Kilcommon N.S.

 🌈**NEWSLETTER**

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**Some news from the Board of Management**

* **New special education classroom:** We are delighted that Kilcommon NS has received sanction to open a special education classroom in September for children with autism. Reconfiguration of areas within the school will take place over the summer break to create a new space for this classroom. Applications are currently open.
* **Policy Review:** The annual reviews of our **Child Protection Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy** were completed at a recent meeting. Parents are asked for feedback, if any, in relation to the schools’ compliance with the requirements of the ‘Child Protection procedures for primary schools 2017’. These policies, along with some other key policies are available on our website. We also welcome suggestions on draft policies which are under review. Please check in regularly on the website to see these and email principalkilcommonns@gmail.com with feedback.
* **Congratulations:** Baby on the way! Congratulations to Rachel Stamp (Stanley!) who is expecting a baby after the summer holidays. Lots of excitement in the 3rd 4th classroom!
* **Hot lunches:** These are up and running smoothly in the school. Thank you to Colette Stephenson who helps run this programme everyday in Kilcommon for our suppliers Freshtoday. Don’t forget to book chosen meals before Thursday evenings for the following week.
* **Solar panels:** The Department of Education has sanctionedthe installation ofsolar panels for our school. LVP Renewables Ltd will soon install these panels on the school roof.
* **Staff room update:** The school staff room has recently been fully refurbished. Many thanks to Eamon Fitzgerald and Fitzgerald Kitchens for their generosity in fitting out the room with lovely new kitchen units.
* **Walkway:** The weather has delayed the new field walkway project but we hope to get this underway as soon as the weather improves. Many thanks to RTJ Engineering and our school PTA for their work and support with this project.
* **Rev’d Canon David W. Bayne:** Welcome to Canon David who was recently instituted as rector of Tinahely and Carnew Union of Parishes and who now joins our school Board of Management, as one of our Bishop’s representatives.
* **Environmental grant:** The school was delighted to receive a grant of €400 from Wicklow County Council towards school biodiversity, in recognition of environmental work in the school.

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**Other school news!**

**Heritage in schools scheme:** Author Jackie Burke read excerpts from her novels to 3rd -6th classes in March. Pupils in all classes enjoyed visits from a storyteller, Anthony Galvin, before the holidays. Pupils were fully engaged as he shared stories of arctic regions and arctic explorers. A few days later we had a visit from archaeologist, Stephen Mandal. Pupils from 1st class upwards learnt about life in Early Christian Ireland and making ink from oak galls, just like back in that time, was a highlight of the visit.Photos of these and other events are available to view on www.kilcommonweebly.com

**Trip to Dublin:** 5th & 6th classes had a wonderful trip to Dublin on Wednesday 20th March. The day started travelling by train to Pearse St Station. First stop was at the National Art Gallery for a guided tour of a wonderful selection of artwork. A walk through Trinity College and up Dame Street brought us to Christ Church Cathedral where Dean Dermot Dunne (a past rector in Kilcommon) met us and had arranged for a very special tour - right up to the belfry, where we all took turns ringing the cathedral bells (as these are heard across Dublin, I'm sure people were wondering what was happening!) and then the tour continued down in the crypts. From there we headed back to visit the Natural History Museum and the National History Museum…… and finally some very tired pupils and teachers headed back to get the train home, arriving in Rathdrum at 7pm. A very successful day! Thank you to Mia’s mum, Amy, for joining us on the trip.

**Drumming workshop:** Wednesday 10th April was a very rhythmic day as Neil Dowling visited the school. Every pupil in the school had the opportunity to play a wide variety of drums on the day. Pictures on our school website.

**Walk to school:** Our next ‘walk to school’ will take place on **Wednesday 24th April.** As usual, pupils should be dropped at 9am to Riverside Centre in Tinahely. School bags can be left in a staff member's car there to be brought to school, or they can be left in the school shelter beforehand. Buses will also drop pupils into Riverside.

**Book Fair:** A book fair arrives at the school next week Monday 22nd, 9am - 26th April, 9.30am. Pupils will get the opportunity to visit the book fair during school hours and books may be purchased, if wished, Parents are also welcome to visit the book fair at drop off and collection times, entering via the ramp door. The book fair will take place in the school hall. The classroom libraries also benefit from receiving some new books from the book fair, commission based on the number of books sold during the week. NB Parents and children are welcome to visit the fair and browse through the range of children’s books, but there is **NO pressure** to make any purchases.

**Darkness into light /Rise and Shine for Childline:**  **Friday 26th April**

* To support the local ‘Darkness into Light’ walk which takes place on Saturday 11th May, leaving from Tinahely Community Hall at 4.30am, we will all wear something yellow to school on **Friday 26th April** as part of our village’s ‘Yellow Day’. Pupils will decorate some garden stones with yellow paint and positive affirmations and images. These will decorate our school garden, and some will be placed around the village. Pupils will make yellow artwork which will decorate the village and community hall that morning. Pupils will plant sunflowers that day as well.
* To support ‘ Rise and Shine for Childline’ pupils will get a slice of toast during the morning part of the day.

There will be a donation box on the day which will be shared between Pieta House and Childline.

**Photographer:** The school photographer will visit on **Thursday 16th May**….. so make sure hair is brushed that day!! Information sheets will be shared nearer the time with more details. A sample ‘proof picture’ will be sent to all families before you decide whether or not to purchase. If your child has siblings in school, photos are taken together, unless informed differently. NB Please note that there is no pressure to purchase any photos.

**Confirmation classes:** These are currently taking place in the senior room after school on Wednesday afternoons with Canon David Bayne. The confirmation service takes place in Christ Church, Gorey on **Sunday 26th May** 2024. All are welcome.

**School Tour – Fort Lucan: Tuesday 28th May** (payable on Aladdin shortly)

**Thank you for completing the online permission slip and confirming travel, as we have based all costs on this. Pupils will be accompanied by the teachers and staff of Kilcommon & All Saints NS Carnew.**

* Departure: Kilcommon N.S. 8.15am, Annacurra Cross 8.30am, Lawless’s Hotel 8.35am (Please let class teachers know if being collected at these locations)
* Return: Return to Kilcommon N.S 5pm (TBC)
* What to bring: Lunchbox, snacks and drinks for the day in an easy to carry backpack, some spending money if wished in a zipped pocket (small shop & cafe selling chips, ice cream etc. on site - see their website). Suitable clothing and sun cream as needed.
* What not to bring: Personal devices or mobile phones. If needed, teachers will send updates during the day. The staff will have their phones with them for emergency contacts.

**Soccer Blitz – Bunclody - Thursday 30th May** (payable on Aladdin shortly)

**Thank you for completing the online permission slip and indication of travel as we have been based all costs on this. Parents are welcome to join us at the pitch for this diocesan blitz for all class groups.**

* Departure: Kilcommon N.S. 9.05am sharp! (school buses will run as usual that morning)
* Return: Return time (TBC)
* What to bring: Lunch, drinks and snacks for the day, water bottle, suitable sports wear for the weather, soccer boots if available.

What not to bring: Personal devices or mobile phones. If needed, teachers will send updates during the day. The staff will have their phones with them for emergency contacts

**Infant Introduction Day:** Incoming Junior Infant pupils are invited into school on **Friday 31st May** at 1pm. Invitations will be sent next week to families who have enrolled children. Parents of incoming Junior Infants are invited to a short zoom meeting the previous evening, **Thursday 30th May**, 8pm. Zoom links will be shared nearer the time with relevant families.

**Standardised testing:** Testing will take place in Kilcommon NS in May. Results will be shared with parents on seesaw as soon as corrected.. Please note that standardised testing is not necessarily more important than other types of assessment. It is important to remember that they are only a snapshot in time, slight fluctuations are normal and results do not reflect all aspects of a pupil’s learning and development.

**Choral Festival:**The annual diocesan choral festival services have changed to a new three year format. Year one (this year) consists of a service in Kilcommon Church on **Friday 14th June.** All are welcome to join us at 11 am. All are welcome. Years two and three will involve us joining other schools around the diocese (as we did last year).

**MM Childcare:** This afterschool service continues to be available in Kilcommon Hall, with care offered after school every day. Please contact Maude on **089-4856998** for further details. We are very lucky to have this service available and it is number dependent, so please consider using it some days. Maude usually starts early on school half days to accommodate families.

**Absences:** A reminder to all families to continue to make sure that reasons for school absences are given to the school. Messages on seesaw are the easiest and can be at any stage of a period of absence. A note in your child’s homework diary, an email or a phone call are also acceptable. *NB If your child has missed 15 days, they have missed over 8% of their year’s education. 20 days = 11 %. 30 days of school = 16%. 40 days = 22%.*

*NB If no reason is given, these are all recorded as ‘unexplained’. Please remember that the reminder text that you receive when your child misses over 15 days is just a reminder for everyone, as the total of missed days can add up easily without people being aware and by law we must make returns each term to Tusla on school absences over 20 days. Of course we understand when pupils miss school due to illness etc, but this can only be explained and recorded when we are informed by parents of reasons for absences. Thank you.*

**Morning timekeeping:** Please try to be in school on time every morning (9am -9.10am). Being in school on time is so important as this is often when daily plans etc are all explained and interruptions are very disruptive on everyone in the class.

**Ducklings! :** Eggciting days ahead!! We currently have seven duck eggs in the school incubator and these are due to hatch just after the May bank holiday weekend. Fingers crossed we get some ducklings!

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 **DATES FOR DIARY- 2023 - 2024 Term 3**

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| **NB Please make note of possible changes to the previous shared calendar. This updated calendar is also available on our school website www.kilcommon.weebly.com**.Wednesday 24th April: Walk to schoolMonday 22nd -26th April: Visiting Book FairFriday 26th April: Yellow DayFriday 3rd May: ½ day. School closes at 12 noon. Buses running.Monday 6th May: Bank holiday closure.Thursday 16th May: School Photographer.Sunday 26th May: Confirmation service, Christ Church, Gorey.Tuesday 28th May: School tour to Fort Lucan.Thursday 30th May: Diocesan primary school soccer blitz, Bunclody.Thursday 30th May: Zoom meeting 8pm - Incoming Infant parents.Friday 31st May: Incoming Infant Introduction Day, 1pm.Monday 3rd June: Bank Holiday closure.Wednesday 12th June: Sports Day. Races start at 12.30pm. Buses run 2.40pm.Friday 14th June: Choral Festival service, Kilcommon, 11am.Tuesday 18th June: 6th class graduation, 11 o’clock All welcome.Friday 21st June: School closes at 12 noon. Buses running.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**2024-2025 Provisional timetable (Dates will be confirmed in September)**Wednesday 28th August: School Re-opens Thursday 29th August: Incoming Junior Infants - Day 1 Friday 27th October: School closes 12 o’clockMon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov: School closed, mid-term breakFriday 20th December: School closes 12 o’clock, Christmas holidaysMonday 6th January: School reopensMon 3rd February: School closedMon 17th - Fri 21st Feb: School closed, mid-term breakFriday 31st February: School closes 12 o’clockMonday 17th March: School closedFriday 11th April: School closes 12 o’clock, Easter holidaysMonday 28th April: School reopensMonday 5th May: School closedMonday 2nd June: School closedFriday 20th June: School closes 12 o’clock for summer  |
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