

Kiltealy National School

Kiltealy, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford



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October Midterm Newsletter 2024

Mid-term break

The school closes this Friday 25th October at 3pm and will re-open on Monday 4th November.
(1 week closure)

Halloween Dress Up

Pupils can dress up in appropriate Halloween costumes for some Halloween Activities this Friday 25th October.

STEM

Dream Space Ambassador Program

We are delighted to have been accepted onto the Microsoft Dream Space Ambassador Program 2024/25. This is a flagship Dream Space Student Leadership and Training Program, supported by the Dream Space Team in Dublin. The program is designed for students in 5th class who have a passion for learning and a desire to support, train, and mentor others in **STEM** education. This virtual training provides students with a valuable opportunity to develop leadership and 21st-century skills, while helping to bring the benefits of STEM education to the entire school community in assisting fellow students and educators in the form of demos, training, leading small groups, or one-on-one sessions.

5th/6th Class began their training last week with

Micro:bit 101 and future training includes:

- Micro:bit Next Level - November 12th
- Code with Minecraft Education - December 3rd
- Older Wiser Learner (OWL) - January 14th
- Safer Internet Day - January 28th
- MakeCode Arcade 101 - February 25th
- MakeCode Arcade Next Level - March 11th



Maths Week

Ms. Crosbie has led another very successful "Maths Week" in our school last week ably assisted by members of 3rd and 4th class. Each classroom individually participated in classroom activities while the whole school took part in the daily Maths Challenge. It was a very enjoyable maths-filled week, many thanks to Ms. Crosbie for all of her organisation.

Maths Trails and Maths Games



Sing Out Loud

Tickets have been ordered for our *Sing Out Loud* Concert on Wednesday 13th November in The National Opera House, Wexford. We are all extremely excited to take to the stage. The Board of Management will provide food for our 3rd-6th class group on the day as well as funding bus transport of the pupils from the school to Wexford for rehearsals. Reminder schedule for the day will be shared with parents nearer the time.

FCJ Musical-Honeymoon in Vegas

Pupils from 3rd-6th Class attended a matinee performance of *Honeymoon in Vegas* in FCJ Bunclody this week (Wednesday 23rd). All pupils thoroughly enjoyed another great musical production by the school.

After-School Music Lessons

Helena Dunbar holds after-school music lessons in Killealy NS on Thursdays. The school is providing the premises for these lessons-all queries and communications in relation to music lessons are to be made directly to Helena on 087 7068396.

Credit Union Art Competition

We will submit entries for the Credit Union Art Competition this Friday. Well done to all the pupils for the fantastic effort made in creating their beautiful artwork. This year's theme is "The Joy of Life." Best of luck to all.

Sports

Equestrian News

Our school equestrian team got off to a flying start in the Interschool's League with a 1st place finish in Wexford Equestrian recently. The team consisted of Bobby Bowe, Lucy Brennan, Cathal Coleman and Roisin Byrne. Cathal also had a great victory in the 90cm individual event. Well done to all involved.



GAA

Well done to the boys and girls of 5th & 6th class who were part of the Rackard League football panels during the first term of school.

The girls had a great semi-final win against Bunscoil Loreto Gorey last week and contest the **Roinn A Final this Thursday 24th in Bellfield at 5pm**. All support welcome.

Commiserations to the boys who missed out on a place in the Roinn B final losing to Ballygarret by the narrowest of margins on Tuesday afternoon.





Members of the Baile na Dubh Tíre Intermediate Ladies Football Team visited the school this week with their League and Championship Cups. Congratulations to all players especially our past pupils on such a fantastic achievement.

- Jim Cooper and Seamie Fitzhenry have been with us for hurling on Thursdays this term. This coaching will continue for 1st - 6th class after the midterm but will switch to Fridays to accommodate the Duffry GPO Anais Curran with her football sessions.
- Jim Hanrahan has finished coaching after many years of commitment to the children in Killealy NS. We wish to thank Jim for his wonderful contribution to the weekly coaching sessions and wish him the very best!! We will celebrate Jim's contribution to GAA in the school next term.
- Planning for Fresh Today Hurling 365 (Tuesday morning sessions: 3rd - 6th class) is in progress. Parents from 3rd-6th class received a survey recently. More information due soon.

Swimming

- 3rd - 6th class completed their 8 week swimming programme in the Waterfront this week. Well done to all. There was fantastic progress made and confidence gained in the pool over the past 2 months.

Active Schools

Our active line leaders are busy putting their classes through the paces at break times while our senior playground leaders are assisting the junior classes with yard games. Thank you to Ms. Kehoe and our Active Committee who keep these challenges going for the whole school.

Wellbeing



Fresh From The School Garden

Pupils from 1st and 2nd Class enjoyed gathering the produce of our school garden. Well done to the lucky raffle winners who bagged themselves a sack of spuds!



Hot School Meals

The tender process has been completed for the provision of the Hot School Meals. Work has commenced on an area in the school to cater for the equipment required and to provide a working space for such an undertaking. Unfortunately I cannot confirm a start date for the school meals at this time. It will take time and we appreciate your patience as we await the completion of work and installation of equipment.

HSE Free Flu Vaccination Campaign

Pharmacist Ellen Cushen from the Bradonvale Pharmacy will visit the school on Thursday October 24th to provide flu vaccinations to pupils who have been registered by parents. Information in relation to registration has been issued via Aladdin Connect.

Public Health Nurse-Head lice

The Public Health Nurse attended the school last week to carry out hearing and vision screening in the infant room. She also spoke to pupils from 1st-6th class in relation to head lice awareness. Head lice is a societal issue. Can parents please note that the school is not responsible for the management of head lice. We are only the messenger if a case becomes known to us. We greatly appreciate parents letting us know if their child has head lice and we will continue to inform parents when the need arises. It is then up to parents to take action. Parental management includes taking preventative measures, regularly checking hair and treating the hair effectively when necessary. Cleona Walsh, Public Health Nurse will give an informative talk on **the management of head lice for parents** after the midterm. Date to be confirmed.

Secondary Schools Visits

5th and 6th Class pupils have been visited by principals, teaching staff and pupils of local Secondary Schools in recent weeks. 5th class also attended an Open Day in Bunclody Vocational School earlier this month which was an enjoyable and very worthwhile experience. Many families were busy attending open evenings also. Reminder to all parents that closing dates for enrolment are fast approaching.

Clothes Collection

Our next clothes collection will take place in spring. You will be notified of date in advance.

Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association Committee met recently to discuss the rollout of the "Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free" initiative. A launch night for the initiative will take place on Wednesday November 20th at 7:30pm in the school with guest speaker Bríd Kennedy addressing Internet Safety.

The Parents' Association will also hold their AGM on November 27th at 7:30pm in the school.

We are very grateful to have an active Parent Association and appreciate the time and effort that goes into the organisation of initiatives and fundraising for our school. Please come along to the above events to support the wonderful work being done by our parents for the good of all pupils.



Christmas Craft Fair

The school will have a stall at the Christmas Craft Fair in Killealy Hall on Sunday 24th November. Pupils in all classes will create and prepare some festive crafts and treats in school which will be on sale at the stall. Please support the cause on the day. Many thanks to our Parents' Association for running the stall and senior pupils who make sales on the day.



Split the Pot

Many thanks to all members of our school community and beyond who continue to support our Split the Pot fundraiser. Our draw takes place every Monday in the school. This fundraising initiative contributes to valuable educational/fun experiences and resources for our pupils.

School Ethos

We thank Fr. Jim for inviting us to celebrate our beginning of school year mass in September. We will hold our Christmas Carol Service in the church on Wednesday December 18th at 7pm.

Sacraments

First Confession: Thursday 27th March 2025 at 7pm.

First Holy Communion: Saturday 24th May 2025 at 11am.

2nd class pupils will be required to attend three Saturday evening masses in preparation for their Sacraments. These dates have been sent to parents on Aladdin Connect.

November and December- the lead up to Christmas

There are many events planned for November and December including Christmas Card Designing, the Parish Christmas Card Competition for 5th & 6th Class, our Carol Service, a Pyjama Party and Christmas Disco. Some dates are included below and there will be more details closer to the time.



Parent Teacher Meetings

We will hold our parent teacher meetings on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st November. We will use the Aladdin Connect system for scheduling these meetings. Once notified via the app, parents will choose a time for their meeting using a drop down menu of the dates and times available. Times will be released to parents with multiple children first, allowing them to schedule their meetings close together. Remaining times will then be released to everyone else. Scheduling of meetings will commence the first week after the midterm.

Christmas Annuals

Christmas Annuals will be available to order after the midterm. Payments can be made on Aladdin. Annuals will be distributed in December. This is an optional purchase.

School Closure-Primary Maths Curriculum Training (PMC)

The school will be closed on **Tuesday December 3rd** as the staff will engage in training for the new Primary Maths Curriculum.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign that sends gift filled shoeboxes from Ireland to children affected by poverty across Africa and Eastern Europe.

Transition Year pupils from the FCJ recently visited the school to discuss the appeal with our pupils and leaflets with details have been sent home. Anyone who wishes to support the appeal can bring in their filled shoebox the first week after the midterm break, beginning Monday, 4th November. Our school has a long standing tradition supporting this appeal and we hope to see many shoeboxes arriving in after the midterm.



School Building

Our school exterior was painted over the summer break. Thanks as always to Willie Doyle for his exceptional work. A deep clean of the interior also took place during the summer. Thanks to James Cline for his work. A sensory pathway was created and recently installed in the hallway. This is a great addition to the school and benefits all pupils.



Many thanks for your continued support of the various school initiatives we have in our school. We wish everybody and enjoyable midterm break next week.



Important Dates at a Glance

November	
Monday Nov 4 th – Friday Nov 8 th	Shoebox Appeal –Boxes due
Wednesday 13 th	Sing Out Loud Concert
Wednesday 20 th	Parent Association Internet Safety Talk & “Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free” Launch Night
Wed Nov 20 th & Thurs Nov 21 st	Parent Teacher Meetings
Sunday November 24 th	Craft Fair
Wednesday November 27 th	Parent Association AGM
December	
Tuesday Dec 3 rd	School Closure-Staff PMC Training
Wednesday Dec 18 th	Carol Service 7pm (Church)
Thursday Dec 19 th	Whole School Pyjama Party
Friday Dec 20 th	Christmas Disco-collect children from Community Hall at 12noon. Christmas Holidays

