



February 12th, 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are looking forward to the up-coming midterm break. We would appreciate if you could take note of the below.

Mid Term

School will close this Wednesday at the normal time and will **re-open on Monday, February 20th**.

Google Calendar

Our school calendar often becomes quite congested when we pass the half way mark in the school year. We therefore ask you to **keep track of the school's Google Calendar**. A link to it can be accessed [here](#). It is recommended that you download the Google Calendar App in order to utilise the full benefits of the online school calendar.

Hurling

As you are already aware our hurling coaching sessions are taking place in the school every Tuesday morning. These are 1-hour sessions and therefore we felt that it would be best that the hour be split across two classrooms. **Therefore, the timetable has been amended and is outlined below:**

- Mr. Gibbons' Room and Mr. Kelly's Room (Every Tuesday, February 14th – March 14th)
- Mr. Kelly' Room and Ms. Gallagher's Room (Every Tuesday March 21st – May 9th)
- Ms. Gallagher's Room and Mr. Gibbons Room (Every Tuesday, May 16th – June 20th)

These dates have been updated on the school's Google Calendar.

First Holy Communion

A reminder that 2nd Class pupils will make their **First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 27th at 11am**. All children in the school will make up the school choir on this date. Therefore, we ask that you put the date in your diary and we would appreciate if **your child would be available to participate in the school choir**.

Swimming

Swimming classes will commence **on Friday, April 28th**. This is an **8 week programme** and the swimming classes take place each school Friday, from the above date, until the end of the final term. These exact dates can be seen on the school's Google calendar that is linked [here](#). **All children in the school take part in these lessons**. The final cost of these classes, which will include the cost of the bus, will be made available in the coming weeks.

Art

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in our application for the BLAST project (Bringing Live Arts to Students and Teachers). **The children in the school will have the opportunity to work with a professional artist**. The artist, Therese Murphy, will be funded for 20 contact hours, including 6 hour planning/development/review time through the BLAST Programme.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

As part of our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations we will be hosting **an afternoon of traditional song and dance in the community hall on Thursday, March 16th**. The children are busy preparing for this event and we are inviting families and members of the community to attend. **The event will take place at 1pm**. Thank you to the Parents Association who will be serving refreshments at this event. The event will be finished by 2pm on this day. If you wish, your child can be brought home after the event provided parental permission is given to a teacher.

Soccer Blitz

We have entered teams into the FAI Schools' 5 a-side tournament. **The girls' team is scheduled to play on Thursday, March 2nd in Portumna and the boys' team is scheduled to play on Friday, March 3rd; also in Portumna**. The boys and girls in Mr. Gibbons' classroom are the children who will be participating in the tournaments. If you can provide travel for the girls' or boys' teams could you please let me know: mrgibbons@kilrikclens.com

It is expected that the tournament will begin at 10am and conclude at 2pm. Further details will be provided in due course.

School Tour

This year's school tour date is **Thursday, June 15th**. The boys and girls in **Ms. Gallagher's classroom will be going to the Slieve Aughty Centre**. This tour will be during the school day hours. The children from **Mr. Gibbons' and Mr. Kelly's classes will be going to Emerald Park (Formerly Tayto Park)**. The children on this tour will leave early on this Thursday morning and will return to the school in the evening time. Prices and exact times of the respective tours will be given in due course.

School Website

Our School blog is regularly updated and it highlights some of the activities that are happening in our school. You can access it here: <https://www.kilricklens.org/>

RSE

Each year the pupils engage in the Relationship and Sexuality Programme (RSE) of the school curriculum. This aspect of the curriculum will be covered on the **week beginning Monday, March 21st**. Your child's class teacher will be emailing you in the coming weeks outlining what content will be covered.

Standardised Tests

Our **Standardised Tests take place this year on the week beginning, Monday, May 8th**. We would appreciate, if possible, that avoidable absences be averted during this week.

Write a Book

The boys and girls from 1st to 6th Classes have completed their Write a Book stories. Well done to all the children and teachers who helped facilitated this.

Fun Friends and Friends for Life

Every year we run two programmes as part of the school's S.P.H.E. (Social, Personal & Health Education) curriculum - 'Fun Friends' and 'Friends for Life'.

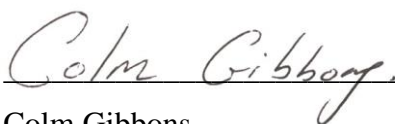
This year, 1st class will follow the 'Fun Friends' programme and 3rd class will follow the 'Friends for Life' programme. There is a letter attached [here](#) that details more information on this initiative. We ask the parents in the 1st and 3rd class to read this letter.

Aldi Stickers

We are collecting stickers from Aldi for the schools rugby programme. If you receive any stickers we would be grateful if you could give them to the school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Le gach dea-ghuí,



Colm Gibbons

Principal

Kilrickle N.S.