

**Plunkett’s Post**

**Fáilte ar ais!**

Welcome back to all our families. We hope that everybody had a great summer break and that the boys and girls are ready for another year of learning in our school. We are delighted to welcome everyone back and we look forward to working together again this year. We had a very successful year in Killina last year and we hope to keep this momentum going during the coming school year.

We want to give a very special welcome to our new Junior Infants: Noely, Grace, Sophie, Colie, Saoirse, Jamie, Rhys and Daniel. We also want to welcome Cassie, Layla, Shauna, Lily and Andzhelina who are joining classes throughout the school. We know that all of our boys and girls will help our new friends to settle into our school. We have lots of fun and exciting activities planned for this year in our school and we know that 2019-20 is going to be a fantastic year for us all. We’re already off to a great start! As the saying going “*Tús maith leath na hoibre*” (A good start is half the work).

Kind regards,

Dominic Tyrrell

School Principal

3rd September 2019



**School Website**

Please remember to visit our school website ([www.killinans.com](http://www.killinans.com/)) from time to time. We have a few different blogs ongoing on our website where we will share snippets of life in St. Oliver Plunkett National School. Happy Browsing!

**School Calendar**

We issued the school calendar before the summer holidays. As we are a proud Green School, we have put the school calendar up onto our website so that you can keep an eye on important dates in our calendar. There may be some changes/updates (Communion, Confirmation etc…) to our calendar throughout the year and we will keep you well informed.

**School Closure – Primary Language Curriculum**

Our school will be closed on Tuesday 15th October 2019 to facilitate staff training for the new Primary Language Curriculum.

**Insurance**

Insurance forms are being sent home today. If you wish to avail of the Pupil Insurance scheme, please fill in the form and return it to your child’s teacher along with the required fee of €10.10. Special thanks to the Parents Association who facilitate our school’s engagement in this scheme.

**Special Thanks**

I want give a special mention to some members of our school community who kindly offered their time and energy to our school over the summer months. The O’ Shaughnessy and Clancy families did a fantastic job in maintaining our school gardens/flowers over the summer and the fruits of their labour are clear for all to see. Another special mention to Tom Mulligan who did a fantastic job taking care of our perimeter hedges. Our school is a place that we can all be proud of and we are very thankful to everyone who helps to keep it looking great.

**Parental Involvement**

We are always looking for ways that we can get parents involved in our school. If any parent has any special talent, interest or area of expertise that they would like to share with our staff or children please get in touch with us. Mrs. O’ Sullivan and Ms. Dalton are busy working on our Active Flag campaign and they would really like some parents who have an interest in sports/fitness or health and well-being to come on board and support the school. If you coach a team, run a fitness group or have an interest in a particular area, please come in and let us know. In putting our Child Safeguarding responsibilities to the forefront we will require every parent volunteer to apply for Garda Vetting (which Mr. Tyrrell will organise).

**Parent’s Association AGM**

The Parent Association plays a very important role in our school life. We are really looking forward to a great year of working together. 2018-19 was a fantastic year for our Parent Association and their hard work resulted in the school being in a position to purchase three interactive whiteboards for our classrooms and we are also waiting to purchase a school sign and lawnmower with the money that was raised.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parent Association will be held in the school on Monday 16th September at 8pm. All help, ideas and support welcome. This excellent group of parents are always looking for ways to improve our school and with that, are always looking for extra hands to help out. If you can spare some time, please come along and join the team. New members are always needed to keep the committee going.

**Art and Crafts Money**

Please remember to pay your child’s Art & Crafts money as soon as possible. Fees are €35 (Infants) and €40 (1st to 6th). This money allows us to buy art materials, subject resources, pay for photocopying etc… It is imperative that all families pay this money. We will issue receipts to those who have paid and reminders will be issued to those who have not paid by end of September. When sending money into a teacher please put money in a **sealed envelope** andwrite your child’s name, class and amount enclosed on the outside of the envelope.

**Attendance**

You may remember that I mentioned the importance of school attendance at our End of Year mass. We need our boys and girls to have regular attendance in school so that we can track their progress and challenge them further. If for some reason your child is unable to attend school, please send a note into the class teacher on his/her return. Absence notes in the school journal should be used and a sick note from a doctor should be provided for prolonged absences. As a school we are mandated to report attendance concerns to Tusla (Child Welfare services).

**School Self-Evaluation**

We will continue to promote and improve the standard of Gaeilge as part of our school self-evaluation. We have planned lots of exciting activities for our students which we hope will help to keep their love of learning Gaeilge alive. We will also continue to include useful Irish phrases in our newsletter and on our website so that you can use them regularly with your children.

**PE Days**

Please wear school tracksuit and runners on PE days.  PE days are as follows:

* Junior & Senior Infants: Tuesday & Thursday
* 1st & 2nd Class: Tuesday & Thursday
* 3rd & 4th Class: Thursday
* 5th & 6th Class: Wednesday

**School Communication**

Communication is something that is very important in order to create positive home-school links. We have a few approaches in place to facilitate this:

* Please use the homework journal (1st – 6th Class) to communicate with your child’s teacher.  Teachers may also use the journal to communicate with parents/guardians.
* Infant parents/guardians can send in a note to Mrs. Usher.
* Our school website ([www.killinans.com](http://www.killinans.com/)) will have regular school updates.
* Please look out for our Newsletter which is sent out a few times each term.
* Please keep the school informed if you change your mobile number.  We use text-a-parent frequently and we also need up-to-date numbers should any emergencies arise in school.
* Parent-Teacher meetings are held in November.
* Children receive written reports at the end of the school year.
* Please make an appointment with the secretary if you want to speak to classroom teacher/ principal in relation to important matters.

**Swimming**

Swimming lessons will be starting on the 26th of September for 5th and 6th class. These lessons are part of the PE curriculum and are compulsory for all students. We will send home more information about this next week.

**Communion/Confirmation**

We will share the dates for these special Sacraments with you as soon as they are known to us.

**School Hours**

The school will open to receive pupils at 9.10am.  No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before this time. The bell goes at 9.20am.

Children must use the side door at 9.10am to gain entry.  After 9.30am parents/visitors must ring the bell at front door.  Please do not come through front door before 9.30am.

Parents/Guardians are asked not to disturb the children or the teacher in the morning or during the course of the day.

Classes will end each day at 2pm for Infants and 3pm for 1st to 6th class.

Parents/Guardians who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after school hours.

**The Active School Flag**

Our school will be participating in The Active Flag programme this academic year. The Active School Flag initiative is a Department of Education and Skills initiative supported by Healthy Ireland which aims to get more schools, more active, more often. It is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physical active school community. Active School Flag forms part of the National Physical Activity Plan and the Healthy Ireland vision where everyone can enjoy physical and mental well-being to their full potential, and where well-being is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.

We look forward to our Active year ahead!

**Head Lice**

Schools experience an increasing amount of incidents of head lice at this time of year. It is imperative that we are pro-active in trying to eliminate lice from our classrooms and prevent outbreaks. All household should be vigilant in checking and treating all children.

We appreciate the support of those families who have ensured that long hair is tied up coming to school. Plaits & buns can be effective hair styles as they prevent lice transfer through hair flicking. Hair bands also can help.

The HSE has offered the advice below:

**PROTOCOL FOR TREATING HEADLICE WHEN LOTIONS HAVE FAILED:**

Day 1:

1. Wash hair using ordinary shampoo.

2. Towel dry hair.

3. Apply conditioner liberally

4. Comb with ordinary comb

5. FINE comb

6. Rinse off conditioner.

7. Comb with ordinary comb.

8. FINE comb again.

**NB – Repeat this EVERY SECOND DAY for the first 14 days.**

When the 14 days are over, begin again with DAY 1. BUT, this time, you repeat on DAY 5, DAY 9 and DAY 13. If live lice are found on day 9 or day 13, it is likely that this is a new infestation. Continue combing hair EVERY day until no live lice are found over 2 weeks. **FINE COMB ONCE A WEEK THEREAFTER USING CONDITIONER**

We hope this advice helps. If you do discover headlice, **please treat immediately and let the school know.**

**Labels**

Please remember to label all items of school clothes (jumpers and jackets particularly). This will assist us in reducing the amount of clothes that ends up in our ‘Lost and Found’ box each year.