

## **January 2020**

### **Happy New Year!**

As this is our first newsletter of 2020, we want to formally wish all our families a very Happy New Year, we hope it is filled with health and happiness. Sincere thank you to everyone for their well wishes and kind thoughts over the Christmas period.

### **Open Evening**

Our Parents Information Evening for pupils starting Junior Infants for the academic year 2020/2021 will take place in the school this Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7p.m. This is an evening for parents only, we will invite the children to the classroom in our final term.

### **Stay Safe Programme**

Please note Senior Infants, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes will begin their Stay Safe Programme this term. The aim of the Stay Safe programme is to teach children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It deals initially with common situations which most children will experience at some stage or other, e.g. getting lost or being bullied. The programme also teaches children the safety skills necessary to protect themselves from physical or sexual abuse and emphasises the importance of telling a trusted adult about any problems they have. Please see the following link for more information:

<https://pdst.ie/StaySafeParents>

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### **Reverse Integration**

Our school operates a policy of reverse integration and this extends to all classes.

This involves withdrawing 3-4 children from mainstream to work with the Special Needs child in his/her own environment in the Rainbow Rooms. This can take many formats:

- children from mainstream Junior/Middle classes engage in life skills programme, 20 mins per week on a 6 week basis
- children from the Senior Classes provide reverse integration by joining students from the Rainbow Room for lunch, participate in life skills programmes, SPHE lessons
- a timetabled "Buddy System" involving the Special Classes and children from 6<sup>th</sup> class is operational for all indoor playtimes, throughout the school year.

### **Upcoming Fundraisers**

Thank you to our parents who are currently fundraising for additional equipment for our Rainbow Rooms. We are putting some equipment outside at the front of the school primarily for use by our Rainbow Room students extending to all pupils in our school. There are two upcoming events for your diary!

1. Table Quiz in Caherlistrane GAA Hall, 8p.m. on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January
2. Progressive 25 Card Game – Cloughanover Community Centre, 23<sup>rd</sup> February

All support is greatly appreciated.

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### **Playground at Rear of School**

Our play area at the rear of the school has recently passed an insurance inspection. However, the grounds are completely saturated. We are in regular contact with the installer to progress the situation. Since the items were installed we have not had a full week of dry weather. We are hopeful over Spring to develop the area further to ensure it is fit for use as soon as possible.

### **Reminders!**

#### **1. Attendance**

Since the inception of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 schools are obliged to report on school attendance. If your child is unwell of course you keep them home from school and send in an explanation note. If your child has a dental appointment or other such medical appointment, please inform the school of this before the date also using the Absence Note - available on our website in the download section or through the homework diary. Attendance is recorded daily on our Student Management System.

#### **2. Nut Free**

Kilcoona N.S. is a “**nut-free-zone**”. The reason for this decision is to protect children who have an allergy to nuts. Any exposure to peanuts/nuts may cause a life-threatening allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you **do not send any peanut or nut containing products to the school with your child that will be eaten here**. We appreciate your co-operation

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as we work to maintain our school as a safe environment for all children.

### 3. **Traffic**

Visibility is being improved on the Mausrevagh Road at present, please **reduce your speed** on this road as many children are walking, cycling and there are very narrow spots, which have led to accidents.

### In School Training

- 2<sup>nd</sup> class will continue hurling training, Mondays, up until February mid-term break.
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will continue football each Tuesday.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes will have rugby, each Thursday up until February mid-term break.

### After School Training

- Football training will continue, weather permitting, for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> classes, each Tuesday up until Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Hurling training will continue, weather permitting, for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes each Thursday.
- A sincere thank you to our teaching staff and Tom Cradock who give up their personal time to train the pupils after school.

### Swimming

An eight week swimming session will take place for 3<sup>rd</sup> class students in Coral Leisure Tuam, starting Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 - more detail to follow in the coming weeks.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**The school opens daily to receive pupils at 8.40a.m.**

**No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before this time.**