

Knock National School

November 2019

NEWS

Every School Day Counts

November is attendance month. Our school is taking part in the Every School Day Counts programme co-ordinated by TUSLA. Parents received an e mail with regard to this strategy last week. There will be a number of individual and whole class incentives in order to encourage full attendance, in so far as is possible, for this and the coming months.

Library Books

We were recently granted funding to update our school library with home/foreign language books. Over 20% of our student population is non Irish. We are eagerly awaiting our delivery of books in Afrikaans, Arabic, Czech, Hindi, Latvian Lithuanian, Polish and Yoruba amongst others. We intend to run a short literacy programme over 5/6 weeks once the books arrive and will be in contact with parents in order to gain your assistance.

Doodle Families

Our school has been selected to take part in the Doodle Families programme run by CDI (Childhood Development Initiative). This programme is aimed at first class level and looks at encouraging reading in a comfortable and relaxed environment. Some aspects of the programme will be delivered during school and others will take place after school. The programme will run over an eight week period. Parents will be invited to an information meeting in the coming weeks. Children who take part in the programme will receive books and additional resources to support their learning.

Nut Allergies

A number of children attending our school have nut allergies. Some are quite severe, as a result, we intend to implement a no nut policy throughout the school. This will take immediate effect. We would greatly appreciate your assistance and support in order to fully implement this initiative as the consequences can be serious for a child that has such an allergy. Fresh Today, our school lunch provider has advised us that they already implement a no nut policy.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GAA Coach

Darren Duffy will begin football coaching during school on Wednesdays from 13th November for pupils from 3rd to 6th classes.

Futsal (soccer)

Futsal will take place on Wednesday 20th November in Barnacarroil Sports Hall. Training sessions will be advised on a weekly basis. The cost of transport will be advised shortly by way of an e-payments request being emailed.

Athletics

The following remaining classes will attend athletics sessions in Claremorris during this term:

Ms McHale's class: Friday 22nd November

Ms Horkan's class: Wednesday 27th November

Ms Tansey's and Ms Martin's classes: Monday 2nd December

UPCOMING EVENTS

Music Lessons

Will commence on Thursday 14th November for 6 weeks for pupils from 2nd to 6th classes who have paid for the course.

Hello my name is Violin! With Zane Joyce

Pupils from Junior Infants to 1st classes will attend this workshop in school on Monday 18th November. The school will be covering this cost.

The Story of the Irish Harp with Gráinne Hambly

Pupils from 4th to 6th classes will attend this workshop in school on Wednesday 13th November. The school will be covering this cost.

Mass in Remembrance of the Dead

The school will attend mass in the Parish church over the coming weeks to remember deceased members of our school community. Parents will be informed of the date once it is confirmed.

Blue Star Programme

Children in our senior classes will be taking part in the Blue Star Programme this year. The Blue Star Programme teaches primary school pupils about European cultures and the EU through creative activities and projects which complement the primary school curriculum. We will welcome Maria Walsh MEP to the school on Friday, 15th November. The children will have the opportunity to find out more about the role of MEPs and the operations of the European Parliament.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Annuals

Order forms for the Christmas Annuals, costing €4 each, have been sent out with the children. Should you wish to purchase any, please ensure an order form is completed and returned to the school along with full payment by **15th November**. This payment will not be available on e-payments.

Science Workshop

Pupils from 2nd to 6th classes will attend a free Science Workshop in school on Monday 18th November. The workshop will be presented by Simon Watts and funded by Mayo North East Leader and Mayo CoCo in celebration of Mayo Science and Technology Festival. The workshop is entitled 'The Ugly Animal Roadshow'. It explores the incredible biology of the animal kingdom's most monstrous creatures.

'Discover Science' the Wonders of Bats and Dispelling the Myths

All classes will attend a Bat Workshop in school presented by Brendan Joyce from Education through Recreation (EtR) on Friday 6th December, where they will learn about the wonders of bats and dispelling the myths. The cost is €2 per child please, due by 4th December. This will be a fun day and all the children can dress up on the day.

Jiving Juniors

Continues for all children from Haven Juniors to 3rd classes on November 21st and 28th and December 5th. Cost for this course is €8 per child please.

Pupils from 4th to 6th classes will attend a one day taster workshop on Thursday 12th December, cost is €2 per child, to be paid prior to the day please.

Mayo Roscommon Hospice Shine a Light

On Sunday 1st December children involved in our school choir will perform at the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony in Knock from approximately 5.30pm. Details will follow for those children involved at a later date.

Table Quiz Fundraiser

The Parents' Association are organising a table quiz to be held on Friday 6th December at 9pm, in The Thatch pub, to fundraise for sports equipment for our school. Further information will follow by email once details are finalised.

Swimming

Children from 1st to 4th classes who have signed up and paid a deposit will attend swimming in January. The remaining payment due is €20 per child please, which will be available on e-payments shortly.

Christmas Carol Service

Our Carol Service will be held on Friday 20th December at 11.15am in the Basilica, all are welcome to join us. All children from 1st to 6th classes have been asked to participate in the Carol Service this year. The children that have volunteered to take part will perform on the day. All the school will attend the service. We will return to school immediately following the carol service, from where all children must be collected at 12noon please.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Month	Closure
October	Monday, 28th October - Friday, 1st November (inclusive)
December	Monday, 23rd December - Friday, 3rd January 2020 <i>School will close at 12pm on Friday, 20th December and re-open on Monday 6th, January. Children will attend mass in the Parish Church on 6th January for Feast of the Epiphany</i>
January	Monday, 13th January PLC In-service
February	Monday, 17th February - Friday, 21st February (inclusive)
March	Monday, 16th & Tuesday, 17th March
April	Monday, 6th April - Friday, 17th April (inclusive)
May	Monday, 4th June
June	Monday, 1st June
	Friday, 26th June <i>School will close at 12pm for Summer Holidays</i>

Do This in Memory 2019 - 2020

Masses take place on Saturday evening , at 7.30pm, in the Parish Church. Masses will take place on:

23rd November 2019

Feast of Christ the King

14th December 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

25th January 2020

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

15th February 2020

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

14th March 2020

Third Sunday of Lent

On Sunday, 14th June 2020, Feast of Corpus Christi the First Communion children are invited to take part in the procession