

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We look forward to an eventful Spring Term in St Killian's School.

As many of you know we now have two more classrooms upgraded and Hawthorn and Pine are settled well into these rooms since the start of term.

Community Links

- In the next few weeks some of the classes will commence their swimming lessons, we look forward to welcoming 'Reading Buddies' from St Patrick's Secondary School. Transition Year students will visit our school and read with some of the children. This is a very positive programme and our children benefit greatly from the opportunity to share books with others.
- Ash Class continue with their ukulele lessons with Music Mash up and are making great progress with their music.
- Cork City Sports Partnership have kindly funded new sports equipment for the school. We will also be attending an inter-school Basket Ball Blitz in February.

School Training

The whole staff participated in some excellent training in how to manage Concussion. Pupils also worked with Pat Forde 'STOP THE BULLY,' these workshops were very informative, and the children learned a lot about Anti Bullying strategies and how to recognise bullying in its various forms.

Senior Pupils and staff will also receive basic first aid training in March as part of the Secondary School Transition Programme.

Creative Schools

The Creative Schools Programme funded by the Arts Council continues this year, this provides funding for art activities chosen by the children and organised by the pupil Creative Schools Pupil Committee. Next term, the school leavers will work on a 'Graduation Rap,' with GMC Beats, there are also print workshops with Mayfield Arts Centre and a theatre trip planned.

NCSE-SENO REVIEW

We will have a SENO review of SNA supports in the next few weeks and are hoping that following this review supports for individual children may be increased.

I would like to thank all parents for their continued support of their children in St Killian's, working together makes all the difference for your children and our pupils.

50/50 Fundraising

We are continuing with the 50/50 fund raising. Proceeds from the fund raising are going towards kitting out a small Home Economics area in the school for all pupils. As part of the life skills programmes, pupils will work in groups to do basic cooking during Curriculum Enrichment Session.

Pupil Health and Safety

Following a recent Fire Safety Inspection, some modifications are required to the current entry and exit systems. Exit doors may not be fobbed and are required to operate on a push bar only system. This increases the risks to pupils who pose a 'flight risk,' pupils are able to exit the doors easily and may come out to the front of the school where buses and taxis etc park. Please discuss with your child the importance of staying with an adult at all times. This will be highlighted in assemblies and classes also. This is also why the site must remain as secure as is possible, hence entry gates etc.

Academic Year 2020/2021

It has come to my attention that some parents are not sure if their child maintains their place next year. **Please note that all pupils have a place for next academic year unless leaving for Secondary School or individual arrangements have been discussed.** Places in our school are offered on a yearly/2 yearly review. If transition to Secondary School/Mainstream National School is planned this will be discussed with individual parents and a plan put in place.

School Transport

Please note that any issues/difficulties arising on school transport should be brought to the attention of the bus escort in the first place and then to the class teacher/Principal as necessary.

Please note that if mobiles/mobile devices/iPads are permitted on the bus route, all devices must remain in your child's school bag during the day. These items should not be accessed by any child during the school day. Not all contractors allow devices on the run.

In the event of a Red Warning-School Transport will not run.

In the event of an Orange/Yellow warning, individual contractors will assess the Health and Safety risks of the run and may chose not to run. If you can bring your child safely to school please do so, if not please ring/email the office to advise the school of the absence due to the bus not running.

Access to St Killian's School/Parking

As many of you know we try very hard to keep the school site safe and secure for all our pupils. Controlled gates were introduced early on to make the site more secure, however this has also caused difficulties for people trying to access the school site.

Please note that the school office does not have a full time Receptionist and as such there may be times of the day when it is difficult to access the site.

For a trial period, the side gate will be open during the school day. Parents and Visitors are asked to park outside the school, walk in through the side gate and proceed to reception. Work will be carried out over the next few months on signage, and painting to make the access/exit of the school site safer and more accessible for everyone.

Parking in the school site will be reserved for staff and disabled visitors only.

Building Works/School Development

We are very lucky to have this lovely school building and that the Department funded Phase 1 of the build. As many of you know the school is not yet complete and further extensive renovation is required to ensure that facilities for our pupils are easily accessible and fit for purpose. Until such time as Phase 2 is sanctioned we do not have enough properly appointed classrooms/resource rooms/therapy rooms/quiet rooms/sensory spaces/office space etc to admit a full pupil roll.

We are working very hard to get permission and funding for the final phase of the build; the process is under way but as yet we have no approval/funding from the Department to commence the final phase. I would expect as with many public projects this will take time.

Parents Association

I would like to thank the new PA Committee for forming to support St Killians School. The new members are Suzanne O Flynn, Maura Savage, Aileen Cullinane and Jennifer Mc Coll. The committee have some fantastic plans for fund raising this year and all help towards planning and carry out of these events is greatly appreciated.

Please contact the PA on 085 2283302 if you can offer help/time to support their work.

Current school information/PA updates can be accessed on the school website and PA Facebook page

First Aid/Medication

Please note that no medication will be stored in school overnight. For pupils on regular medication, please send the exact dose into school in a bag with the child's name on it. The information must include a photocopy of the original prescription and dosage instructions. For pupils on regular medication please ensure that morning medication is given at the same time every day, so that if a dose is required in school, we can schedule staff to monitor same. We have quite a few pupils requiring medication, and this means that timetables must be consistent in order to ensure all staff are available to administer/monitor medication at set times.

In the event of a medical emergency, school will contact the parent/guardian immediately to advise on the situation. Please ensure that school has a second/third contact name and number if we cannot contact the parent.

Please inform the school promptly if medical needs change or develop as school staff need to know if medication is required in an emergency and be trained to administer same. Where emergency medication needs to be administered please ensure that the care plan if relevant, photocopy of the medication procedure and emergency dose of medication is in school every day.

All medication must be given to the bus escort who will pass it to the class team. No child should carry medication in their bag.

Dates For Your Diary:

Feb Midterm: 19th-21st Feb2020 inclusive

17th March school closed for Patricks Day

Easter break – 6th April – 17th April inclusive

May – school closed Mon 4th & Tues 5th May

Communion day: 15th May at 11am.

June – School closed Mon 1st & Tues2nd June

Fun day: Sat 13th June, 2020

First Holy Communion

St Killian's School will make their First Holy Communion on the 15th May 2020 at 11a.m. in Our Lady Crowned Church, Mayfield. There are nineteen children in total undertaking the sacrament from Oak, Birch, Elm, Ash, Beech and Rowan classes. The children are busy learning prayers and songs in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on April 3rd at 10:30a.m in Our Lady Crowned Church. We look forward to sharing the day with friends and family.

Communion is a special time bringing school, home and community together. We would like to thank the staff, management and P.A. as always for their ongoing support. We also wish to acknowledge the ongoing support of parents to prepare for this special day.

Community Cakes

St Killian's School in association with the P.A would like to ask parents from the Senior Classes who wish to volunteer to bake cakes for the Communion celebration on May 15th 2020 to drop them into the school on 14th May 2020. This tradition of generosity will be reciprocated in kind next year in preparation for the Confirmation. Please label cakes if gluten/dairy free.

Thank you in advance for your support.

A Note from the Parents Association

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the St. Killian's Parents Association Committee Members to you.

Committee Members

Suzanne O'Flynn (Chairperson)

Maura Savage (Treasurer)

Aileen Cullinane (Secretary)

Jennifer McColl (Secretary)

Emily Clifford (Committee Member)

We have a very exciting and fun year ahead of us with lots of fun activities and events planned for the children and of course the adults too. We look forward to meeting with you all and welcoming you to the various events.

We welcome all support at our events and should you have any suggestions, ideas or would generally like to become involved or help out with the parents association, we would be delighted. We will be organising a meet and greet coffee morning very soon and if anyone wants to join the Committee we would love to have them. Date of coffee morning to be confirmed.

We look forward to meeting you.

Kind Regards,
Suzanne O'Flynn
Chairperson