

Kilnamanagh Community National School (KCNS)
 Oulart, Co. Wexford. Y25 HT63
 087 3861430 / 053 9136555
 Email: kilnamanaghcns@wwetb.ie

Note for all families

School Year 2021/2022

1. School Calendar 2021/2022

We look forward to welcoming you to the new school year at Kilnamanagh CNS. The 2021/2022 school calendar is available on our website. Please note the following dates:

Day and Date	School Event
Friday 27 th August	Welcome meetings are held with families of Junior Infants, new children and are open to all children to aid transition into and back to school. We will be in touch with you to arrange a time, 15 minutes per family, to visit the school with your child and meet the class teacher, Múinteoir Bróna and Múinteoir Jamie Lee. We will be in contact closer to the time. All HSE guidelines are to be followed.
Monday 30 th August	All children attend school. Times for drop off and collection times will be communicated closer to this day, in case they need to be staggered depending on the guidelines at the time.

2. School Schedule

Our school starts at 8:50am and children can be dropped to the school from 8:45am. Children from first class upwards finish school at 2:30pm. In the interest of your child's health and safety, children are not to be on the school grounds before 8.45 am each morning, supervision is provided from 8.45 am only.

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In **Junior Infants**, children have a gradual increase in their time at school:

Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st August	9.00 – 10.40 am (bring one small snack and drink)
Wednesday 1st September – 10th September	9.00 – 11.45 am (bring snack, drink and lunch)
Monday 13th September onwards	8.50 -1.30 pm (Bring snack, drink and lunch) Full infant school day

3. Uniform

Our school crest has been designed and completed by the children this school year and it will be made available as a stand-alone item that can be stitched/stuck on.

Navy and blue are our uniform colours. The school uniform includes a school tracksuit. We also have a more traditional uniform for junior infants and subsequent years following. There is also an option for other classes to purchase this uniform this year. It consists of:

- Navy trousers, skirt or pinafore • Navy cardigan or jumper • Blue shirt • Navy Tights/socks • Black shoes

For PE days the School Tracksuit consists of:

- Navy tracksuit pants • Navy sweatshirt • Blue polo-shirt • Runners

To help children to take responsibility for their belongings, we ask parents to label your child's uniform items with his/her first and last name.

Teaching and Learning Initiatives

As a new school, we are excited to develop a range of initiatives which place children at the heart of the learning process. Here we outline initiatives which staff hope to implement with children during the coming year. We look forward to sharing updates on these initiatives and children's learning with parents as the year progresses.

Green School

Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and education programme. It supports schools to take environmental issues from the curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school. At Kilnamanagh CNS, we are working towards our first flag for Litter and Waste. We formed a Green School Committee in September and this



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group has been working hard towards our goal of becoming a Green School. The Green School Committee has monitored the school's waste, taken surveys, created litter signs and organised litter picking sessions. We are very much looking forward to continuing this initiative and our school's very own green code will be one of the first items on the agenda when the student's committee reconvene.

Creative Schools

Kilnamanagh CNS was successful in receiving an award to fund our school in becoming a creative school. We are thrilled to have the traditional singer, Aileen Lambert, as the school's creative associate and we are really looking forward to working with her in September. This programme is an initiative of Creative Ireland programme to 'enable the creative potential of every child. It aims to put the arts and creativity at the heart of children and young people's lives'.

'Friends' for Life' programme for Well-Being

The Primary School Curriculum has 11 subjects and one of these is Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE). As part of our teaching and learning plan for SPHE this past year we began exploring and using the 'Friends for Life' programme', 'Fun Friends' for the Junior room and 'Friends for Life' for the Senior room. We are excited to continue to implement this positive mental health programme with all children from Junior infants to 6th class during the new school year. The programme helps students to develop effective strategies to deal with worry, stress and change and teaches the skills required to reduce anxiety and promote resilience. It is the only childhood anxiety prevention programme recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), according to the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), it aims to help children and adolescents to problem solve, use coping skills, expose themselves gradually to feared situations, reward themselves for brave behaviour and identify positive role models and support networks. It involves helping children and adolescents to use positive self-talk (green thoughts), challenge negative self-talk (red thoughts), evaluate themselves realistically and reward themselves. It involves teaching children and adolescents to be aware of their body clues, to use relaxation techniques and to self-regulate. This is a very positive programme for pupils and the whole school community and we are very happy to continue to implement it at Kilnamanagh CNS.

Music Generation

Music Generation Wexford is part of Music Generation, Ireland's National Performance Music Education (PME) programme. Music Generation is a wonderful initiative which is



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managed locally by Wexford Music Education Partnership led by Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board (WWETB) in partnership with Wexford County Council.

Kilnamanagh CNS is delighted to welcome a musician from Music Generation Wexford, every week into our school to teach and guide our pupils in a range of child centred music-making programmes. As mentioned on the website 'MG Wexford aims to create access to performance music education so that every child can have the opportunity to engage with and progress through an excellent performance music education programme. It is our mission to create ways for the children and young people in County Wexford to make great music and experience the positive impact creative musical engagement can bring to their lives.' *Music Generation Wexford* <http://waterfordwexford.etb.ie/music-generation/music-generation-wexford/>

Active School

The Active School Flag (ASF) initiative is a Department of Education and Skills initiative which aims to get more schools, more active, more often. The Active School Flag initiative at Kilnamanagh CNS, will enable children to see that there are many and varied ways to be active throughout the school day and within their local community. It is a whole school process that promotes physical activity in a fun, inclusive way for all. We look forward to a busy school year working towards an active flag. We plan to establish an Active Schools' Committee to lead the initiative. Children on the committee share information, promote activities, propose new ideas and monitor challenges. We will have Playground Leaders who will help to create a schedule of games and activities for our yard and lead these activities during yard times. We will incorporate Active Homework each week also.

GAA

This year our school will be working with local GAA Club. They will be working closely with a qualified coach to learn GAA football, hurling and camogie skills.

Rugby

The children will also learn rugby skills with a Wexford rugby club. A trained rugby coach will teach important skills and allow the children in every year group the chance to partake in rugby training.

We will also take part in the daily mile.

The aim of The Daily Mile is to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of our children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances.



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GAA and rugby can be very beneficial for children. GAA and rugby teach students essential skills that they will use throughout their lives such as persistence, effort, time management and teamwork. Taking part in exercise daily - such as the daily mile, has been shown to boost concentration levels and self-confidence!

To find more information on this you can visit:

<https://www.athleticsireland.ie/schools/the-daily-mile/>

School Development

New building

Kilnamanagh CNS has been awarded funding from the Department of Education and Skills (DES) for the development of one new classroom, one new Special Education Teaching (SET) room and a universal toilet. We have also been given funding for a temporary Portacabin to be put in place, while we wait for the new building to finish. This will facilitate SET and, until it is in place, we have been kindly offered the use of the old school building beside Kilnamanagh CNS.

Student Council

Children have been actively involved in decision-making at our school and this year we look forward to continuing to engage and consult with children on matters that affect them and setting up our first Student Council.

Board of Management

Our school is now operating under a Board of Management consisting of eight members.

Patron's nominees: Counsellor Mary Farrell (Chairperson) and Mr Pat Rath

Principal and secretary to the board: Bróna Kenneally

Teacher nominee: Ms Jamie Lee Somers

Parent nominees: Ms Fiona O' Dowd and Mr Éamonn McKenna

Community Representatives: Ms Emer Swords and Mr Seánie Breen



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School Policies

As a new school, all our organisational policies and curriculum plans are also new. These are growing with our school and will reflect our priorities for children and our particular school context. These policies, when called for, will have parental feedback and feedback from our pupils. One example, this year it is our plan to develop a healthy eating policy with the pupils' help and input.

During the Covid-19 school closure, our school was required to progress certain policies with staff and the School Manager. For example, we were required to update our Admissions Policy, as were all schools nationally. The policies developed to date are published on our website and in Draft form until fully ratified. The date of update/publication is noted for each policy. All our policies are always subject to review, amendment and update. We invite all parents to visit this section of our website and to provide any feedback to us at any time.

Regular Meetings with Parents

Parents are welcome to request a meeting with their child's class teacher or the Principal and this will be facilitated at an appropriate time. Parents are greeted informally and regularly in the mornings and in the afternoons when drop off or pick-ups take place. In the current climate we are very aware of 2m social distancing which has to be maintained at all times.

Parents Association & Special Events

One of the initial duties of the Board of Management is to facilitate the formation of a Parent's Association. Additional meetings for interested parents will then take place to plan for specific school events and activities at our school, e.g. Tea/Coffee afternoons, book fairs, fundraisers etc. We look forward to supporting parents to lead/coordinate the parents' group as the school grows and evolves. The National Parents Council (NPC), Primary provides support for parents in new schools: www.npc.ie. Member benefits for parents include insurance for parents/parent groups to establish themselves. We will organise a speaker from the NPC closer to the time to come and talk and we will be in touch about this in due course.

Communications



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We strive for regular communication with parents. As a Green School, we communicate with parents mainly via **email and text**. The following are the ways we share the story of our school's development with parents and with the public:

School Facebook: You'll find regular updates on children's learning adventures on Facebook

School Website, www.kilnamanaghcns.ie: this promotes and describes our wonderful school with parent information, school events, children's work and so on.

Monthly Newsletters: a monthly newsletter is produced and they are published on our website in the Newsletter tab.

Office 365 and Class Dojo: During the Covid-19 school closure, we mainly communicated with parents about their children's learning through Teams, GoClass Dojo, Zoom, and via email. To stay connected with the students, we communicated using Class Dojo and also Teams video call/Zoom.