

# September-October Newsletter 2024

## **Trick or Treat for Temple Street**

As has been the tradition in our school for many years, we will host this event here at Kilruane NS on the day we break up for the Midterm Break, Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, when our pupils are invited to come to school in fancy dress! Please keep it simple, broomsticks, swords and wands are best kept safely at home! Children will need their schoolbags but are allowed to bring a treat in their lunchbox! We ask for a small contribution of €1/2 per child, or whatever you can afford. All monies collected go to the Isobel and Tess Duff Memorial Foundation at Temple Street.

## **Pupil Insurance and School Bills**

As the school needs to settle accounts at the end of the month, we kindly request that all outstanding bills are paid before the Midterm Break, to include monies for the 'Pupil Supplies List' from September, School Swimming and in particular Pupil Insurance. If you are unsure whether or not you have paid, please do not hesitate in contacting Mary in our office.

## **General Parent/Teacher Communications**

If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's education at any stage during the school year, or if you have any worries or concerns that you would like to share with us, we both welcome and encourage you to do so. Should you wish to speak with your child's Class Teacher or Learning Support Teacher, please contact our school office and our secretary Mary will arrange a phone call or a meeting for you so that teachers can give you their full attention.

## **Formal Parent Teacher Meetings**

Formal Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November this year. More information will follow, to include your appointment time and date, after the Midterm Break.

## **Absence Notes**

If your child is absent from school, please provide their teacher with an absence note in your child's Homework Journal or zip folder. Teachers will then update your child's attendance record accordingly. Alternatively, please email the school office at [office@kilruaneschool.com](mailto:office@kilruaneschool.com) and Mary will pass this information to your child's Class Teacher.

## **Hot School Meals Programme**

As you aware the school applied for the Hot Meals for Schools Programme last year. I contacted the Department of Social Protection last week for an update and it was confirmed that the Hot School Meals Programme will be extended to all schools in 2025, as announced in the recent Budget. This roll-out will include our school. However, they were unable to provide me with a precise start-up date for our school. We will continue to keep you informed, once there is new information to share.

### **Healthy Eating Policy**

In line with the principles of the above programme, our Healthy Eating Policy is currently under review, thank you to our Parents' Association for their continued help here. As you are most likely aware, the HSE and the Department of Education advise schools and school staff to promote healthy eating choices in schools. In this regard, please be reminded, chewing gum, crisps of all varieties, sweets and biscuits are examples of items not on the school's 'Healthy Lunch' list. To be fair to other pupils, we ask parents to be particularly mindful when selecting snack options for their child from the Lunch Bag Company. Teachers will issue a copy of our current 'Healthy Lunch' list to all pupils in the coming days. We will notify you of any changes to this list once a review of the policy has been completed. Thank you in advance for your continued co-operation and for supporting the school to encourage healthy eating choices amongst our pupils.

### **Green Schools Initiative- Reusable Bottle for School Please**

As we are a Green School and in line with the principles of the initiative, we kindly ask parents to switch back to re-usable drink containers/bottles as soon as possible, cutting down on unnecessary rubbish and as a more economical option. As you are aware, the use of re-usable drink containers is not only promoted by Green Schools but also across society in general. The exclusive use of re-usable drink containers has also been the tradition in our school for many, many years. Please help us to teach our children to reduce waste by re-using containers. Thank you.

### **Active Flag/Active Schools Initiative**

On the sporting front, we got off to a flying start this school year. Pupils continue to attend their swimming lessons, they enjoyed a fantastic day out in Thurles Crokes at the annual Cross Country for Primary Schools event and pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes also participated in the annual Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic football tournaments over the past couple of weeks. Our younger pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, had their first official outing in our school jersey earlier this week, when they attended their first school Gaelic Football Blitz, by all reports a great day was had by all! A special mention for our U13 Ladies Football team, who won their blitz earlier this month and now progress to the County Semi-Final. They play Boherlahan NS in The Ragg at 11am this Tuesday. Best of luck girls!

### **School Summer Programme (Formerly July Provision)**

If your child is working with our Learning Support Team, they may be eligible for our School Based Summer Programme which will run at the end of the school year, from Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday June the 4<sup>th</sup> 2025, as per our School Calendar issued last month. Please contact the school should you require any further information, the Learning Support Team are happy to advise you based on our experiences to date. As our building works are completed and the school is now in a position to run a School Based Summer Programme, in line with the Department of Education guidelines, pupils are no longer eligible for the Home Based Programme.

### **Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal**

Mary, our school secretary, kindly ordered leaflets from Team Hope and we will distribute them via pupil school bags this week. Those of you who are interested in participating in this worthy cause might like to start stocking up on the usual items associated with this appeal. Thank you.