

Kilrickle N. S

Kilrickle, Loughrea, Co. Galway

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March 9th 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well and that you are looking forward to the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. We would appreciate if you could take note of the below important information.

Traffic Safety and Local Authority Engagement

Well done to everyone involved in the Hall Committee and the wider community for successfully securing funding of over **€63,000 for road improvements** in the village of Kilrickle. Funding has been obtained under the **2026 Low Cost Safety Improvement (LCSI) Scheme**. These works will include the installation of two raised tables and the upgrading of existing pedestrian crossings to link with the raised table area, creating a more defined pathway and improved ramps. These improvements aim to enhance traffic management and address speed-related concerns in the village. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to **Councillor Geraldine Donoghue and TD Albert Dolan**, who has been extremely supportive in working with the school to help secure this funding.

Morning Club and After School Facilities 2026–2027

Parents who may wish to avail of **Morning Club or After School facilities next year**, but who are not currently using these services, are encouraged to contact **Patricia Kenny** to secure a place for the **2026–2027 school year**: patriciakenny@live.ie

Parents Association – Easter Treats

A sincere thank you to the **Parents' Association**, who will kindly be providing Easter treats for the children on the final day of the school term. This will take place on **Friday, 27th March**, and the children will also enjoy taking part in a fun **Easter Hunt** on the day.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

This week marks **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, and the boys and girls in the school will be taking part in a **Tóraíocht Taisce (Treasure Hunt)** through Irish during the week. Please keep an eye on the **school website** where photographs of this activity will be shared.

Scholastic Book Fair

As you may be aware, the **Scholastic Book Fair** will take place from **Friday, 13th March to Friday, 20th March**. The books will be in the **community hall kitchenette area**, and parents will be able to purchase books **daily from 2:00pm to 3:00pm**. On **Friday, 13th March**, books will also be available for parents and grandparents to purchase **after Grandparents' Day – on this day they will be in Ms. Gallagher's Room**. Please note that **cash and card payments** will be accepted. Children will also have an opportunity to view the books during the school day throughout the week.

School Garden

As we do every spring, we are asking parents for donations of **bedding flowers, vegetable plants/seeds and flower plants** for our school garden and window boxes. We would also greatly appreciate donations of **compost and bark mulch bags**. Donations can be dropped to the school on **Monday, 23rd March**, as the children will begin planting during that week. All donations are greatly appreciated and will help make our school grounds look beautiful by the summer months.

FAI Five-a-Side Blitz

Well done to our boys and girls who took part in the **FAI Five-a-Side Blitzes in Kiltullagh** last week. Our boys were unlucky not to progress from the group stages, losing in a play-off final. Our girls, however, did a fantastic job and **won the blitz**. They will now go on to represent the **Kiltullagh/Loughrea area** in the **county finals on April 28th in Mervue**. We wish them the very best of luck.

Grandparents' Day

A reminder that **Grandparents' Day** takes place **this Friday**. All grandparents are invited to the school at **11:00am**, where the boys and girls will perform a selection of **songs, poems and tunes**. After this short performance, grandparents will be invited to visit their grandchildren's classrooms where further activities will take place. At approximately **12:00pm**, **tea and coffee will be served in Mr. Gibbons' room**. This is always a lovely occasion and **parents are also very welcome to attend**. If any pupil wishes to go home with their grandparents after the event (from **12:30pm onwards**), please ensure that the **class teacher is informed in advance**.

Thank you to the Parents Association who will be providing teas and coffees for this event.

School Closures and Easter Holidays

A reminder that the school will be **closed next Monday, 16th March, and Tuesday, 17th March**. The school will close for the **Easter holidays on Friday, 27th March at 12:00pm**.

Rosary Invitation

Children in **Mr. Gibbons' class** attend the **Rosary each Friday morning at 9:40am in Kilrickle Church**. This takes approximately **15 minutes**, and **all parents and members of the community are very welcome to join us**.

School Bus Application

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are encouraging parents to **apply for a school bus place in April**. Parents can begin this process by **creating an account online at the Bus Éireann School Transport portal**: <https://schooltransport.buseireann.ie/Account/Login>

We strongly encourage families to apply, as this will greatly assist our efforts in securing a **school bus service for the school for September 2026**, which is very important for our school community.

Return to School – August 2026

School will reopen for the **2026–2027 school year on Thursday, August 27th**. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back after the summer break on that date.

Parking and the Yellow Box

We strongly encourage parents to **use the community car park** where possible. Older boys and girls are encouraged to **walk from the car park to the school**, rather than adding to congestion around the hall and school entrance, particularly as the weather improves in the coming months. We also ask that **parking or setting down children in the yellow box area is avoided at all times** in the interest of safety.

Drumcondra Standardised Testing

Drumcondra Standardised Tests will take place from **Tuesday, May 26th to Thursday, May 28th**. These tests are very important for the school as they help us to plan our **Special Education Teaching (SET) allocation for the coming school year**. We kindly ask that every effort is made to ensure pupils are **present on these days**. If your child cannot attend on any of these dates, please inform the school **well in advance** so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Graduation Day

Our **6th Class Graduation Day** is always a very special occasion in the school calendar. This year it will take place on **Tuesday, June 23rd**, which is also the **final day of the school term**.

Open Day – Incoming Junior Infants

Our **Open Day for Junior Infants for the 2026–2027 school year** will take place on **Friday, May 15th at 11:00am**. This time has been chosen as the current pupils will be attending **swimming lessons**, which will give parents and new pupils a greater opportunity to **view the school and become familiar with the environment**.

Swimming Lessons

A reminder that **swimming lessons will commence on Friday, April 17th** for all children (the week we return from the Easter holidays).

All children must have a **swim hat** for the pool.

Skipping Ropes – Active School Flag

We would greatly appreciate any **donations of skipping ropes** to the school. As part of the **Active School Flag Programme**, the school will be taking part in the “**Skip Around the World**” initiative, and additional skipping ropes would be very helpful.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion Dates

Please note that in **May** we will be celebrating the **Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion** in **Kilrickle Church**.

- **Confirmation:** Friday, May 22nd at 11:00 a.m.
- **First Holy Communion:** Saturday, May 23rd at 11:00 a.m.

Pupils who are not directly involved in the ceremonies will form the **school choir** for both occasions. We would greatly appreciate your child’s availability to participate in the choir on these important days.

If your child is **unable to attend either date**, please inform your child’s **class teacher as soon as possible**.

School Google Calendar

As there are many events taking place over the coming weeks and months, we encourage families to **keep a close eye on the school Google Calendar** to stay informed.

<https://www.kilricklens.org/calendarandbooks>

Website and Facebook Page

Parents are encouraged to **visit the school website and Facebook page** regularly to keep up to date with the many activities and events taking place throughout the school year.

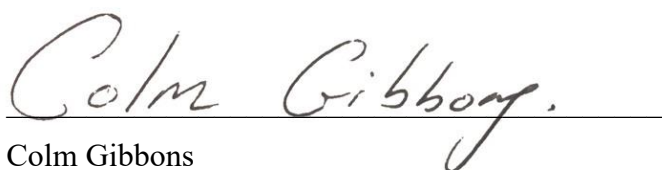
<https://www.kilricklens.org/>

<https://www.kilricklens.org/blog>

<https://www.facebook.com/kilricklenationalschool/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this month’s newsletter. Bainigí taitneamh as Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Lá Fhéile Pádraigh ar ndóigh!

Le gach dea-ghuí,



Colm Gibbons

Principal

Kilrickle N.S.

