

## Kilcolman National School



Enniskeane

Co Cork

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19.6.24

Dear Parents,

We have come to the final week of the final term of yet another school year and what a year it has been. When we began term one in September and met with visiting staff of secondary schools, saying goodbye to our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils felt like a lifetime away. Yet, here we are.

**Sixth Class Graduation:** This Friday marks the final day of primary school for six of our wonderful pupils. To mark this milestone, we will hold a graduation ceremony for pupils and their families this evening at 7pm. We look forward to celebrating Doireann, Ella, Evelyn, Odette, Orla and Ryan tonight and we wish them all the best for secondary school. ***Reminder that pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones/devices at any school events.***

**Sensory Room Opening:** We would like to apologise for the postponement of the opening of our sensory room due to unforeseen circumstances. We hope that this will go ahead on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. All of our school community will be welcome to attend on the day. More details to follow in September.

We are delighted to announce the winners of our Sensory Room Competition. The name of our new sensory room is... The Wave! Congratulations to Amy, Ella and Evelyn for choosing the name.

**Senior Room Laptops:** Our school laptop scheme will continue next year. Laptops will be purchased for pupils moving into 3<sup>rd</sup> class in the Senior Room. As in previous years the school will pay for half the cost of the laptop, while parents pay the other half. Children are free to take their laptops with them at the end of primary school. The cost of the laptop is €525. Parents can pay the €262.50 at the beginning of the school year or in two instalments throughout the school year – October and February. If you have any questions regarding the school laptop scheme, please send us an email. [kilcolmanns@gmail.com](mailto:kilcolmanns@gmail.com)

**Special Education Teacher Allocations:** During this school year we were lucky enough to have a full post (25hrs) for our Special Education Teacher. In February of this year however, we received news that for the next school year we will receive (22.5hrs) of Special Education Teaching. As a result, we have teamed up with Ahiohill NS to make this a full position. This means that Ms. Dennehy will travel to Ahiohill NS every Wednesday morning for 2.5hrs. During that time Ms. McGoldrick will teach the usual timetable in the Junior Classroom. As part of this arrangement, Ms. McGoldrick as Deputy Principal must remain in the school. All other staffing arrangements remain the same. If you have any questions regarding this arrangement, please let us know by email. [kilcolmanns@gmail.com](mailto:kilcolmanns@gmail.com)

**Free Schoolbooks Scheme:** Kilcolman NS will participate in the free schoolbooks scheme again this year. This means that schoolbooks and copybooks will be purchased by the school. Booklists will be available to view on the school website if you wish. Please ensure that your child returns to school with a stocked pencil case and as usual, that everything is labelled.

**School Meals Survey:** Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our School Meals Survey. Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive and of great benefit to us. We are delighted to announce that school meals will continue next year. Thank you, in particular, to those who provided extra feedback at the end of the survey. This feedback will be sent on to Carambola to help with school meals in the future. Thank you to Margo and Ms. McCarthy for all the hard work getting our school meals up and running. *Please be aware that all food is heated for the same amount of time and according to reheating guidelines.*

**Board of Management:** A review of our Anti-Bullying Policy has taken place and has now been ratified by the Board of Management. This policy has been emailed to you. We will also display it on the school website. We would like to thank Fran O'Donovan for serving as Parent Nominee this year on the Board of Management. In September we will be looking for another parent to sit on the Board for the next three years. More information to follow in September.

The Board would also like to thank Isabelle our cleaner for maintaining the school to such a high standard.

**First Holy Communion:** First Holy Communion took place in Ahiohill Church on Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May. Well done to everyone involved. Thank you to Fr. Kelleher who provided a beautiful mass on the day. A special thank you to Ms. Dennehy for all of the preparation leading up to the special day.

**Junior Infants Open Morning:** There was great excitement in Kilcolman NS on Monday morning as we welcomed our new pupils into the Junior Room. Pupils were buddied up with our current Junior and Senior Infant pupils as they arrived and older siblings popped their head in throughout the day to say hello. Children enjoyed spending time in the classroom, the Aistear Room and out on the yard so a great time was had by all. We look forward to officially welcoming Cathal, Ciara, Daragh, Finn, Mason and Sophie next term. Thank you to Ms. Dennehy and Ms. Butler for all of their hard work in the Junior Room.

**Texaco Art Competition:** Congratulations to Ciarán in Senior Infants who received a Certificate of Commendation in this year's Texaco Art Competition. Well done to everyone who entered a wonderful piece of work.

**Principal Admin Days:** This Monday marked Ms. Minehane's final day in Kilcolman. We would like to thank Ms. Minehane for all of her hard work in the Senior Room this year. Well done to Ella and Aoife who made a lovely presentation to Ms. Minehane. We wish Ms. Minehane all the best for the future and we look forward to working with a new teacher in September.

**School Tours:** Junior Room pupils went on tour to Smuggler's Cove in Rosscarbery. Children took part in wall climbing, go-karting, bouncy castle and mini bungee jumping. Great fun was had by all. The Senior Room pupils went on school tour to Oyster Haven. Pupils enjoyed kayaking, water rafting and moonwalking on the water. On land they took part in a mud obstacle course. Overall, it was a brilliant day.

**Sciath na Scol:** Sciath na Scol took place in Ballydehob on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The senior room pupils performed extremely well during the football tournament winning one match, losing one and drawing another. Thank you to Ms. Dennehy, Ms. McCarthy and sub teacher Mr. O'Donovan who attended on the day. A huge thank you to Frank McDermott who has coached pupils from all classes over the past number of months and who coached on the day. Thank you to Kevin Walsh who also attended on the day as assistant coach.

**Primary Girls Soccer Tournament:** The Primary Girls Soccer Tournament took place in Bandon on Wed 5<sup>th</sup> June. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class girls attended and played incredibly well on the day, reaching the final of the tournament. Well done to Doireann, Ella, Evelyn, Odette, Orla, Sarah and Quin who represented Kilcolman so well. A huge thank you to Dwane Twomey who coached on the day. Thank you also to the parents who came to support us on the day.

**Whole School Sports Tournament:** A whole school sports tournament was held on Fri 7<sup>th</sup> June at the school. Pupils from all classes were mixed and split into four teams. Matches were played in soccer, football, basketball and hockey, with one overall winning team at the end. It was a lovely way to celebrate the tests and all of the hard work completed.

**Sports Day:** We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Parents' Association, in particular Tracy Whooley, for organising what was a fantastic sports day this year. Despite the challenging weather conditions on the day, children were treated to a variety of games both indoors and on the pitch. According to the pupils, the 'Tug of War' was the best part of the day followed closely by the ice-cream van. Thank you again to the Parents' Association and to all parents who helped out on the day.

**Parents Association:** A 5k Fun Run was held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May. This involved a huge amount of forward planning and organising and we would like to thank the Parents' Association for their hard work. The event was a great success and drew a fantastic crowd. It was very well run and safety was a priority on the day with lots of stewards positioned along the route. Refreshments were available afterwards and there was a raffle too. Overall, a great success and a great social event for the school community. €1100 was raised on the day.

Over the past few months the Parents' Association have generously subsidised school tours, Sciath na Scol Bus and swimming costs. This has been a huge help to parents and we wish to thank the PA for this. Thank you to Michelle Corcoran, Rosaleen O'Brien, Tracy Whooley, Ciara O'Flynn, Claire McDermott, Becky Eyre and Anne Walsh for all of your hard work this year. Have a wonderful, and hopefully restful, summer.

We would also like to thank all parents who provided lifts to and from school events throughout the year. This is very much appreciated.

**Green Schools:** We were very proud of our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class girls who, on behalf of the Green Schools Committee, received our sixth green flag for biodiversity at the awards ceremony which took place in The Raddison Hotel on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> May. Well done to Ella, Evelyn and Sarah. Thank you to Ms. Dennehy who accompanied the pupils on the day.

To kick off Biodiversity Week 2024 we were delighted to welcome local beekeeper, Michael Barrett to Kilcolman. We were treated to a very informative presentation on all things to do with our native bees. We learned that bumblebees are solitary and don't sting. Also, honeybees in our local area travel no more than 3km to and from their hives. Lots of great questions were answered on the day. Thank you to Michael Barrett for a fantastic workshop.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of May we celebrated our Biodiversity Action Day. Members of our Green Schools Committee led the pupils in activities that were both fun and engaging. Activities on the day included a scavenger hunt, wildflower identification, minibeasts in the mud kitchen, biodiversity memory ball games, chalk drawing and garden birds station. It was a fantastic way to round off Biodiversity Week. Thank you to Ms. McGoldrick for organising the day and for all of her hard work coordinating the Green Schools Committee. Thank you as always to Fran O'Donovan, our parent representative, for giving her time generously to our school garden.

**Summer Reading/Writing Project:** We are delighted to announce a new summer reading/writing project this year. Senior Room pupils have been set the challenge of writing three stories and reading three books this summer. Junior Room pupils may write two stories and read two books of their choice. Pupils can submit their stories to their class teacher in September along with summaries of books read. Successful students will receive a homework pass for their hard work. All pupils have the option to opt in/out of the summer project. Stories may be typed, handwritten or completed on GoogleDocs. Let's get writing everyone!

**Final Day of Term:** School will close for the summer holidays on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 12noon. Pupils may wear their own choice of clothes on the day and may bring a small amount of treats if they wish.

We wish you all a lovely summer with lots of sunshine, fun and rest along the way. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August (normal school day).

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Freda Mills  
Principal

***Dates for the Calendar:***

- ❖ SchoolFest Fun in the Junior Room – Wed 19<sup>th</sup> June
- ❖ A Visit from Patricia O'Leary and Lori the Labradoodle! - Wed 19<sup>th</sup> June @ 11am
- ❖ Graduation Evening - Wed 19<sup>th</sup> June @ 7pm
- ❖ Senior Room Art Presentations – Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> June @ 11am
- ❖ End of Year Prayer Service – Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> June @ 12noon
- ❖ School closes – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> June @ 12noon
- ❖ School reopens – Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Aug @ 9am