

Christmas Newsletter 2023

Nuachtlitir na Nollag

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Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoy reading and browsing through our Christmas Newsletter. We have been very busy and the newsletter records some of the highlights of last term.

Finally, thank you to everybody in the school community, our hard working and committed staff, our supportive Parents Association and Board of Management, the parents and families and our wonderful students.

We wish everybody a happy and safe Christmas. School will reopen for the new term on Monday 8th January 2024.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís.

Kind regards,

Vincent Mulvey (Príomhoide)

Upcoming Events

School Re-opens on
Monday 8th January 2024



Confirmation is on
Saturday 11th May 2024 in
St. Mary's Church
Castlerahan at 3pm



First Communion is on
Saturday 25th May in St.
Bartholomew's Church at
11am



Now
Enrolling!

Enrolment: Application for Enrolment for 2024 - 2025 school year will be open until 9th February 2024. Details on our website.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Knocktemple School
Activities
September 2023 to
December 2023



Congratulations the winners of the family Maths Week Challenge. 1st Place Will, Michael and Emily Gray, 2nd Place Casey Fetherston and 3rd Place Noah Farnan. Well done to all families who took part!

Design a Card fundraiser

Our school participated again this year in Design A Card. Each child designed their own card. This was a fun filled, successful project. The cards were then available for families to purchase. Thank you.

Say Yes to Languages

Our school took part in an exciting initiative to promote foreign languages in primary schools again this year. Pupils from 3rd to 6th classes were introduced to the French language and we were delighted to have Mary Cunningham as our tutor. Each classroom had a French lesson once a week for 8 weeks in preparation for 2nd level.



Credit Union

Congratulations to Rory, Cora, Emma, Annabelle, Alicia, James, Óran, Tullan and Clare - all winners in the Credit Union Art of colouring Competition. They all attended an award Ceremony in the Lakeside Manor Hotel.



A Big Thank you to everyone who donated 78 shoeboxes for Team Hope from our school



Primary Planet and Newsflash Magazine

Pupils from 3rd to 6th Class continue to get their monthly edition of the popular publication filled with interesting and age appropriate material and competitions.

Concern Debating

Congratulations to our debating team of Ailcia Barr, Ellie Kate McGovern and Willow Gaughan who competed against Corcreagh NS Shercock.

The girls argued their points very well and we are very proud of their efforts. A special mention to their backroom team who helped the girls research and prepare for the debate. After a very interesting and informative debate Corcreagh NS came out on top and even though we were disappointed, it was a very valuable experience for everyone. A special thank you to their class teacher Mr. McHugh for taking on this initiative and giving 5th and 6th the opportunity to learn and develop the important and valuable skill of debating.



Credit Union Colouring
Competition Winners



The Annual Virginia Area Primary Schools Touch Rugby Blitz was held in Killnaleck this term, we entered two teams and it was very enjoyable. Thanks Jon.

Temple Street Fundraiser raised €423.00 Míle buíochas!

Cross Country Athletics

Our students took part in the Cross Country Athletics in Killinkere. We won medals and had a great day!!

Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle was organised by the Student Council. They will use the funds raised for their school improvement projects throughout the year. Thanks for all the lovely prizes.

Credit Union Art Competition: Congratulations to Cora Galligan and Rory Grimes on being awarded first place in their categories in the local Credit Union Art competition. We wish Cora and Rory the best of luck as they will now go on to the next round of the competition.



Santa's Drive-By

Santa Claus took time from his busy schedule to visit all the boys and girls in our school. Thank you to the Parents Association for arranging Santa's visit. The PA also purchased games and resources for the school recently and each child received a Christmas selection Box. Míle buíochas.



5th & 6th Class Projects

Each pupil did a project on a country participating in this year's Rugby World Cup. From France to Fiji, there was a fantastic array of informative projects on all 20 countries. Pupils were treated to a feast of fun, interesting facts and delectable delights which left our curiosity and taste buds very satisfied. Check out our website for more projects.



3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Classes enjoying coaching with Ulster GAA Handball



Zumba



Zumba was so much fun with dancing and music!





February Bank Holiday
Monday 5th February 2023

Mid Term Break:

Thursday 15th February – Friday 16th February 2024 (School closes **Wednesday 14th February** Reopens **Monday 19th February**)

St. Patrick's Day

Sunday 17th March off Monday 18th March 2024

Easter Holidays

Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April 2024
 (School closes **Friday 22nd March** and reopens on **Monday 8th April**)

May Bank Holiday:

Friday 3rd and Monday 6th May 2023

School closes on Thursday 2nd and reopens on Tuesday 7th May

June Bank Holiday:

Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th June to Tuesday 2023 (School closes on **Friday 2nd June** and reopens on **Wednesday 7th June**)

Summer Holidays:

Wednesday 26th June 2023



Our 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th class children had a very special visit from Gerry Gallagher of Tírlán as part of #scienceweek. We learned what Tírlán does, saw some of the different milk products they make and tested for antibiotics in the milk.

We used water, food colouring, Alka-Seltzer, cooking oil to create our own Lava Lamps with Ms. McEnroe.
 #scienceweek



Dogs Trust Workshop 2023

Wellbeing Workshop

Junior Infants had a fabulous well-being workshop with Una Curran. They used mindful breathing techniques, listened to nursery rhymes and participated in movement and stretching games.



We were lucky to get to use two special instruments during music class today: the Rainmaker and the Thunder Shaker! Thank you Rachael!



Aistear: Junior infants are very busy learning all about people at work. They are looking at doctors and nurses who work in surgeries and the hospital. And they've been busy looking at people who build and fix our hospitals. They have been taking appointments in the reception and helping sick patients be seen by the doctors. Well done juniors!



Parent Teacher Meetings were held before Halloween. You can arrange a meeting with your child's teacher at any time by contacting the school office.



1st class enjoyed planting sweet pea seeds. We are looking forward to watching our plants grow.



Swim Gala: Congratulations to our swimmers at the Swimming Gala in Cavan Swimming pool on Wednesday 6th December. They did very well and we brought home lots of medals. A special thank you to Ms. Clarke, Linda Henry, Olivia Geraghty and Marie Kelly for their help at the pool and also to Marguerite Murray for her help in organising the event.



ICT in Education

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a popular reading program used in our schools. AR helps teachers track students' independent practice and progress with reading. It's not specifically designed for kids who learn and think differently. But teachers can use it to help guide struggling readers to books they can read successfully. The program doesn't teach reading skills and strategies. It's intended to encourage kids to read independently, at their own level and pace.



Important features on Aladdin
Attendance: Parents can notify the school if their child is going to be collected early from school or will be arriving late or sick and not attending school.

The School Calendar is on Aladdin

This will keep parents updated on upcoming events throughout the year.

Social Media: Our Parents Association (PA) have a private Facebook account for school and PA activities and we also have a private Twitter account @knocktemple. We encourage all parents to use these social media opportunities to learn about and keep in touch with all school events and activities.

School Website: We are continuously updating our school website. You will find some school policies in the download section of our website. There are also some photographs and information about our school. Our website address is www.knocktemplens.ie



We are learning about internet safety. Students were given time to read and discuss the information on each piece of paper. They decided what information is suitable to share online and what information is not. Students learned that a trail is left behind when they visit web pages and this is known as their digital footprint. (see webwise.ie for more information)



Coding for 3rd to 6th Class by Ann Kinsella



NEW Website 2024

Announcing the upcoming launch of our school's new website in the New Year! Stay tuned for a user-friendly platform that enhances communication and enriches the learning experience for all.



Merry Christmas

Board of Management

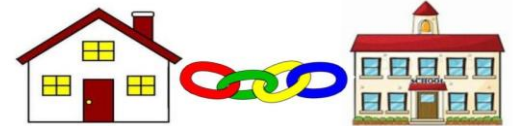
The Principal is responsible for the general day to day running of the school. He is assisted in this role by the Board of Management. The term of the Board of Management is four years. There are eight members of the present Board of Management of our school.

Patron Nominee: Seamus O'Shea (Chairperson); Vincent Mulvey (Principal and Secretary), Parent Nominees: Georgina Laragy and Stephen Farrelly, Patron Nominee: Jackie Skelly, Community Nominees: Rosemary Gilsenan and Martina Tully, Staff Nominee: Ashling Larmer.

A sincere thank you to our outgoing Parent Nominees James Sheridan and Olivia Geraghty and Staff Nominee Carmel McElroy

Parents Association

Best wishes to the Parents Association committee members for the year ahead. Chairperson Brendan O'Shea, Secretary Paula Doyle, Treasurer Lorna Gaule and all the committee members.



Home School Link

If you need to speak to a teacher/Principal at any time please make an appointment through the school office. In order to avoid an adverse impact on teaching and learning, meetings with teachers will only be scheduled after 3pm.

Cash for Clobber

Thank you for your support again this year with this fundraiser.

Christmas Show

We had a fantastic Christmas show in the school hall on Tuesday 19th December and again on Wednesday 20th December. We also had a raffle on Tuesday evening. A big thank you to the Student Council for selling tickets and organising the draw. Thank you to all parents and families who donated the many prizes for the draw. The school show was full of variety and it showcased the wide range of talent we are blessed with here in our school.

Thank you to all staff and a special thanks to our TY students and Kate and Maria for all their help. There are lovely photos and videos on the school twitter page and website.



The New Primary Maths Curriculum

The Primary Maths Curriculum has been revised by the Department of Education and is currently being rolled out in all schools across Ireland. Schools and teachers will become familiar with the new curriculum during the 2023/2024 school year and will work towards implementation of the curriculum across all classes from September 2024.

The curriculum provides an inclusive and child-centred approach to learning, teaching and assessment. It provides an emphasis on creativity, playful approaches to learning, problem solving and experiences shaped by children.

Mr Mulvey and Ms Duignan attended a curriculum leaders seminar day in Navan in October and all teachers attended a teachers seminar day in Cavan Crystal Hotel on December 4th.

As a school we are beginning our implementation with a focus on "promoting maths talk" and "encouraging playfulness". This will be happening in all classes in the new year. We are looking forward to implementing the new Primary Maths Curriculum in our school.

Maths Coordinator Pauline Duignan

Santa brought selection boxes for all the boys and girls



this year.

Parish Carol Service and Nursing Home Visit

The children worked hard learning Christmas Hymns and have actively participated in the Parish Carol service and also sang for the residents in St. Josephs Nursing Home and Virginia Primary Care Centre. This gives the children a sense of community, instills cultural appreciation, and develops their musical and social skills. On Thursday last, 21st December, our school played and sang in the two Nursing Homes in Virginia. It was a lovely experience and we hope it brought some Christmas spirit and enjoyment to all the residents. Thank you to the parents that provided transport and we hope to visit again in the future.



Handwriting
Congratulations to Emma Murray, Jamie Henry and Robyn Beamish on their awards in the Handwriting section of Oldcastle Agricultural Show. Robyn was awarded first place and she was presented with the Mary Collins perpetual cup. Maith sibh.



Our special Christmas Social trip aims to create magical moments, fostering joy and connection. Amidst the Christmas theme's they embrace the spirit of the season, this crafts unforgettable memories for the children in our Cairde Classes. (Check out our website for more lovely photographs)



Check out our website and twitter for Santa visit photos and other school activities.



We are delighted to announce that Knocktemple NS has been successful in our application for the Gaelbhreach award. The Gaelbhreach is a scheme which supports and encourages schools in their efforts to promote the Irish language. Schools are awarded the Gaelbhreach upon successful completion of a variety of targets. These targets will be completed over a two year period.

We began working on obtaining the Gaelbhreach this term by setting up a Coiste Gaeilge na Scoile (School Irish Committee).

Tá múinteoirí, SNAs agus páistí ar an gCoiste Gaeilge. Bíonn tionól na scoile (school assembly) trí Ghaeilge againn gach mí and we are working hard at speaking Gaeilge i rith an lae. Our Coiste Gaeilge members will be listening in the clós for páistí who are using Gaeilge and rewarding them for their efforts. We are also learning Amhrán na bhFiann and we plan to have a lot of fun events organised for Seachtain na Gaeilge which takes place in March.

Ms. White Lynch ar son Choiste Gaelbhreach.

Solar System Showcase of Projects

5th and 6th Showcased their excellent projects in the halla today. Well done all and Mr.McHugh. All classes visited and asked lots of questions.Maith sibh!



School Self Evaluation (SSE)

As you are aware our school is currently looking at Wellbeing as part of our Whole School Self Evaluation process. School Self Evaluation is a collaborative, reflective process where we collect, examine & share evidence about the work of the school. We identify what is working well and what areas of the school's work need to be improved. Questionnaires on Wellbeing have now been completed by students, parents and staff. We would like to thank you all for your positive feedback. Your input is greatly appreciated. The feedback has helped us identify areas of wellbeing that we feel we need to prioritise and work on over the next number of years. Some of the areas we aim to focus on and improve are:

- More encouragement for healthy lunches and getting input from parents on our Healthy Eating Policy.
 - More pupil voice in plans and policies.
- Informing parents of Child Protection Procedures and of who the DLP is in our school.
 - Informing parents how children with additional support are helped in our school.
 - More emphasis on acknowledging children's achievements.
 - Activities to reinforce showing respect and kindness to one another

We will now put actions in place to help us achieve these targets in our school.



Amanda Rowan
SSE Coordinator





Teacher Artist Residency Programme (TAP) 2023/2024

This year our school was awarded a fully funded 20-hour Artist in residency opportunity via the Teacher Artist Partnership Residency Programme (TAP) 2023/2024 in conjunction with Navan Education Centre. This is our second year participating in the programme.

We were delighted to welcome Deirdre Shannon Gilsenan to our school. Deirdre is a renowned Irish Singer who has toured with a variety of music groups, including Anúna, Celtic Woman and Lord of The Dance. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children in Third and Fourth Class to engage with a TAP trained Vocal Artist. The children worked on different areas of music and song. They explored various elements including breath work, relaxation, listening, visual, vocal, audio and movement interpretation of musical pieces. The children were exposed to different genres of music. They explored the rhythm and pulse through percussive instruments and body percussion.

They learned a variety of songs, and explored singing harmonies.

On Friday 1st December the children in Third and Fourth Class performed some of their favourite songs in our school hall to an audience. After their performance the children presented Deirdre with some flowers and a thank you card.

A special thank you to Ms White Lynch and Deirdre for all your hard work! Also thank you to Mr Mulvey and all the staff who helped us in so many ways.

Well done to all the children in Third and Fourth Class! You all sang so beautifully!! We hope that you enjoyed taking part in this programme.





Nuachtlitir an Dalta

Pupil's Newsletter

The members of the Student Council are:

Eoghan Geraghty, Beth Forrester, James Redmond, Ben Blake, Sinéad Lynch, Oisín Enright, Emma Murray, Freya Fennessy and Darragh Kelly.



Student's



Below

We visited St Olivers Post Primary School in Oldcastle for an open day and we took part in metalwork, woodwork, science and home economics. We all really enjoyed it and we also had lunch in the Canteen!

By Julia Devin.

We did swimming in Kells pool every year for six weeks on Mondays! 1st to 6th Class took part, we learned front crawl, back crawl, butterfly and breast stroke. By Robyn

Handball was great fun for every class. I had a lot of fun learning how to play. By Tommy Lynch

5th & 6th Class made lovely projects based on countries participating in the Rugby World cup, we watched all the games. By Sorcha

Girls football blitz in Eureka Secondary School. The girls from 5th & 6th Class were invited to play a blitz in Eureka, we played three games and sadly didn't win but really enjoyed the day. By Aoife Lynch.

Debating--We competed in two debates against Shercock. The first motion was that homework should be a thing of the past and the second that removing plastic from our oceans is just a dream. The first team was Lily, Sinéad and Ben. The second team was Willow, Ellie Kate and Alisa. Unfortunately we lost both debates. By Sinéad

Say yes to Languages (French) I chose French because I thought it would be easy and fun but after a while I started to really enjoy it. J'adore la langue française, merci pour tout! By Nael

Ms McEnroe came to teach us for four weeks, she was so nice and welcoming we learned so much from her such as all about the Titanic, how to make a story, lines and angles and to much more! Thank you Ms. McEnroe. By Saoirse

A couple of weeks ago, we had a non-uniform day because Munterconnaught had won the Sheild final.

We got to wear any Jersey or Shirt. By Liam

This year we went to the Athletics in Killinkere, myself, Luke, Peter and Tommy got through to and it was so much fun. By Daniel

We done football with Ollie Cavan GAA Coach every second week for the last few months. One day he even brought in a Cavan player "Oisín Brady" and I kicked a perfect pass to him that day. By Peter

Fancy Dress was a very fun day. Everybody wore in their Halloween costumes and there was a lot of funny, creative and some pupils clubbed together to raise money for Temple Street Childrens Hospital.

Every class got involved. By Jamie

Tag Rugby was the best fun ever, we won two out of three games and I scored two tries. It was overall great fun. By Luke

Winter Wonderland Cairde Classes

Congratulations to our Cairde Team, for winning a prize in Navan Education Centre school competition for their **Winter Wonderland Christmas Art Display!** Your creativity and festive spirit truly shone through your beautiful artwork. It is a well-deserved victory that reflects the talent and effort each of you put into making the holiday season brighter for everyone. Bravo on a job well done!



'Junior infants have been busy with their Christmas and winter art. Well done!'

