

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2024

## Knockaderry Farranfore National School



**Tá fáilte romhaibh ar ais i gcomhair bliain nua agus fíor-  
fháilte roimh na daltaí is na clainn nua!**

We were delighted to welcome back everyone to school Sept 2nd, and to say a very special 'Céad Mile Fáilte' to our fabulous new Junior Infants. In addition to the junior infants we extend a very warm welcome to the children who joined our school in other classes also, all resulting in 11 new pupils. We hope that their years in Knockaderry Farranfore National School will be enjoyable, happy years. The children have been very busy over the last two months. They have developed a great interest in reading helped by the mobile library which visits every fortnight. It is such a 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. They progressed through many games to reach the County Semi-Final. Despite very challenging weather conditions, they gave it their all but came up short on the day. We are very proud of their tremendous spirit and resilience. A big thank you to Con O Mahony who supported them for the semi-final.

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.

On our return to school we will be commencing basketball which they are all looking forward to. In addition, we will begin drama classes with Mary Quirke. We wish you all an enjoyable midterm break.

Beir bua,  
Áine Daly

**TRICK  
OR  
TREAT**

## 2024 Junior infants

We welcomed 6 wonderful Junior Infants to Knockaderry N.S. in September 2024. Our Junior Infants boys and girls have settled in very well in their first term and are having great fun learning and playing together.



## Green Schools

Our Green School Committee's focus this year is Litter and Waste Management. Children are bringing in their own individual facecloth (in a washbag/plastic bag) for drying our hands. This Litter/Waste management initiative is working very well and is making a very positive impact. Thanks to all for supporting this initiative.

The potatoes that were planted in the Spring were ready to harvest and it was a huge crop. All classes dug up the potatoes and due to the huge number we decided on having an honesty box for anyone who wanted to buy our potatoes. They were delicious! Thanks to all for all your donations.



## Best of luck to Firies in the County Final

All of us in Knockaderry Farranfore NS are very excited and will be cheering on the Firies team in this weekend's County Final. We have an added interest as so many past pupils are on the team, Niall Donohue, Darragh Donohue, Patrick Daly, Liam Brosnan, Darragh Brosnan, Diarmuid Brosnan, Brian O Leary, Brian McCarthy, Seán Burke, Trevor O Shea, Jack Sherwood and Séamus Barry. Match is on Sat at 5pm Austin Stacks Tralee. See you there. Up Firies!!

## 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.

### **Birthday Invitations**

A gentle reminder to all parents and guardians that invitations to parties should be distributed outside of school. Thank you.

### **School garden.**

Our school garden produced a bountiful crop of potatoes this September. The children had a wonderful time in beautiful weather to harvest them. It was exciting to see the results of their good work, after planting them back in March. Watching them grow and deciding when to harvest them was all part of the lovely experience.



## Board of Management News

1. On the current Board of Management are; patron nominees Chairperson Hugh O Connell and Tom Kelliher, parent nominees Dan Smyth and Aileen O Leary, teacher nominees Jessica Sherwood and Áine Daly, community nominees Kathleen Kerins and Frances O Sullivan.
2. The Annual Admissions Notice has been published on the school website. New enrolments for the 2025 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.
3. At the BOM meeting Oct 1st 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 Infants and 2:40pm for all other classes. The school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after that time.



## Meet some of our new Junior Infants.

### Fiadh

**Age:** 5

**Birthday:** August

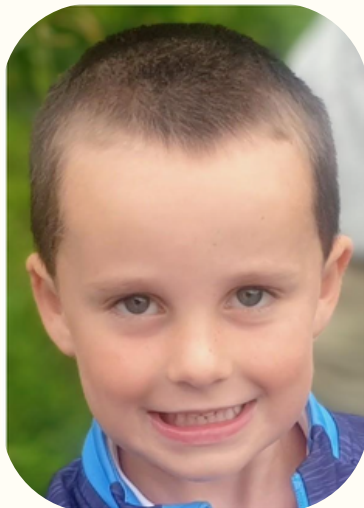
**Siblings:** Sophie & Jamie

**Favourite Colour:** Pink

**Favourite Food:** Pizza

**Dream Job:** Artist

**What I'm getting for Christmas:** A Squisy Maker.



### Ryan

**Age:** 5

**Birthday:** February

**Siblings:** Jamie & Lauren

**Favourite Colour:** Red for Liverpool

**Favourite Food:** Pepperoni Pizza

**Dream Job:** Soccer Player

**What I'm getting for Christmas:** Motorbike and soccer goalposts.

### Tess

**Age:** 5

**Birthday:** July

**Siblings:** Denis

**Favourite Colour:** Rainbow

**Favourite Food:** Strawberries

**Dream Job:** Hairdresser

**What I'm getting for Christmas:** A Koala Bear.



## Parent- teacher meetings

These will be held on Tuesday 12th and Wed 13th for junior infants to 4th class. Ms. Breen will arrange parent-teacher meetings for her class when she returns to school. If you are unable to attend on those dates, please contact the office to arrange another suitable time.

## School Rules

In September we had a whole school assembly. 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. 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.

## 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. Please make sure all tops, lunch bottles, boxes, tin whistles etc. are labelled.

## Maths Week 2024

Maths week took place from 14th to the 18th 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.





## **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 18th of October the children wore something yellow to school to mark the occasion and enjoyed treats donated to the school.

## **Halloween Fancy Dress**

On Friday the 25th 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. 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.



## **Religious News**

Our 2nd class pupils will celebrate their First Holy Communion on Sat May 10th at 11am in Firies Church.

The children in 5th and 6th class will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation Fri 21st March 2025 at 3:30pm.

## **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



## **Bake Sale**

3rd and 4th Class organised and ran a very successful bake sale on Friday 20th September. Fantastic effort was put into baking and buying and the other classes and staff members were delighted to enjoy such delicious treats! We raised a brilliant total of €345! All money raised was used to buy class chess sets, enter the class into a local chess tournament and money left over will go towards the cost of the bus to the tournament. Congratulations 3rd and 4th Class and thank you to everyone who donated to our bake sale!

## **All Ireland Senior Ladies Football**

A huge congratulations to the Kerry Ladies team on their fantastic win in August in the All Ireland Football Final. They had a comprehensive win against Galway. Over the years many past pupils have been very committed members of the team. This year it was wonderful to celebrate the win, with the added bonus of past pupil Katie Brosnan being a member of the team. Congratulations.

## Chess

Following on from the success of the bake sale, we were able to purchase chess sets for 3rd and 4th Class. They have recently been participating in chess lessons every Wednesday with Mrs Sherwood and this will continue until Christmas. The lessons are very enjoyable and the class have been entered into a local Chess tournament which will take place in the new year.

## S.N.A. Appreciation Day

On Thursday 26th September, the first S.N.A Appreciation Day was celebrated in schools all over Ireland, including Knockaderry Farranfore N.S.! We want to say a massive thank you to our three wonderful SNAs – Kathleen, Carmel and Paula. We are so lucky to have them in our school – they always go above and beyond for the children in our school. Thank you for everything you do! #thankoursnas

## GOAL Jersey Day

GOAL Jersey Day was held on Friday 11th October. €102.20 was raised and was donated to GOAL. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthy cause.

## Cross Country Schools Event

On Thursday 26th September, our students from 3rd – 6th Class took part in a cross country running event run by Farranfore Maine Valley A.C. This was held in Firies GAA field. We had teams competing across all class groups. 3rd Class ran 800m, 4th Class ran 1000m, 5th Class ran 1200m and 6th Class ran 1500m! It was a great event and a great experience for all the children who took part to experience athletics and a great opportunity for the children to get active. Congratulations to all!

## Community Games Handwriting

Congratulations to Claire in 4th Class who represented Knockaderry Farranfore N.S., Firies and Kerry in the All Ireland Community Games U10 Handwriting Final on Sunday 8th September in Carlow. We are very proud of you Claire!





## Food Dudes

This year, we started Year 1 of a 4-year cycle with Food Dudes. In Phase 1, the Junior Room had 20 days of trying different fruit and vegetables and the Middle and Senior Room had 5 days of tasting. We are now in Phase 2 where the children are encouraged to bring in fruit and vegetables from home each day for their small break. The lovely rewards definitely helped with the tasting of some of the fruit and vegetables! Well done to all who participated!

## Friendship Week

This year, we celebrated Friendship Week from the 23rd to the 27th of September. Each class spent time discussing the qualities of a good friend and how to be a good friend to others. The children were encouraged to perform random acts of kindness for their peers. Children in the senior room participated in buddy reading with those in the junior room, which allowed them to develop friendships with children from different classes. Everyone really enjoyed the initiative and it will continue once a week for the rest of the term. We also created a whole school art display. Every child designed a "friendship boat" by drawing their friends and writing words that describe a good friend.

## Upcoming Events

- Monday 4th November: Drama classes with Mary Quirke begins in all classes. The cost of these classes is covered by the BLAST programme.
- Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th November: Parent Teacher meetings for the Junior and Middle Rooms. Senior Rooms Parent Teaching meetings will be at a later date.
- Monday 11th – Friday 15th November: Anti-Bullying Week
- Wednesday 13th November: Last day to order Christmas Cards (your child's sample will be given out after Halloween)
- Friday 15th November: Type Onesie Day – wear a onesie or pyjamas to school to raise awareness and vital funds for children living with Type 1 diabetes. All funds raised will support the Paediatric Diabetes Service at Cork University Hospital. Suggested donation of €2.
- Science Day: Wednesday 20th November.
- Christmas Play: Thursday 12th December.
- Christmas Holidays: Friday 20th December. School will close at 12 noon.

