



e-ZINE September 2017

Please refer to the School Holiday Calendar section of this e-Zine for all school closure dates

We wish to welcome everyone back – returning and new – to the new school year. We would also like to extend a special welcome to Ms McNeive and a welcome back to Ms Gorman.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Head Lice

Unfortunately there has been an outbreak of head lice in the school and your child may be affected. Please treat your child/ren ASAP. Letter has been sent home with the children; copy attached to this e-zine and available on the school website

e-Payments/Online Banking

Our school is delighted to announce that we are rolling out the Aladdin e-Payment system to parents/guardians of children in our school; this will take effect from 11th September 2017.

Our school uses the Aladdin software service for administrative purposes and the e-Payment system will give you access from an internet browser on your computer, phone or tablet to make secure payments to the school using your credit or debit card. The purpose of the e-Payment system is to facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians and to reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent into our school in line with recent central bank directives.

Aladdin uses state of the art security to safeguard information entered by you and the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish data protection laws.

Going forward, when money is due for any school activity that is relevant to your children, you will receive a text/email message containing your payment access link - this is when you will know epayments system has gone live. This will bring you to a parent payment page which will contain all payments requested for all siblings in a family. There is only one link per family ensuring you have the option to pay all amounts due for all your children in one transaction. Once you have completed your payment, you will be issued with a reference number. You will also receive an email receipt which will contain details of the transaction and reference number. Please quote this reference number in any queries you may have as regards this payment with the school.

The school will still accept cash/cheque payments from families who do not have internet/online banking access. However, we would prefer that any cash payments are paid in notes or cheques only - if necessary to send in coins, please do not send in denominations lower than 50cent coins; this is due to operational changes being made by the branch the school banks with, making it almost impossible to lodge coins into our bank account.

There may be occasions when a payment due to the school is not available via e-Payment in such instances, notification will be sent via letter/communication to parents and those payments will need to be made by cash or cheque.

We hope that you will find the Aladdin e-Payments facility useful and that it is a very successful system for all. The secretary will welcome any feedback or questions you may have.

School Start Time

School start time is 9.20am. Please be reminded that children should not be dropped at school before 9.10am for the safety of your children as there is no staff supervision before this time. There will be adult supervision on the front yard from 9.10-9.20am each morning for health and safety reasons. There are children being dropped off from as early as 8.30am, we cannot take responsibility for children from such an early time and strongly advise that this practice is discontinued.

Mobile Phones and other Electronic Devices Incl Cameras

If a mobile phone or other device is brought to school it must be handed up to the class teacher in the morning upon entry to class. The class teacher will store the phone/device in a locked cabinet. The teacher will return the phone/device to the child at the end of the day.

Students DO NOT have permission to use mobile phones or other device during social times e.g. breaks. They may take phones on school outings if they have specific permission from the teacher(s) in charge of the outing.

Lunches

The free school lunch scheme has resumed and everyone should have received a letter from Freshtoday, the lunch supplier, detailing the scheme and each username and password. The children are also supplied with a drinking water bottle, upon which they must write their name in permanent marker. Should your child require a water bottle, please let the class teacher know.



Uniforms

Reminder that uniforms should be worn by all children from 1st to 6th class everyday throughout the year, other than PE days, when school tracksuits should be worn.



Cross Country

Our cross country team took part in the South Mayo Championships at Ballinrobe Racecourse recently. Unfortunately they did not qualify to the next round; however they all enjoyed the experience. Thank you to Ms Sarsfield for the recent training sessions in getting the team ready for this event.

Servers



The new rota for altar servers from 4th to 6th classes to start Saturday 23rd September will be available shortly. We would encourage all children who have kindly volunteered to go on the rota that they make every effort to attend for serving.



Rugby Coaching

For 5th and 6th class during school time will commence during school on Monday 18th September (if Mayo win the All-Ireland, Rugby will start on 25th September) and will continue for approx 6 weeks.

Assembly



Our first assembly of the new academic year will be on Thursday 28th September at 12noon. As always parents, grandparents and family members are invited to attend.

Music



Music lessons for 2nd to 6th class pupils resume on Thursday 21st September, for 5 alternate weeks. Details have been sent out with the children (copy attached); permission slips and payment should be returned to the school no later than Tuesday 19th September please; cheques are payable to Anne McLoughlin.



Swimming

Swimming lessons will resume as follows:

4th to 6th classes: Tuesdays 9th January to 13th February 2018; 1st to 3rd classes: Mondays 19th February to 9th April 2018.

In order to work out the cost of transport for these lessons, confirmation of attendance/permission slips have been issued to the children (copy attached) and should be returned to the school no later than Friday 22nd September please; costs details will then follow shortly afterwards.

Sacraments



First Confessions: Tuesday 6^h March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Confessional Chapel.

First Holy Communion Retreat: Thursday 26th April 2018.

First Holy Communion: Saturday 5th May 2018 at 11am in the Parish Church.

Confirmation: No Confirmation in the Parish this year.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Grupa Cheoil: each Monday from 3-3.45pm, for 3rd to 6th classes, starting from 25th September. Permission slips will sent out shortly.

Irish Dancing: each Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm, starting from 4th October 2017. €3 per child please, payable directly to the dancing teacher.

Fundraising



Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk will be on Friday 27th October in order to raise funds for our school; all children should dress up in their favourite Hallowe'en costume; sponsorship cards will be issued shortly. As always, your continued support in our school fundraising efforts is very much appreciated.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Once again the school is participating in this appeal for children less fortunate than ours. Leaflets will be distributed shortly, once they are received here in the school. In the meantime, please visit www.teamhope.ie/csa for further information and ideas on what to place in the shoeboxes. The shoeboxes must be sent in to the school no later than 8th November.

Calendars



2018 calendars commemorating the school's 50th anniversary are still available for sale in school at €5 each. One of the photos on the calendar is of all the school children in the formation of a 50. Please contact the school secretary.



Miscellaneous

Payments Until rollout of epayments

The following payments are now due to the school as soon as possible please:

Supplementary Resources: €20 per child in the school. Athletics: €8 per child in 1st to 6th classes. Thank you to those who have already paid.

Music Lessons: €15 per child from 2nd to 6th class who wishes to participate; full payment required by Tuesday 19th September please.



School Calendar 2017-2018:

October Mid-Term: Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November.

Christmas: Monday 25th December to Friday 5th January 2018. School closes at 12noon Friday 22nd December and re-opens at 9.20am Monday 8th January 2018.

St Patrick's Day: School closed Monday 19th March.

Easter: Monday 26th March to Friday 6th April. School closes at 3pm on Friday 23rd March and re-opens at 9.20am on Monday 9th April.

In Service Training: School closed Thursday 19th April 2018 to facilitate Teacher training.

May Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 7th to Friday 11th May. (First Holy Communion is Saturday 5th May). School re-opens at 9.20am on Monday 14th May.

June Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 4th June.

Summer Holidays: School closes at 12noon on Friday 29th June.

As always, we would invite you all to refer to the school website, www.knockns.ie, for news and regular updates from the school, including pictures, videos etc from our various events and class activities. Email queries should be directed to admin@knockns.ie