

**Plunkett’s Post**

**Mr. Tyrrell’s Message**

Time certainly flies when you’re having fun! On April 9th 2018 I took up the role of Teaching Principal in this wonderful school. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the amazing staff and pupils of our school and it has been a pleasure working alongside our fantastic parents. Every day I am blown away by the kindness, friendliness and enthusiasm of our boys and girls. The leadership qualities they portray are truly admirable and we are excited about the journeys they will undertake upon leaving our school. Throughout the year I have seen how hard the staff of our school work to encourage our children to be the best that they can be and this is something that we should all be proud of in Killina National School. We have high expectations for all of our children and we encourage them to work to their potential in everything that they do.

I wouldn’t know where to start if I was to pick a stand out memory of my first year. Every day brought new adventures for us all in Killina and there hasn’t been a day that that the sound of laughter couldn’t be heard around the building. Our school is a very happy place where children’s’ learning is placed at the heart of everything that we do. We are blessed to have a wonderful Parent Association and Board of Management who support the daily activities of our school. We rely on their support and I personally want to thank them for their encouragement during my first year. I look forward to many more years of collaboration and team-work with them.

If my first year experience here is a true reflection of Killina National School, then I’m excited about what the future holds for our wonderful school. I look forward to the continued promotion of academic, social, spiritual and behavioural development whilst also continuing with the promotion of positive home-school partnerships with our supportive families. Many thanks to everyone for their support during my first year. The future of our school looks bright. Ní neart go cur le chéile (there’s strength in numbers).

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Tyrrell

School Principal

**Farewell Kathleen**

Kathleen O’Donnell was our school secretary for eighteen years before she took some leave. Kathleen recently informed the school that she wished to retire from her position. The staff, students and parents of our school were blessed to have had the pleasure of Kathleen’s company. She was a very dedicated and loyal member of our school team and she always went above and beyond for the children of Killina. Kathleen will return for our end of year Mass for a proper farewell. She is sadly missed by everyone in our school community.

As the saying goes, “every cloud has a silver lining”. Kathleen’s departure left a vacancy for the secretarial position. Aishling Hughes covered Kathleen’s leave for the last two years and we would now like to welcome her as a permanent member of our school team. We wish Aishling all the best in her role and we look forward to many years of working with her.

**Bring ‘n Buy**

We had a wonderful Bring ‘n Buy in our school last Friday. Well done to Ms. Dalton and the boys and girls in 5th and 6th. They planned, promoted and delivered a fantastic fundraising event for our school. Many thanks to our parents for their contributions to the Bring ‘n Buy stalls and for all of the fantastic baking that was sent into the school. The boys and girls had an absolute ball and it was great to see them problem solving with money, calculating change/prices, interacting with their peers and developing their conversation/social skills at the event. The Bring ‘n Buy raised an amazing €844 for the school. Thanks to everyone for their support of this event.

**Sport in Killina**

Our u-13 footballers have kicked off their campaign already. They’ve played two matches to date against Ticknevin and Broadford. We have a very young team but that hasn’t stopped our children giving 100%. As always, we are very proud of our boys and girls, especially the way they represent our school at matches and events. Wonderful manners and excellent behaviour is regularly reported back as feedback of our children from match/event organisers.

Our Cross Country team has been in serious training since January and they take on the might of Kildare in Hawkfield on Thursday. We wish Ms. Dalton and her team all the best and we want them to know that we are very proud of their commitment to the team. As we strive to become an “Active School”, it is great to see the increase in fitness levels across our school community.

Our u-10 football team will take place in the u-10 blitz on the 30th April (Tuesday after Easter break). We will send home more information on this at a later date. We want to wish them all the best and hope that they enjoy the experience of representing our school.

**ICT**

Our school uses technology to support the teaching and learning in our classrooms. We have recently developed a ‘Digital Learning Plan’ which sets out some of our plans for using technology in our school. We will be sharing this on our website in the coming weeks.

**Cúinne na Gaeilge**



Our school self-evaluation focussed on encouraging our boys and girls to use more informal Irish throughout the school. We also encourage our families to use their “cúpla focail” at home too. These resources could be useful for parents to pick up some useful phrases:

* [www.abairleat.ie](http://www.abairleat.ie/) (Des Bishop’s website which helps everyone develop their spoken Irish)
* [www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com/) (an amazing free resource where parents/children can follow a language learning programme – please select Irish and work from there).

*Some useful phrases to try at home:*

* Dia duit/Dia is Muire duit … (Hello)
* Maidin mhaith… (Good morning)
* Go raibh maith agat … (Thank you)
* Fáilte Romhat … (You’re welcome)
* Maith thú… (Well done!)
* Conas atá tú?... How are you?
* Táim go maith/ar fheabhas… (I’m good/great)
* Cad ba mhaith leat don bhricfeasta? (what would you like for breakfast?)
* Ba mhaith liom… (I would like…)
* Cén t-am é? … (What time is it?)
* Cur slacht ar do sheomra … (Tidy your room!)

**Parent Association**

This section of our newsletter is intended to give our Parent Association an opportunity to share some of the hard work that they have been involved in for the benefit of our students. New members (and ideas) are always welcome and appreciated.

* The Parent Association is working alongside the National Parents Council to organise talks for our parents (free of charge) however the Parent Association will be funding the talks at a charge of €50 per talk. Her is a list of the following topics:
* Mental Health and Wellbeing
* Internet Safety Training
* Anti-Bullying Training
* They encourage as many parents as possible to attend in order to avail of this excellent service. They will share specific dates for the talks when they become available.
* Our Parent Association is organising a ‘Fun Walk’ at 12pm on Sunday 26thMay in the Drehid Facility. We will share more information on this after Easter.
* The Parent Association will be using some of the money raised over the school year to support the school in buying a ride-on mower as there is currently no lawnmower in the school.
* The PA are sponsoring Easter Hampers and other prizes for the Easter Raffle.

**School Fundraising**

Many thanks to our families for their ongoing support of our fundraising initiatives this year. The money raised this year has been (and will be) put to great use. We have used fundraising funds to subsidise buses for swimming/tours, Sacrament rehearsals in the Church and for Peace Proms. We have also used this money to extend our classroom libraries and we bought new resources for Aistear for our infant classes.

The Parent Association have been working very hard this year on behalf of your children and some of our future plans (with the support of the Board of Management) include:

* Purchase a ride-on mower and smaller push-mower for our school pitch.
* Signage for the front of our school.
* Paint the front wall and purchase flower boxes.
* Develop our school garden.
* Purchase IT equipment for our classrooms (supplementing Department of Education grants).
* Purchase testing and support materials for all of our learners.

**Easter Raffle**

The Easter Raffle takes place this Friday 12th April during our Assembly. The boys and girls in 5th and 6th have been busy selling tickets for the last few weeks. Tickets are €2 for a strip or €5 for three strips. The Parent Association have kindly sponsored three beautiful Easter Egg hampers for the raffle in addition to an Easter Egg for each class to raffle off. There’s going to be some very happy children going home on Friday at 12pm (happier than normal obviously!).

**Active School Flag**

1st to 6th Classes are finished their 6 Nations Tag Rugby Championship.

1st place – Scotland

2nd Place – Wales

3rd Place France

Congratulations to the Scottish Team:

Cedhla Moore, Jason Judge, Lily Gill, Adam Dempsey, Tadhg Browne, Brianna Eustace, Imogen Doyle, Ava Dunne, Arthur Daveau, Amy Farrell, Sophie O’Reilly, Harry Kelly.

The children played 15 matches and enjoyed showcasing their skills during the 6 weeks. The tournament was a close fought battle and was great fun. We look forward to next year!

Well done everyone!

**Green Schools**

Bird Watching

We have been busy bird watching over the past few months. The pupils have enjoyed feeding the birds and identifying them.

Biodiversity Flag Application

We have recently had a visit from Dara Wyer of Kildare County council. He spoke to our committee to learn about the work we have done on the theme of Biodiversity over the past two years. We had a very successful meeting and submitted our application online afterwards. We now await news from An Taísce.

**School Tours**

The school tour dates and venues area listed below. More details to follow in due course.

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| **Class** | **Venue** | **Date** |
| Jnr & Snr  Infants | Clonfert Pet  Farm | 7th June |
| 1st & 2nd  Classes | Funtasia  Drogheda | 7th June |
| 3rd to 6th  Classes | Bunratty Castle & Ailwee Caves | 14th June |

**Dates for the Diary**

* Easter Holidays - school closes at 12pm (infants can be picked up at 11:50) on Friday 12th April.
* School re-opens on Monday 29th April.
* May Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May.
* Communion – Saturday 18th May.
* New Infants Meeting – Wednesday 22nd May.
* Referendum – Friday 24th May.
* June Bank Holiday – School closed Monday 3rd June & Tuesday 4th June.