agenda: Welcome, Minutes, Matters arising, Presentation of School Accounts, Principal’s report. We encourage all families to attend. If you cannot attend in person, you may like to join via Zoom and a zoom invitation will be circulated on Seesaw nearer the time.

**Parent teacher meetings:**

These will be held from Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd November. The timetable for parent teacher meetings is attached to this newsletter and will also be circulated on Seesaw. Please contact your child’s teacher via Seesaw as soon as possible if you would prefer a Zoom or telephone meeting, or if you would like to reschedule for an alternative day or time.

**News from the Board of Management:**

* Enrolments for September 2024 will open in early December**.** Forms will be distributed to pupils already on our list for next year (where parents have already been in contact with the school), so please contact the office if you do not receive a form. If you know anyone who is hoping to send their child to Kilcommon N.S next September, please ask them to contact the school.
* School accounts from last year have now been submitted to our accountant to be certified. At each meeting some school policies are reviewed. Policies under review are in the review section of the policy page on our website kilcommon.weebly.com for parents to see and contribute to if wished to principalkilcommonns@gmail.com
* The new Board of Management is currently being formed and will be in place from the 1st December.

**Credit Union:**

Congratulations to Bethany Kinsella and Seán O’Gorman on winning prizes in their age groups in the Credit Union art competition. Well done!

**MM Childcare:**

MM Childcare provides care after school hours. This is a wonderful service, as bookings can be on-going or occasional / ad-hoc bookings can be made during the year at any stage for the following week. Please contact Maude on 0894856998 for further details.

**Car Park Safety:**

Thank you for adhering to our parking systems. We have been made aware of some other car park safety concerns. We ask that parents arriving early reverse into parking spots, so that driving out is safer for all those crossing the car park. However, if you arrive once families are already crossing the car park, we recommend that you drive straight into the parking slot and wait there until the car park is quiet again before reversing out. Please drive slowly at all times.

**PTA:**

Thank you again to everyone who helped and supported the coffee morning and harvest fair day before the Halloween break. There was a lovely atmosphere and your support is much appreciated. Over €1,300 was raised. Amazing and thank you!

Our Childline breakfast will take place on Friday 24th November. With some PTA members helping out that morning. This is also a ‘wear your pyjamas’ day in school too, with cereal and toast served during the morning. There will be a donation box for Childline in each classroom.

**Christmas events:**

* **Christmas Annuals:** Annuals (Irish made, designed and printed) for each classroom are currently for sale through the school. These are optional and cost €3.00. Sample pages will be shared on seesaw with information on how to order. For those who order, the cost will be added to your online Aladdin payment. *(NB Please do not pay for such a small amount on Aladdin yet as with each transaction there is a fee for the school. Please pay when paying for other bills*) Strictly last orders by November 30th (no pressure to purchase)
* **Turning on of the Tinahely lights:**The turning on of the Tinahely lights takes place on Sunday 19th November at 5pm. Pupils able to attend are invited to stand with pupils from other local schools to sing Christmas carols. Pupils from Kilcommon will stand together and there will be members of school staff present on the day. Pupils are encouraged to wear Santa hats (if you have one) on the day. All are welcome!
* **Food appeal:** There will be a food collection in the school during the week Monday 12th - Friday 16th December. Non-perishable goods can be brought to school and left in the crates outside the front door morning and afternoon. All donations will go to local Christmas charity food appeals.
* **Kilcommon Christmas Show:** A walkabout and unique retelling of the Nativity takes place in the school classrooms, hall and in Kilcommon Church on Tuesday 19th December. All pupils will be involved that evening in drama, song and storytelling, so save the date! More details on the way!
* **No Uniform:** There will be no school uniforms for the few days after our Christmas show (Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st or Friday 22nd December**).** Pupils are welcome to wear their own clothes or maybe festive jumpers,outfits and Santa hats! We also look forward to welcoming a special Christmas visitor to the classrooms during that week!
* **Christmas Eve Services:** Parish Carol service in Carnew at 11am. Christmas Eve service in Kilcommon (time to be confirmed). Facebook: Tinahely Carnew (Tinahely and Carnew Union).
* **School closure:** The school will close on Friday 22nd December at 12 o’clock with buses running at that time. School will reopen on Monday 8th January.

**Parent Teacher Meetings - November 2023**

* Please message your child’s teacher if you would like to reschedule your meeting, or if you would like to arrange a meeting via zoom or by phone instead. All changes must be made via the teacher.
* Thank you.

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|  | **Mon. 20th Nov** | **Tues. 21st Nov** | **Wed. 22nd Nov** | **Thurs. 23rd Nov** |
| **1.45** | Jessica C |  |  |  |
| **2pm** | Thomas C | Kyle N | William D | Iris B |
| **2.15** | Hector H | Maya E | Karen D | Cuileann S |
| **2.30** | Noah B | Simone G | Cillian D | Olivia H |
| **2.45** | James GDAnna CPhoebe HAmelia W | Hannah SKylo GRobyn GLuke L | Aoife OHayley DJessica BNathan L | Louis RMike HAlfie BHTristan K |
| **3pm** | Max BRyan LJacob S | Owen SRiley LSeán O | Grace OSophie DNathan H | Annabelle ODylan WJoseph L |
| **3.15** | Noah WPippa BAlex L | Conor LLuka RFRose O | Frazer HEmma RMia M | Charlotte OIsabelle LEvan K |
| **3.30** | Dara LZola WAlex W | Jake BAsher HKBethany K | Remi MEmilia HHolly D | Willow MHarry OChloe VB |
| **3.45** | Jack EHazel LColum R | Stephen BOrán BFoster F | Clayton EFreddie HSadhbh M | Robyn MGrace KZoe W |
| **4pm** | Domas V | Mila S |  | Hannah W |