OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2026

Knockaderry Farranfore National School

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

We were delighted to welcome back everyone to school on August 31st, and to say a very special 'Céad Mile Fáilte' to our fabulous new Junior Infants.
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.
Other events included a busy Maths Week and Friendship Week.
School rules were discussed at a school assembly and we held our September and October assemblies, where the achievements and birthdays were celebrated and class performances were enjoyed.

We wish you all an enjoyable and safe midterm break.
School will reopen on Monday 2nd November.

Beir bua,
Áine Daly

TRICK OR TREAT



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 incase 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 rolla 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.



Board of Managment News

1.On the current Board of Management are; patron nominees Chairperson Hugh O Connell and Tom Kelliher, parent nominees Dan Smyth and Katie Ellard, teacher nominees Aoife Breen 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 2027 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 first BOM meeting, 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.

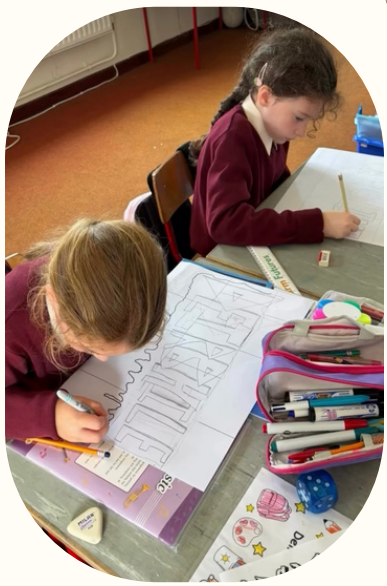
Collecting and dropping children to and from school

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.



















Knockaderry Farranfore N.S.
Scoil Náisiúnta Chnoc a' Doire

Our school will be closed on the dates listed below to allow our teachers to take part in training for the new Primary Curriculum.

This training helps ensure the curriculum is taught well and supports the best learning for every child.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

- **Friday 13th November 2026**
- **Wednesday 3rd March 2027**
- **Monday 14th June 2027**

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICER JRSO

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A Kerry County Council Road Safety Schools Programme

Congratulations to Matthew in 6th Class who was voted to be this years Junior Road Safety Officer. We look forward to learning all about road safety from Matthew this year!

S.N.A. Appreciation Day

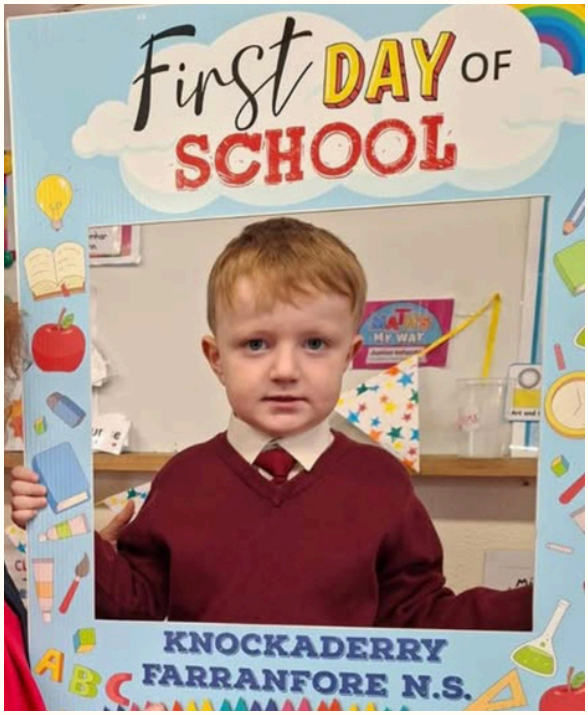
On Thursday 24th September, SNA Appreciation Day was celebrated in schools all over Ireland, including Knockaderry Farranfore N.S.! We want to say a massive thank you to our four wonderful SNAs – Kathleen, Carmel, Paula and Colette. We are so lucky to have them in our school – they always go above and beyond for the children in our school. Thank you for everything you do! #thankoursnas

Lee Strand Homework Diary Competition

Congratulations to Alice Gleeson, who graduated from 6th Class in June, who won the Lee Strand Homework Diary Competition. Her fantastic design now features on the front cover of the school diaries this year. Alice's design won her €750 for our school! Some of this money is being used to subsidise gymnastics lessons for the whole school! Well done, Alice! We are so proud of you!



Meet our new Junior Infants.



Thady
Age: 5
Siblings: Ruby, Paudie & Conor
Favourite colour: Green
Favourite food: Apples
Dream job: Zookeeper



Lauren
Age: 5
Siblings: Jamie & Ryan
Favourite colour: Pink
Favourite food: Spuds
Dream job: Shopkeeper

Meet our new Junior Infants.

Jenny
Age: 5
Siblings: Rebecca
Favourite colour: Purple
Favourite food: Apples
Dream job: Sofia the Princess



Asie
Age: 4
Siblings: Adile & Esma
Favourite colour: Pink
Favourite food: Strawberries
Dream job: Princess



Parent- teacher meetings

Parent-teacher meetings scheduled for Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October could not take place due to industrial action. These have been rescheduled to Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November 2026, pending the ceasing of industrial action. If industrial action is still going on, these days will be rescheduled and we will inform you of such. Thank you for your understanding during this time.

School Rules

In September we held 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 2026

Maths Week took place from 12th to 16th 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, math trails, they worked on connecting math to our everyday environment and every child made their own maths hat, which they showcased at our 'hat'walk on Friday.
Well done to everyone for their fantastic effort in using maths all week.





Climate Literacy Programme - 5th & 6th Class

Since 2nd September, 5th and 6th Class have been participating in the Climate Literacy Programme with their facilitator, Billy Jo. Billy Jo has delivered engaging and action-orientated education and empowering the children with the knowledge, skills and tools needed for a sustainable future. Each session is 1 hour long and full of informative and practical tips for sustainable development. Topics they have learned about include climate change, sustainability, the fast fashion industry, upcycling (where they upcycled an old tshirt into a tote bag) and food and soil. The children were also taught to sew and did experiments about good soil and bad soil. This has been a very worthwhile and valuable programme that everyone has learned something from. Billy Jo will return for the last few sessions after midterm.







Halloween Fancy Dress

On Friday the 23rd of October, the children will get a chance to dress up in their Halloween costumes. Each year, this is a fundraiser for Brú Columbanus who provide accommodation, away from home for parents whose children are in hospital. Thank you to all who donate to this fantastic cause.

Halloween Bake Sale

What a fantastic Halloween Bake Sale we had on Friday, October 16th! The Students' Council did an incredible job organising the bake sale, and the entire school community came together to make the day a huge success. A massive thank you to everyone who generously donated delicious baked goods. The money raised from this event will go towards extracurricular activities
We made an amazing €360!

Student Council 2026/2027

Student Council members for 2026/2027 are...Tommy, Andrew, Claire, Matthew, Ali, Jayce, Kalum, Ryan, Aideen, Róisín and Orna!



Sports

On Thursday, 1st October, our Cumann na mBunscol team travelled to Spa GAA grounds. Throughout the competition, they faced Anabla N.S., Knockanes N.S., Tiernaboul N.S., and Two Mile C.N.S. Although they did not progress to the next round, the team can be very proud of their efforts and are already looking forward to upcoming competitions such as the Mini-Sevens.

Our classes are very excited to begin gymnastic lessons in November for 5 weeks. This costs €15 per child and can be paid to class teachers any time before 19th November. The cost of these classes has been subsides from the €750 Alice Gleeson won from the Lee Strand Homework Diary competition.

Each class particpated in rugby lessons during September and October.

The Middle and Senior Rooms got to do a Golf Taster Session with Rob Hussen.

PJ Reidy is back again with us this year and teaching football to all classes throughout the year. The Middle and Senior Rooms have been participating in September and October and will continue in November and December. The Junior Room will have a turn in Term 2.

Kate Lynch has also returned to teach the children hurling every second Friday. There is a rota among the 3 classes.

The Cycle Right Programme will return in Term 2 for the Middle and Senior Classes! Further information to follow!

School Photos

School photos were taken by County Photo on Monday 28th September. When we recieve the proofs, we will give out to each child/family with the information on how to order.



Friendship Week

This year, we celebrated Friendship Week from the 21st to the 25th 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 middle 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 jigsaw". They wrote qualities of a good friend on the jigsaw piece.

Best wishes to Zac and Jayce!

We would like to wish Zac and Jayce the very best in their new school. Everyone in Knockaderry Farranfore NS will greatly miss them! Thanks for all the fun and laughter during your time in Knockaderry! Your new school is very lucky to have two kind, caring, funny, thoughtful and generous boys joining their community. We hope you come back and visit us some time!

Important Upcoming Dates:

- November 2nd - Return to school.
- November 12th - Type Onesie Day. Donations welcome and will go towards the Paediatric Diabetes Services at CUH.
- November 13th - School closed for training in the new curriculum.
- November 17th & 19th: Parent Teacher Meetings
- November 21st: 5th and 6th Class enrolment for Confirmation.
- December 10th: Christmas Plays in school 7pm
- December 11th Christmas Jumper Day in aid of St Vincent de Paul
- December 14th: Christmas Mass in school
- December 22nd: Christmas holidays at 12 noon