

5TH AND 6TH CLASS

Mr. Winters' 5th and 6th class will be practicing their Christmas performance in Kilnadeema Church on Monday, 17th of December. The children will be walking to and from the church with their teacher. Please remind your child to wear coats, hats and hi-vis jackets.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

On Tuesday, 18th December, all the children will be completing a full practice of their Christmas performance. We are asking all parents to drop their child's schoolbag to the shelter in the school on this morning and bring their child to Kilnadeema Church. All teachers will be present there at 9.30am and will bring their respective class back to school when our practice is finished. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

On Wednesday, 19th December, all the children will perform for you in Kilnadeema Church. The performances will begin at 7pm. Each class teacher will inform the children what to wear on the night. Please arrive at 6.45pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Our Christmas holidays will begin on Friday 21st of December. School will close at 12 noon. School will reopen on Monday 7th January 2019.

GREEN SCHOOLS

We are working hard on our new Green Flag theme: 'Global Citizenship and Marine Environment'. There has been a great response to the collection of plastic bottle tops and lids that can be used for future Art projects. The teachers have also noticed a big reduction in the amount of plastic and foil wrapping in the children's lunchboxes. Thanks to you all for this support.

Developing awareness of the struggles of those less fortunate than ourselves in the local community and around the world is part of our Global Citizenship aim. To this end, we had a fantastic response to our Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We collected 55 boxes in total and these will make their way around the world to brighten up a child's Christmas.

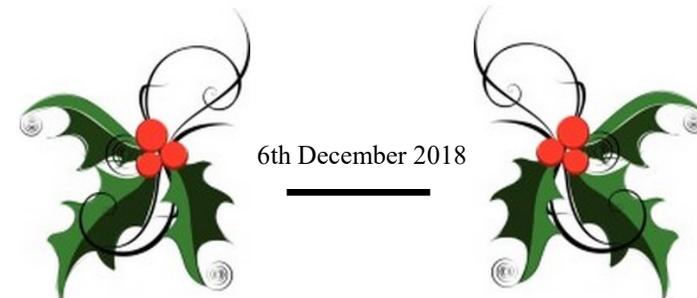
This month we are supporting the Loughrea Lion's Club Christmas Food Appeal and we will have a food box in the school for any donation. This will be distributed to those in our local community needing extra support over the Christmas period. Please refer to the 'Christmas Food Appeal 2018' letter accompanying this newsletter for further details.



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Boys and girls from second, third and fourth class in Kilnadeema NS are looking forward to treating shoppers by performing Christmas Carols in Supervalu on Thursday 13th December at 1.15pm. We hope you can make it on the day. Preparations have well and truly begun and the boys and girls can't wait to perform.

KILNADEEMA NATIONAL SCHOOL Kilnadeema, Loughrea, Co. Galway



6th December 2018

Dear Parent(s), / Guardian(s)

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter. This has been a very busy term for all involved at Kilnadeema NS.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the school community for welcoming me to Kinadeema NS. Walking in the school door on that first Monday was surreal and certainly an extremely proud moment for me personally.

As you will see throughout this newsletter we have a lot of fun events planned for the coming weeks in preparation for the festive season.

As we come to the end of our first term, I would like to thank all members of the school community for their hard work and dedication to all aspects of school life. I would also like to acknowledge our excellent staff who have all been busy in preparation for our many different Christmas activities.

My thanks to all the children of Kilnadeema NS for their ongoing work in the build up to the Christmas festivities. On behalf of the school Board of Management, staff and myself, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a joyous new year.

Is mise le meas,

Gary Winters (Príomh Oide)

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CHRISTMAS FAIR

A huge heartfelt thank you to all those who attended, helped out and contributed in any way to the Christmas Fair on Sunday, 25th November. The Parent's Association dedicated untold time and effort to make the day a success and the smiles on the children's, and indeed the adult's, faces told its own story.

We were delighted to welcome Santa Claus on the day also and he had very positive reports on the children in Kilmadeema. They are all on the good list!!!

In total, a profit of €2,248 was made. Thank you all.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY (S)

On Thursday, 20th December, we are encouraging all children to wear a Christmas jumper. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, they can wear a Christmas hat.

This is part of an initiative to raise awareness for Mental Health and Well Being. A donation of €2 per child would be welcome and this will be presented to Pieta House.

In the new year we hope to work towards achieving an Amber flag which recognises the schools endeavour to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental well-being.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

As it is the season to be jolly after all..... the children can all wear their Christmas jumpers again on Friday, 21st December.

GAA COACHING

Gerard Duggan will be coaching hurling to the pupils from 2nd class up next term. He will commence on Thursday, 10th January. Gerard is a Tommie Larkins clubman so we look forward to welcoming him to our school community and are very grateful to have him on board. We will formulate a timetable of the coaching in January.

CARETAKER

Alma Kelly Headd began as Caretaker of our school on Monday, 3rd December. Alma is a native of Duniry. We are incredibly lucky to have Alma joining our team.

BACK TO THE 80S

St. Raphael's College invited us to their matinée performance of their 'Back to the 80s' production. Fifth and sixth class attended and thoroughly enjoyed the show. Thank you to St. Raphael's College for hosting us.

SCIENCE WORKSHOP

On the 23rd of November, we welcomed Lindsay Deeley, owner and founder of Toodlelou Creativity Lab— A hands-on creative STEM creation space for young children.

She did many interesting and exciting experiments with the children in all classes. The children seemed to really enjoy the workshops and learned a lot throughout the day.

SCHOOL CHOIR AND SERVERS

Fr. Paddy wishes to acknowledge and thank the children for their continued contribution to Mass each weekend. Thank you for transporting the children to and from mass.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is an area of high priority for the school. We endeavour to support and foster good attendance patterns this year and we ask parents to also promote attendance/ punctuality by:

- * Ensuring regular and punctual school attendance.
- * Notifying the school if their children cannot attend for any reason.
- * Discussing planned absences with the school.
- * Refraining from taking holidays during school time.
- * Informing the school in writing of the reasons for absence from school.

CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION

We were delighted to learn that Liam Reilly, first class, came First place in the Credit Union Art Competition. The theme was: *The Force of Nature* and Liam depicted it beautifully. Liam also came first place at the Chapter level and will be presented with his award next week. Well done Liam, we are all very proud of you!

COUNTY PHOTOS

County Photos called on Tuesday, 27th November to take photos of the pupils. We will inform you when these photos are available to order.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Thank you to all who attended your child's Parent Teacher meeting on Thursday, 22nd November. Many formative, constructive conversations were held and this can only lead to better outcomes for your children. Anyone who was unable to attend please liaise with Elsie to arrange a slot before Christmas.