

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

Note for all families

School Year 2023/2024

1. School Calendar 2023/2024

We look forward to welcoming you to the new school year at Kilnamanagh CNS. The 2023/2024 school calendar is available on our website. Please note the following dates:

Day and Date	School Event
Tuesday 29 th August	Welcome meetings are held with families of Junior Infants and new children coming to the school. 15 minutes per family, to visit the school with your child and to meet the class teacher. We will be in contact closer to the time.
Wednesday 30 th August	All children attend school.

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.

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

Wednesday 30th, Thursday 31st, and Friday 1st	8.50 – 10.40 am (bring one small snack and drink)
Monday 4th September – 8th September	8.50 – 11.45 am (bring snack, drink and lunch)
Monday 11th September onwards	8.50 -1.30 pm (Bring snack, drink and lunch) Full infant school day

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3. Uniform

Our school crest has been designed and completed by the children and it is 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.

'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



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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 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 general music and learning how to play the violin and this will continue this year also.

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/>

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 are aiming to form a new Green School Committee and this group will work hard towards our goal of becoming a Green School. The Green School Committee monitor the school's waste, take surveys, create litter signs and organise litter picking sessions. We are very much looking forward to pursuing 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 convene.

Creative Schools

Kilnamanagh CNS is applying for the artist in residence programme - BLAST, in conjunction with Wexford County Council.



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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, enables 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 are delighted to say we received our active school flag this year and we plan to stay very much an active school. Check out our website for more details.

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.

Soccer

We are expecting a coach to come into the school to coach the staff this year and children in the rules of soccer.

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.

GAA, soccer and rugby can be very beneficial for children. They 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/>



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Senior Friendly Programme

We are delighted to say we are the very first school in Ireland with the title of a 'Senior Friendly' school. This is an EU initiative and more information can be found here:

<https://seniorsvoiceplus.eu/senior-friendly-school/>

We proudly advocate being an inclusive school and this initiative allows us to include the more senior members of our community. They have a wealth of information and knowledge and are only ready and willing usually to share this with the children in our school. To date our local Men's Shed have painted our outside benches and are planning to give a bench making lesson to the senior class. We also invited a member into tell the children stories, and another lady was invited in to give crochet lessons.

After School Clubs

The children have the option to participate in after school violin club with múinteoir Bróna and after school chess club with múinteoir Jamie Lee. These run from 2.30PM to 3PM on Mondays and Wednesdays.

School Development

New building

Kilnamanagh CNS was 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. This new build will be ready for September. The new SET classroom will facilitate SET and a class of children.

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 continue to work with the Student Council.

Board of Management

Our school is now operating under a Board of Management consisting of eight members. A new board of management will be sought for in around November '23 for the next four years. Our current board members are:

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



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

Community Representatives: Ms Emer Swords and Mr Shane Forsey

School Policies

As a relatively new and growing 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.

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 through the office, or by email, 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.

Parents Association & Special Events

One of the initial duties of the Board of Management is to facilitate the formation of a Parent's Association. We now have a new parent's association set up for the school. There are five members on the committee and every other parent is automatically a member of the association. All are welcome to join in any of the organising or to help out at any event which may take place. Additional meetings for the parent's association committee will 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.



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Communications

We strive for regular communication with parents. As we aim for Green School status, 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, Class Dojo, Zoom, and via email. To stay connected with the students, we communicated using Class Dojo and also Teams video call/Zoom.