



# KILMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

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October 2022

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have completed our first month back to school and I would like to express gratitude to all in our school community for their efforts. As you will be aware, our school had significant work completed over the summer months with the installation of new windows and doors to the highest standard. We have also converted our bus shelter to a music room and we have had the outside of the school painted. Unfortunately, due to a supply issue or astro-turf is not yet ready but we expect this to be completed in the coming weeks.

## **Homework Policy:**

Our school is constantly reviewing our homework policy in line with the latest research and we have made a conscious effort to scale back homework to focus on the essential tasks. Current policy is as follows:

Every night: Reading, Tables (Irish verbs for older classes)

Monday and Wednesday: Handwriting exercises to be done to best of child's ability

Thursday: Revision or completion of unfinished tasks.

## **Speech & Language Class**

Welcome to Jessica Lyons SLT who is working with the children in the Speech & Language Class this year. This Friday, the 14th October, we will mark DLD awareness day. Developmental Language Disorder is the most prevalent childhood disability with an average of 2-3 students presenting with DLD in every Irish classroom. Thanks to all the children who have helped decorate our DLD awareness notice board with their lovely colouring.

## **Fiftieth Year Celebrations:**

On February 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, our school will celebrate fifty years in existence. To commemorate this work has commenced on a number of initiatives including a calendar for Christmas and a show next February. This show will highlight the musical talents of past and present pupils and is being coordinated by Ms Moore and Liam Bates among others. More details to follow!

## **Book Fair:**

The Book fair will take place from Monday 24<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October in our library. It will open from 9.15-9.40am and from 2pm-3.30pm (Monday-Wednesday in afternoons only) for parents to purchase books.

## **School Photographer:**

Southern Photography will be in the school on Tuesday 18th October to take your child's photo if requested. If you would like to avail of this opportunity please complete and return to the school office the form that has been sent home.

**GAA Games Promotion Officer:** Kilmore GAA currently employ the excellent Al Monahan who visits our school every Wednesday. Lessons include fundamental movement skills and Gaelic games skills. Hurling 365 commenced before school this week and will expand during the year. We have a limited stock of hurls (€18 with grip) and helmets (€40) to purchase in school.

### **Lunches:**

Fresh Today provide hot school lunches and we encourage you to discuss menu options with your child. All children may bring a water bottle and filtered water is available in the school. Bottles should be washed out at home on a regular basis. If your child forgets a drink bottle, please do not drop bottles to the school as we do not wish to have bottles handled by multiple persons. We will arrange for a plastic cup for that day.

### **School Fees:**

Our school fully understands that the “Back to School” period is an expensive time for families. We make an effort to reduce costs and it is important to note that the costs in our school are significantly lower than on average. For families with a number of children a payment plan can be discussed with Mr Martin.

Art, Crafts, Photocopying & Printing is an important compulsory charge for all pupils and is due now.

School Fund - each family is asked to contribute €20 four times per year or €80. While this is a voluntary charge, our school cannot meet its costs without this important contribution.

**Coats:** Please ensure that all clothing (coats/jumpers) are clearly labelled with your child’s name.

### **Collection:**

A reminder that children should not be collected during the school day unless they have an important appointment. The secretary’s office is closed for lunch from 1.30pm-2pm and it will not be possible for children to be collected at this time.

### **PA AGM:**

The Parents Council AGM was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> via Zoom and the following officers were returned.

Joint Chair – Sarah Fortune and Eilis Anglim

Secretary – Orla Hore

PRO – Rebecca Connolly

Treasurer – Lorraine Gunning

Appreciation was expressed to the officers for their dedication and assistance to the school over the last year and their willingness to commit to another year leading the Parents Association. The PA Field day raised just under €8,000 which will go towards the development of the school astro. The return to normal events such as the Halloween Disco and Christmas events is eagerly anticipated as well as our fiftieth-year celebrations. See attached poster for full details of Halloween Disco

### **Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk**

To create a fun end to our first half term, we will organise a sponsored walk on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. The children are invited to dress up for the day. No swords, tridents or other weapons are permitted for safety reasons. *Sponsored walk cards will be sent home this week and money can be returned in an envelope or a payment option will be available on Aladdin.* All funds will assist the development of the exciting projects above.