



OCTOBER 2023



NEWSLETTER

Knockaderry Farranfore N.S., Farranfore, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Mid – Term Beckons

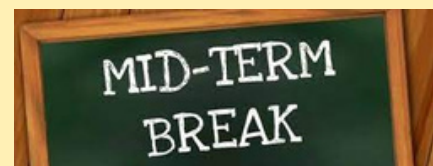
As we approach our midterm break, I want to thank all the pupils, for what has been, a great start to our new academic year. It has been a busy time! The mobile library visits every fortnight, and it is a wonderfully convenient way for the children to get new books and develop the lifelong habit of reading. Sports featured strongly as the senior classroom did themselves proud in the recent Cumann na mBunscol competition.

Other events included a busy maths week and Spina Bifida Awareness Day. School rules were discussed at a school assembly and all children brought home a reduced Code of Behaviour to discuss with their parents and to sign it. Together we can ensure all children feel safe and happy in our school.

A wonderful afternoon of traditional Irish music was enjoyed by all last week as musicians from the locality joined the children in playing and singing together. It was a joy to see the children's enthusiasm for the music as they clapped, accompanied the musicians, and sang to the music.

We wish you all an enjoyable midterm break.

Beir bua,
Áine Daly



Child Protection/ Health and Safety

Punctuality As you know it is important that the children develop good time-keeping habits from an early age. Please ensure that the children come to school on time each day.

Absences Parents / Guardians are reminded that there is a legal obligation on the Principal to record every absence of every child throughout the school year, with an added obligation of reporting absences of over 20 days to the Educational Welfare Board.

Updating Records: Please inform the school if there has been any change in contact details or other circumstances. It is important that the school has a second contact number in case of an emergency.

Notes Parents/guardians are asked to write a note of explanation in the pupil's homework journal following an absence and give it to the class teacher. A phone call or email to the school will also suffice. The class roll is called no later than 9.45am each morning. Pupils who arrive after said time are marked absent. Your cooperation with these procedures is greatly appreciated.

Medical Issues: It is imperative that the school has up to date knowledge of any medical issues your child may have. You were asked to provide details of medical issues on your child's enrolment form but over time these details may have changed e.g. allergies etc. Please feel free to contact the school by phone or email at any time with any extra information you would like us to know about your child. All information will be treated sensitively and discreetly. If your child has Asthma, we ask that your child keeps the emergency inhaler in their school bag at all times and that the class teacher is informed of the child's illness and the location of the medication and how to use it when necessary.

Board of Management News

1.The current Board of Management will end its term on Nov 30th, 2023. I want to sincerely thank all the members who gave so generously of their time to volunteer in helping and managing the school. These include our Chairperson Marjorie Flynn, Patron Nominee Fr. Pádraig, community nominees Noeleen McCarthy and Jim Barry, parent nominees Dan Smyth and Aileen O Leary and teacher nominee MS McSherry. Your time, expertise and commitment to ensure the best learning experiences for our pupils is deeply appreciated.

2.The new incoming Chairperson is Mr Hugh O Connell and the Patron nominee is Tom Kelliher. Following notification to all parents, requesting new nominations for a mother parent nominee and father parent nominee, consent forms for parent nominees were sent home last week. Two parents offered to take up the roles. As they are unopposed they are deemed to be elected to the Board of Management. We are delighted to welcome Dan Smyth and Aileen O Leary back to the BOM. The teacher nominee is MS Jessica Sherwood. Over the next few weeks, two further people will join the Board. These will be community nominees selected by the board. We look forward to working together.

3.The Annual Admissions Notice has been published on the school website. New enrolments for the 2024 year may be accepted. If you know of any families who may wish to enrol, please ask them to contact the school on 066 9764729.

4.At the BOM meeting Sept 19th the annual review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment took place. The Patron has been notified. All parents were surveyed using Google Docs and children filled in class questionnaires.

Collecting and dropping Children to and from school

If you are dropping your child later than 9.00 a.m. or after the bell has rung and the children are off the yard, please escort your child to one of the school entrance doors. **It is a parent's responsibility to ensure their child enters the school before they leave.**



Supervision

Our early morning extra supervision, commencing at 8:30am, has been very much welcomed by parents. I am very thankful to all the staff who have supported this measure to support parents. Children will remain on the yard with a supervising teacher and SNA unless it is raining. If it is raining, they can enter the school and wait in the corridors.

School opens at 9.00am and closes at 2:40pm. The BOM cannot take responsibility for supervision of pupils before 8.30. am or after 2:50pm. The school would greatly appreciate your support in this matter. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9.00am.

Classes will end each day at 1.40pm for Junior and Senior Infants and 2:40pm for all other classes. The school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after that time. Please make sure to bring a coat and hat to school every day



Parent- Teacher Meetings

These were held on Tuesday 24th and Wed 25th for all classes. If you were unable to attend please contact the office to arrange another suitable time.

School Rules

On Thursday the 7th of September we had a whole school assembly to reconvene after the summer break. It was great to see all the children back after the holidays. We looked at our school rules, discussed the proper uniform and looked at how we can strive to do our best in our work and play. One change this year regarding our P.E. days is that the children can now wear any runners with their school P.E. uniform. Children were reminded of our healthy eating policy at school and how on Fridays, children are allowed to have one treat. If children are absent for any reason it is important that parents provide a note and the same goes if homework is not completed. After the midterm break our new Students Council will be established, we thank Luke Barry, Krystin Delaney, Darragh O' Sullivan, Ruairí Casey and past pupils Kai O' Sullivan and Séan Óg Ó Leary Griffin for their wonderful contribution as members last year.



School Uniform

We are always very proud of how the children present themselves every day in full and correct uniform. We acknowledge your support and commitment in presenting them so neatly. Black shoes or all black runners may be worn with the school uniform. On PE days any colour runner may be worn. P.E. days are usually Thursdays and Fridays. When purchasing replacement tracksuits and tops please make sure they are plain navy. The Firies GAA top is also acceptable if it is blue/navy/white only. This prevents unnecessary pressure on parents to buy expensive labels. On P.E. days the children wear their runners to school at present. Please make sure all tops, lunch bottles, boxes, tin whistles etc. are labelled.

Football and Hurling.



September saw us get straight back into our football and hurling training with Vince Cooper and Colm O'Brien. The Cumann na mBunscol football competition kicked off for the senior room in mid- September. We travelled to Spa GAA pitch for the blitz stage of the competition in which we scored highest in the 2-3 teacher category to progress onto the quarter final. On Friday 13th October, we played Scoil Naomh Eirc from Feothanach. A riveting game of football ended with Knockaderry scoring 2-6 to Feothanach's 2-4. This win allowed us to move onto the semi – final against Ballylongford N.S. We played this game on October 19th in St. Senans GAA pitch. After a stellar performance from Knockaderry, unfortunately luck was not on our side. In Sports, we know that these losses are just as important as winning and we look forward to giving it our best shot again next September. The hurling Cumann na mBunscol will take place later in the year.

Patrick O'Keeffe Festival Musicians Visit

On Tuesday October 17th the school took part in the Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festivals Sliabh Luachra Outreach Programme. This involved three renowned musicians, Derek Hickey (formerly of Dé Dannan) Eoin Stan O'Sullivan and Niamh O'Brien, visiting the school. They brought their accordion, fiddle and harp with them and played the music of Sliabh Luachra for the students of Knockaderry. They also gave the pupils the history of Patrick O'Keeffe, explaining the renown that he is still held in and why a festival takes place in Castleisland in his honour. The children played two polkas, 'The Rattlin Bog' and 'Maggie in The Woods' and the whole school sang 'Péigin Litir Mór' as the musicians joined in. This was a truly rewarding cultural experience for our students.



Maths week 2023

Maths week took place from 16th to the 20th October. Pupils carried out a range of mathematical activities with their classes. Maths Week is an important way to help learners, of all ages, enjoy maths and to highlight the creativity of the subject. We always encourage parents to look for opportunities to talk about maths in the environment such as money, time, shapes, angles, etc. The more a child is exposed to math language and day to day math problems, the more they are able to apply knowledge they learn in the classroom to the outside world. Classes completed 'Math's week Quizzes,' completed maths riddles, worked on connecting maths to our everyday environment and played lots of fun maths games.



Friendship week 2023

We recently celebrated Friendship Week. Every year we focus on the theme to encourage children to value the friends they make and learn how best to foster these relationships. Throughout the week, each class explored the theme of friendship through discussions, stories, art, and music. Each child contributed to the school's friendship tree by designing their own unique handprint showing the qualities of a good friend! As we learn how to be good friends, we can also recognise when others are being unkind. We want our pupils to be on the lookout for ways we can improve each other's lives, by inclusion, by being kind, by spotting when somebody might not be feeling themselves. It might be an idea to speak to your child about friends they have and how they are getting on. Children can find friendship relationships changing as they grow and it is great to be able to open up and chat to someone if this is happening. If ever you are concerned about your child and friendships, please contact the class teacher. Often a quick phone call and steps made by school personnel, can prevent issues arising. Ní heart go cur le chéile!





Spina Bifida Awareness month

October is Spina Bifida Awareness month and we, as a school, like to use this opportunity to raise awareness in the children and in the school community of the condition. On Friday 20th of October the children wore something yellow to school to mark the occasion.

Halloween Fancy Dress

On Friday the 27th of October, the children will get a chance to dress up in their Halloween costumes. We ask all children to wear fancy dress to school on Friday October 27th. It will be a fund raiser for Brú Columbanus who provide accommodation, away from home, for parents whose children are in hospital. All donations are greatly appreciated



Lee Strand Tokens

We would be grateful if you would continue to collect the Mighty Mikey milk tokens from the milk cartons and forward them to the school. These tokens are used to provide the school diaries free of charge.

Upcoming events

November

- **Anti- Bullying week : 13th – 17th**
- **Science week : 20th – 24th**
- **Odd Socks and blue day for diabetes awareness and inclusivity: Nov 14th**

Religious News

our 2nd class pupils will celebrate their First Holy Communion on May 11th at 11am in Firies Church.

This years Christmas Mass will take place on Thursday 21st December at 12pm.



Cuairt ón gCigire

Our local Dept. of Education Inspector Eavan O Donoghue paid us a visit yesterday. She spent the full day in school and met the children in all classrooms. We want to thank all of our pupils for showcasing their fantastic ability, behaviour, manners and learning. Well done everyone! Comhghairdeas le gach duine!

