



Easter Newsletter 2024

KNOCKADERRY FARRANFORE NATIONAL SCHOOL

Farranfore, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Margaret Kelly

Margaret Kelly, our school cleaner and caretaker, has called time on her role, a role which she has filled with great dedication for the past 25 years. She has kept the school in immaculate condition for which we were regularly complemented.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to mark the special occasion of her retirement on Wednesday March 20th and to welcome the large turnout who joined us in thanking Margaret for her wonderful contribution to life in our school. I would like to thank Fr Pádraig Kennelly and Fr John Ahern for celebrating mass. It was followed by a PowerPoint of photos down through the years. Children sang a song with specially written lyrics for Margaret and presented her a framed collection of photographs as well as a book of poems, written by the children.

Margaret has always been a great supporter of the children, staff and school. Her love of gardening shines through and she loves to see the children enjoy planting, caring for the plants and harvesting them. The Board of Management presented Margaret with a shrub for her garden and she was then invited to plant an identical one in the school grounds.

Following the planting, guests enjoyed refreshments in the school. I want to sincerely thank all the parents who dropped in beautiful sandwiches, baking and treats. Your generosity is deeply appreciated by Margaret and all the staff. We will miss you Margaret, coming in the door every evening, but wish you the very best of health and happiness in the next chapter of your life. God Bless and thank you for everything.



Board of Management News

The BOM wishes to sincerely thank Margaret Kelly for her commitment and loyalty to the school over the last 25 years. She always has the best interests of the school at heart. She kept the school and grounds immaculate. We wish her well in her retirement.

The process to fill the preschool operator role is ongoing. We hope to make an announcement after Easter.

The Solar Panel application has been submitted to the Department of Education. Once we receive approval, the panels should be installed in May/June.

The Hot Meals scheme application is in progress. Due to the demand from schools, our provider The Lunch Bag, is unable at present to commit to a starting date. They believe it might be May before it will be up and running but we hope that it will be sooner than that.

The BOM approved the school tour. It will be on the 14th June for all classes.

Attendance- The Board reminds parents that if your child is absent, a written note/email should be sent to the school. A Tusla requirement is that they are informed of absences of 20 days or more. All absences and reasons have to be recorded.

School Closures- School will be closed all day to pupils to facilitate

1. Staff training on the new Primary Maths Curriculum, on May 21st, 2024.
2. Local and European elections as well as a referendum on Unified Patent Court Friday June 7th, 2024
3. School will be closed for Easter holidays from Mon March 26th to Fri April 5th

The Board wishes you all a lovely Easter and every blessing at this time.



Cumann na mBunscol Football

On Thursday, March 21st, the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th classes participated in the Cumann na mBunscol Mini 7's tournament at Barradubh football pitch. Both the boys and girls teams showcased outstanding performances against local schools Anabla, Tiernaboul, and Knockanes. Despite the girls team not advancing to the next stage, they had a fantastic day. The boys team, on the other hand, emerged victorious in all three matches and will move on to the next stage post-Easter. Congratulations to all the players for their teamwork, sportsmanship, and support for each other, demonstrating great camaraderie regardless of the outcome.



After Internet Day

Safer Internet Day (SID) was held on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024. SID is an EU wide initiative to promote safer internet for all users, especially young people. Each class visited the Webwise website and looked at PowerPoints for each class level. The children in the Middle Room were given a homework assignment to design a Safer Internet Day Poster. They all put in fantastic work – well done boys and girls!



First Confession 2024

Congratulations to our Second Class pupils who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday 21st February. It was lovely to have their families with them to mark this occasion. A special thank you to Fr Pádraig and Fr Seán for making the ceremony so special and to 3rd Class who were our choir on the day. The children are looking forward to celebrating their First Holy Communion on 11th May at 11am in St Gertrude's Church, Firies.

Garda Community Visit

On Monday 4th March, we had a very informative and interesting visit from Sergeant Marcus Twomey and Garda Michael O Dwyer from Castleisland Community Policing Unit.

The whole school gathered together and they spoke to the children about road safety, internet safety and had a Q&A session. Everyone got to hold their walkie-talkie and handcuffs and each class got a photo with them in front of the Garda car!

Many thanks to both Gardaí for taking the time to call in.



Easter Raffle

Our Easter Raffle will take place on the day of the Easter Holidays - Friday 22nd March. Tickets are €2 each or 3 for €5. Tickets can be bought from each class teacher. There are lots of yummy Easter Eggs to be won!



Run Around Europe

'Run around Europe' is a whole school running challenge led by Active Schools. This initiative focuses on participation, inclusion and fun with lots of learning opportunities along the way. All classes in our school run/walk laps of the school daily for 10 minutes. Each lap = 1km. Working together as a school, our combined km will bring us to many of the capital cities across Europe. We have made it London (England), Paris (France) and Brussels (Belgium). We are Friday 22nd March is the last day to participate. Our school will be in with a chance to win a climbing wall so fingers crossed! The last 4 weeks of daily running has been great fun and everyone's fitness levels have increased!

St. Brigid's Crosses

Towards the end of January, the pupils in the senior room continued with our yearly tradition of collecting rushes and making St. Brigid crosses in school. We made over 100 crosses in total and sold them at the school gate and in Keanes Centra. With thanks to the generosity of our whole school community, we made enough money to purchase some much needed new school sports equipment. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser.



Zumba

After Christmas, the whole school took part in 6 weeks of Zumba dancing lessons with Linda Flanagan. The children had a fantastic six weeks of energetic and fun dance sessions. Thanks to Linda for fitting us into her jam packed schedule and we hope to see her back again next year.



Cross Country Running

On Wednesday 28th February, the Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Competition took place in Caherslee in Tralee. Almost every school in Kerry took part in the team races and despite the cold, wet and windy conditions, the students from Knockaderry Farranfore N.S. put their best feet forward. We didn't win any places on the day but that didn't take from the enjoyment of the event. Well done to the three teams that took part.



EASTER

Green Schools

Spring has sprung and children in the Junior Room have been busy sowing seeds. We are taking special care of sweet peas, sunflowers, and other Irish native wildflowers seedlings. We can't wait for the weather to improve so that we can plant our seedlings outside! We will soon be getting our garden beds ready to plant potatoes, onions, and other vegetables as part of the 'Supervalu: Let's Grow' initiative.

Our Green School Committee are guiding their classes on improving the school's litter and waste management for our Green School focus this year. During our Student Council meetings, it was decided that each child will bring in their own facecloth (in a wash bag/plastic bag) for drying our hands, instead of filling our bins with tissue paper. The children will also take part in Picker Pals in the coming weeks.



Catholic Schools Week

We celebrated Catholic Schools week from the 21st January to 27th January 2024. This year's theme is 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Service'. Each class focused on service in communities of friendships, schools, family and faith, a theme for each day of the week. We celebrated Grandparent's Day on Wednesday of this week with a special Grandparent's Day service in school. The children's grandparents, special relatives and friends were invited to celebrate the day with prayers, songs and gifts from the children. Thank you to everyone who came and provided refreshments for everyone to enjoy! It was a very special day for everyone!



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on the 7th March. Our annual Word Book Day was a great success with everyone getting into the spirit of the day. The whole school enjoyed a special World Book Day Quiz in the Middle room. The costumes were fantastic, and it is becoming a stand out day in the school year. Well done everyone.

Pancake Tuesday

The staff and children would like to extend a huge thank you to all the parents who were involved in making pancakes for the children on Shrove Tuesday. The children were delighted with the delicious pancakes and toppings.



School Self-Evaluation

The process of School Self-Evaluation of teaching and learning began in September 2023. Through this process of collaboration with the school community and in response to the needs of our school, it was decided that our School Self-Evaluation would be used to support well-being in our school, in particular pupil wellbeing. Thank you to all the children and parents who completed our online questionnaires. These results were extremely positive and affirming of good practices already in place in Knockaderry N.S. to support the well-being of our pupils. In term 3 the children will take part in 'Weaving Wellbeing Programme' (2nd -6th) and 'Welcome to Wellbeing' (Senior Infants -1st). These wellbeing initiatives develop the five Resilience Skills from Positive Psychology (Emotional Regulation, Mindfulness, Compassionate Self-Talk, Character Strengths). We look forward to celebrating Wellbeing Week in Term 3!

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí seachtain den chéad scoth againn le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge le déanaí. Bhí neart rudaí ar siúl againn ar nós tráth na gceist, cluichí, damhsa agus amhráin sna ranganna éagsúla. Bhí seisiún ceoil beag againn ag deireadh na seachtaine agus sheinn roinnt pháistí poirteanna ar an fheadóig stáin, an bosca ceoil agus an consairtín. Bhí craic agus ceoil ag an scoil go léir.



RSA Visit

On Monday 19th February, we were delighted to welcome a speaker from the Road Safety Authority. He spoke to 4th, 5th and 6th class about the importance of staying safe on public roads. The pupils learned practical and helpful road safety tips concerning various modes of transport; including walking, cycling, travelling by car and when using public transport. We were reminded of how important it is to always wear a seatbelt when travelling in a vehicle. Also, when walking and cycling, we must always remember to wear a high visibility vest and ensure to Stop, Look and Listen before crossing the road.



First Goal Fundraiser

Our main school fundraiser of the year launches today!

Each family will today receive their envelope with scratch cards and sponsorship cards.

Each scratch card is €2 and if you match the time of the first goal scored in the Munster Senior Men's Football Final on Sunday 5th May 2024, you will win €200! Whoever sells the winning ticket will get €50 and the family who sell the most scratch cards will win €50. If you need more scratch cards to sell, please ask your child's teacher.

Please return cards to school before Wednesday 1st May 2024.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping raise funds for our school!



Languages Connect- Spanish lessons

We are very excited that Spanish Lessons with Ms O'Shea have begun! Over the last few weeks, the children have been learning the Spanish language and are being introduced to Spanish culture and traditions. Ms O'Shea is fantastic with the children and making the lessons fun and engaging. On her final day with us she will hold a Spanish Food – Tapas Day where children will sample some Spanish Treats! It is a great experience for the children, and we were delighted with how enthusiastic the children were to be learning a new language!

Dates for the diary in term 3.

Clothes collection- 18th April

First Holy Communion- 11th May at 11am

May Bank Holiday - 6th May

School closure for maths teacher training day- 21st May

School closed- May 31st and June 3rd.

Election- 7th June

School Tour - 14th June

Summer Holidays - June 27th

