

Kilcolman National School



Enniskeane

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3.5.24

Dear Parents,

The sun is shining and here in Kilcolman we are all beaming too because we have lots of good news to share.

School Tours: The summer school tours have been announced! Senior Room pupils will travel to Oyster Haven on Wednesday 29th May. Junior Room pupils will spend the day at Smugglers Cove on Tuesday 4th June. More information regarding these exciting days out to follow.

No Homework June: To celebrate what has been an incredible year in Kilcolman, all pupils will receive a month-long homework pass for June. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all of our students on their hard work and dedication to homework to date and we hope that they enjoy the free time with, hopefully, some good weather thrown into the mix.

Sciath na Scol: Senior Room pupils will travel to Ballydehob on Wednesday 22nd May to compete in this year's Scaith na Scol tournament. We will play against Scoil Bhríde, Maultrahane NS and Gaelscoil Dr. Uí Shúilleabháin on the day. We plan to leave at 9am and return for 2.30pm, all going well. We will send out a text if we get delayed. We would like to sincerely thank Frank McDermott who has very generously given us his time on a weekly basis to train pupils from both the Junior and Senior Rooms. We have seen huge progress in the pupils' skills over the past couple of months and we are excited for tournament day.

School Meals: The free school meals initiative kicks off in Kilcolman next Tuesday 7th May. Meals are dropped to the school early each morning and stored in the fridge provided. They will be heated and served to children at 12.20pm. All waste from meals including any leftover food and packaging will need to go home each day. *It is important to note that food cannot*

be reheated once it goes home. Leftover food will need to be disposed of immediately.

Please send a lunchbox to school each day to bring waste food home. Children will still need a small snack for their first break at 10.50am. Some parents may wish to include an extra piece of food while children adapt to new tastes. We are looking forward to the roll out of this new programme in Kilcolman.

Note: Processed food options, for example – potato cubes, chicken goujons, sausages - may be ordered on Fridays only. Due to a glitch on the app, this restriction was not in place when user codes were sent home on Wednesday. If you have already ordered your child's food for next week, we ask that you now review your order. If you have ordered a processed food option for any day other than Friday of next week, and you do not review your order, a default meal will be sent. The glitch has now been fixed so anyone ordering from now on should have no trouble. We thank you for your patience as we get up and running.

Swimming: Our Kilcolman swimmers are progressing so well that we think they might almost be ready for the Olympics! So far, we have had two trips to Dunmanway Swimming Pool with four lessons left. As a treat, pupils will visit the playground beside the pool for ten minutes before swimming next week. On the last day of swimming, all going well, we hope to visit Centra Dunmanway on our way home where children can purchase something to mark the final day of swimming.

Food Dudes: Pupils took part in the Food Dudes initiative for one week. A variety of fruit and vegetables were tasted and enjoyed.

Green Schools: Our Green Schools Renewal Visit took place on Thursday 21st March. Following on from that, we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded our sixth green flag for biodiversity. Well done to Ella, Evelyn, Sarah, Aoife, Aaron, Colm, Keeva, Harry and Emily for their hard work and dedication over the past two years. Thank you to Ms. McGoldrick and Ms. Dennehy for steering the project and a huge thank you to our parent representative, Fran O'Donovan Forsey, for continuing to share your knowledge and expertise with the school. We look forward to our Green Schools Action Day which will take place on Friday 24th May during Biodiversity Week.

A clean up of our school yard took place during the Easter holidays. Pupils arrived back to a spotless school and an upgraded mud kitchen. The dead tree at the front of the school has been taken down with an exciting feature to be added soon to the branches that remain. Thanks again to Fran for giving your time so generously to Kilcolman NS.

Sensory Room Opening: We are so excited to welcome you all to Kilcolman on Friday 24th May. On the day, our new sensory room will be revealed along with the winners of the ‘Name our Sensory Room’ competition. Pupils from both classrooms will perform a short musical piece. A guest speaker has been invited and of course, there will be cake! We hope to see as many of you as possible on the day. Feel free to extend the invite to family and friends. Following the sensory room celebrations, pupils from the Green Schools will give guided tours of our Green Schools Action Day stations so lots of fun and learning to be had on the day. The opening will take place from 1-2pm.

Board of Management: A review of our Parental Complaints Procedure 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 Emer Moroney for sharing her many skills and talents during her week of work experience in Kilcolman. We wish Emer all the best for the future.

Dublin Trip: On Wednesday 28th February Senior Room pupils from Kilcolman hopped on the bus and headed for the capital city. We had an incredible day exploring both Croke Park and Dáil Éireann. The trip was a huge success and we would like to thank Christopher O’Sullivan TD for extending the invite to us. We would also like to thank the wonderful (and patient) parents who travelled with us on the day – Rosaleen O’Brien, Frank McDermott, Lisa O’Driscoll, Ciara O’Flynn as well as staff member Ms. McCarthy. Thanks to John from Johnsons Buses who provided a fantastic service.

Parents’ Association: We are extremely grateful to our Parents’ Association who continue to work exceptionally hard to fundraise for our school. Swimming trips to Dunmanway have been subsidised by the Parents’ Association and a very generous donation was given to subsidise our Senior Room Dublin trip. The recent clothes collection which took place raised an incredible €316. The Parents’ Association are currently putting the final touches to the planning of the 5k Fun Run on Monday which we are all very much looking forward to. This event is a highly organised event which takes a huge amount of planning time and preparation. We would like to thank Michelle Corcoran, Rosaleen O’Brien, Tracey Whooley, Ciara O’Flynn, Claire O’Flynn, Becky Eyre and Anne Walsh for generously giving so much time and energy to our school.

Collection Point: Following a request from the Parents’ Association, pupils will now enter and exit the school via the lower gate. Parents may enter the school yard at collection times and line up along the wall ahead of collecting children. As usual, pupils will wait in line to be called and will then walk out the lower gate accompanied by a parent. Some older pupils may wish to walk/cycle home unaccompanied and will do so also via the lower gate. This new system will begin next Tuesday 7th May.

5k Fun Run: It is time to put on your running/walking shoes and get stretching because the countdown is on to Kilcolman's 5k Fun Run. Registration is from 11am with the first athletes setting off at 11.30am. Entry fee is €10 or €15 per family and is open to all. All proceeds go to Kilcolman NS so please spread the word. Baking will be provided on the day but of course there can never be enough cakes. If you consider yourself the next Gordon Ramsay, or not, feel free to bring some baking on the day. Best of luck to everyone involved. 3.. 2.. 1.. Let's go!

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Freda Mills
Principal

Dates for the Calendar:

- ❖ 5k Fun Run – Mon 6th May
- ❖ School Meals Programme Begins – Tue 7th May
- ❖ First Holy Communion – Sat 18th May
- ❖ Sciath na Scol – Wed 22nd May
- ❖ Green School's Action Day and Sensory Room Official Opening – Fri 24th May (1-2pm)
- ❖ Senior Room School Tour – Oyster Haven – Wed 29th May
- ❖ Junior Room School Tour – Smuggler's Cove – Tue 4th June