



Family Note 4 (11th October 2024)

Dear parents,

As the busy first term at school continues, below is some information for you all to bring you up to date with recent events in our calendar:

- **Reminder: School Closure 18th Oct: Primary Maths Curriculum Training Day**
- **Midterm Break: Monday 28th Oct – Friday 1st November.**

- **Halloween Costume Shop:** Our Green Committee's 'eek-o friendly' Costume Drop and Swap has been extremely well supported – Thank you! Today we opened the costume shop and offered donated costumes to the pupils. There are some smaller sizes (preschool ages) still available should any parents want to pop in for a look! We will try to send them home for younger siblings if possible. Well done to the committee on their efforts. Stay tuned for a possible 'Christmas Jumper Drop & Swap' in November/ December! All pupils are invited to dress-up on **Friday 25th October** as we finish for Midterm break. Donations of €2 are welcome as we support *Brú Columbanus* and their annual appeal.



- **'Teach with the Moon':** We wish Mr O Connor all the best as he travels to Libramont in Belgium this weekend to partake in a teacher training course with the *European Space Agency* at Galaxia. Mr O Connor is the only Irish teacher chosen to participate in this 2-day course which will include learning about Tinkercard software, 3-D printing design, programming 3-D design with codeblocks and STEM activities for children. On his return, our senior pupils will engage in a project as part of this initiative and submit it to the European Space Agency along with other European pupils and schools. A fantastic opportunity for all involved!



- **SSE Parental Questionnaires:** Thank you for completing our *School Self Evaluation (SSE) Questionnaires on Reading and Wellbeing*. We received a hugely positive response and some valuable information which will assist us in drafting our School Improvement Plan for the coming year. The majority of parents feel that the reading programme has been very beneficial for their child in allowing them to develop literacy confidence particularly in the area of reading fluency and phonological awareness. It was clear from the responses to the Wellbeing Questionnaire that the large majority of parents in our school feel that Knockanes NS is a welcoming, nurturing and safe space for their child and that wellbeing is truly valued within our school, integrating into many aspects of school life for all. We appreciate your acknowledgement of the hard work and commitment made by management and staff in creating an inclusive and positive learning and working environment here in Knockanes.
- **World Mental Health Day:** What a truly happy and positive day we shared here at school yesterday to celebrate World Mental Health Day. A special word of thanks to the members of our Wellbeing

Committee for organising some enjoyable activities for all such as a webinar, whole school nature walk and mindful art. As this year's theme was *'Mental Health at Work'*, we took time yesterday to reflect on the positive staff relations that the adults of our school share and paused to appreciate the sense of camaraderie and teamwork that is so much central to our school's success always. This atmosphere transcends to the pupils in our care and supports them daily in their learning and wellbeing at school.



- **Wellbeing workshops with Dan:** We enjoyed Workshop 2 with Dan this week with some excellent physical activity as well as mindful breathing and discussions around nutrition and healthy eating. We are delighted to have Dan with us for one more day (Oct 22nd), supporting us to continue to implement the many important aspects of our PE, SPHE and Healthy Eating Policies.
- **Music with Henry:** Music lessons (1st-6th Classes) got off to a great start this week and continue each Monday for the term. A gentle reminder that €10 per pupil is due for this 10 week term with Henry.
- **ISL:** John Patrick Doherty is back with us this year, helping us to continue to develop our ISL skills weekly. In addition, our support staff have begun some daily paired ISL practice with pupils helping them to revise their ISL alphabet and phrases. This is working wonderfully!! Ms M Cronin and our SNA staff are completing a 10 week professional development course on ISL for this term. Well done to all for their hard work and commitment.

Thanking you for your continued support,

L O Sullivan
Principal,

