



e-ZINE September 2018

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 like to extend a special welcome to Ms Sandra Coyne, Ms Joanne Coyne and Laura Rowley. We would also like to wish our caretaker, Seamus Hopkins, a long and happy retirement after his many years of service to the school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



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 or unless otherwise advised.

Free School Lunch Scheme

School lunches are provided to every child in the school who wish to participate in the Free Lunch Scheme. Payment of these lunches is made by the school to the lunch supplier from funding provided by the Department of Social Protection. The amount of funding received is based on the number of pupils who participated in the previous school year. Some children are ordering a full lunch whereas others are ordering only one or two items. The school is invoiced and required to pay the full price for every lunch delivered, whether it is one item or a full lunch, therefore we cannot continue to fund any child's incomplete lunch, as it is not economically viable to continue to do so. We would appreciate if parents could decide if their child will participate fully in the lunch scheme and if not, to please advise the school accordingly. Likewise, when or if you know your child will not be in school for any length of time (i.e. going on holiday, sick etc), parents are requested to advise the school by Thursday of each week so that lunch deliveries can be amended for the following week where necessary. This will help eliminate waste and unnecessary cost to the school. The lunch scheme will re-commence from 10th September; new login sheets to change lunch choices will be issued to each child at that time. **Anyone wishing to opt-out of the scheme should advise the school without delay. Water/drinks: for the first week of the lunch scheme please send in water/drinks with your child.** Should your child require a re-usable water bottle, please let the class teacher know.

Set Down Area/Parking/Access

Please be reminded that the set down area **MUST** be kept clear at all times for the safety of all children and other pedestrians. We strongly advise that the **NO PARKING** signs are strictly adhered at all times please. It is an area meant only for vehicles to pull up for a minute or two whilst collecting or dropping off children. If you will be in the set down area for more than a minute or two, then you must wait in the car park provided. Vehicles **MUST NOT** be parked in the set down area; drivers must not leave their vehicle at any time. We would be obliged if parents could relay this information to all family members, friends, childminders etc who drop off and collect children from the school.

Please also be reminded that the school lane must be kept clear at all times; this is an area for staff parking only and access to the private farm/land; other vehicles are strictly prohibited from using the lane under any circumstances. Please also be informed that the gates at the front school entrance (the set down area) must be kept closed at all times, again in the interests of the Health & Safety of all children. Please ensure they are closed behind you on entry and exit. We would also request that you do not walk on the grass areas around the school grounds.

In the interests of the safety of all school children, parents and guardians are reminded to use the car park adjacent to the school when dropping off and collecting children and **NOT** to park in the set down area. If parents and guardians choose to use the car park across the road from the school, then they are required to cross the road with the children at all times.

Infants Home Time

Junior Infants: Parents/guardians should collect their children as follows:

- At 2pm/home time all Junior Infant children will be brought to the PE Hall; where they will wait to be collected
- All parents/guardians etc should proceed to the double exit doors at the side of the PE Hall – entry from the car park diagonally across the school yard
- Parents/guardians should park in the car park and not park in the set down area
- Parents/guardians are asked not to enter the hall, please wait at the doors for the teacher to call the child/ren to the exit

Senior Infants: Parents/guardians should wait in the shelter until 2pm, each child will be sent out to the shelter in turn from the classroom by the teacher.

Anyone who may be late collecting the children, or for any changes to the person who normally collects the children, are asked to ring the school office prior to these changes and the secretary will inform the class teacher accordingly. People should not arrive at the school to collect Infant children unless the school has been previously advised.

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.



Rugby Coaching

For 3rd to 6th classes will commence during school on Monday 10th September. We hope to participate in a blitz on 24th September. Details to follow.



Cross Country

The Cross Country team will take part in trials at Ballinrobe Racecourse on Thursday 13th September. Cost of the bus is €5 per child, to be paid before event and preferably by e-payments please.



School Photos

The school photographer will be in school on Friday 19th October.



Assembly

Our first assembly of the new academic year will be held shortly, before the end of September; we will advise as soon as we have a date. As always parents, grandparents and family members are invited to attend.



Sacraments

Confirmation: Friday 29th March.

After School



Futsal (soccer) Training: on Thursday 13th September 3-4pm for those who have registered to take part. Further training sessions will be advised.



Irish Dancing: For all age group children, each Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm, starting from 19th September. €3 per child please, payable directly to the dancing teacher.

Fundraising



Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk will be on Thursday 25th 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 will be 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. Please do not send shoeboxes into the school until we announce you may do so.

Miscellaneous



Payments, e-Payments/Online Banking

We would like to encourage you to make e-payments wherever possible please. Should you be unable to do so, you may send in cash – in the exact amounts please (the school no longer holds cash and may be unable to provide change) or cheques made payable to Knock National School.

Payments currently due: Supplementary Resources - €20 per child; Athletics - €8 per child from 1st to 6th class

Pupil Insurance (should you wish your child/ren to be included in the Group Scheme) - €4.80 per child for school activities only or €7.20 per child for 24hr cover.



School Calendar 2018-2019

Presidential Elections: School closed on Friday 26th October.

October Mid-Term: Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November.

Christmas: Monday 24th December to Friday 4th January. School closes at 12noon Friday 21st December and re-opens at 9.20am Monday 7th January 2019.

February Mid-Term: Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February.

St Patrick's Day: School closed Monday 18th March.

Easter: Monday 15th to Friday 26th April. School closes at 3pm on Friday 12th April and re-opens at 9.20am on Monday 29th April.

May Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 6th May.

June Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 3rd June.

Summer Holidays: School closes at 12noon on Friday 28th 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