

Kiltale,
Dunsany,
Co. Meath,
C15 XF86.

Charity No. 20131357
Roll No: 17742P

(046) 9025619
office@kiltalens.ie
principal@kiltalens.ie
www.kiltalens.ie

Welcome back to School

Dear Parents,

30th August 2024

I would like to extend a huge welcome back to Kiltale N.S. to all our pupils, staff and parents. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer break.

A special word for our **Junior Infants, Toubia Bibi, Luke Byrne, Evie Carey, Ryan Carty, Lily-Mae Cummins, Finn Devereux, Darragh Doherty, Megan Donoghue, Conor Donovan, Dáithí Durnin, Mason Jordan, Jack Madden, Tom Rayfus, Hannah Ryan, Lennox Zinke**, who began their primary school journey with us this year. We hope they have many fulfilling experiences in Kiltale N.S. Well done to all the Junior Infants who were so well behaved at their very first whole school assembly today.

We also send our very best wishes to the 6th Class of 2023/24 as they move on to post-primary school and the next phase of their lives. Go n-éirí go geal libh!

We would like to thank Alan Lydon for cutting the grass at the back of the school and for maintaining the school grounds throughout the summer. We would also like to thank Mark Durnin for completing jobs around the school. Thanks to the Parents' Association for cleaning up around the school grounds before the beginning of term.

A reminder that no parents/guardians are permitted on the school premises without an appointment. **Please exercise caution and courtesy in the car park for the drop-off and collection, where the same drop-off and collection protocols will be in place as last year.**

With the exception of Junior & Senior Infants the school day will run from **9am to 2:40pm**. We will receive the pupils at **8:50am** each morning. No pupils are permitted entry to the school premises before this time everyday.

Junior Infants - From **Monday 2th September** the Junior Infants will start at **9am** and they will line up in the yard with the rest of the school. **Their teacher, Ms Dunne, will bring them to the gate of the carpark at 12 noon** where their parents and guardians can collect them.

From **Monday 9th September** the school day for Infants will run from **9am to 1:40pm daily**.

If you need to contact your child's teacher please contact them via their school email address as follows:-

- **Junior Infants** - Ms. Orla Dunne - orla.dunne@kiltalens.ie
- **Senior Infants** - Ms. Niamh Donnelly - niamh.donnelly@kiltalens.ie
- **1st & 2nd Class** - Ms. Rachel Brown - rachel.brown@kiltalens.ie
- **3rd & 4th Class** - Ms. Úna McCormack - una.mccormack@kiltalens.ie
- **5th & 6th Class** - Ms. Sandra Connolly & Ms. Anne Flood (on a job sharing basis) - sandra.connolly@kiltalens.ie and anne.flood@kiltalens.ie
- **SET** - Mr. Colin McElroy - principal@kiltalens.ie
- **Principal's Release Post** - Ms. Aoife Jennings - aoife.jennings@kiltalens.ie

A reminder that our school has a part time secretary and teaching Principal. We will endeavour to deal with any query as soon as possible. We appreciate your understanding and patience on this during the year.
PTO.....

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Please note the following important information: -

- Kiltale NS is a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**. NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE NUTS OR NUT BASED PRODUCTS (check the ingredients) IN SCHOOL e.g., Nutella, Peanut butter, etc.
- Any child who needs an inhaler or other medication should notify the school immediately. Every child should bring their medication, inhaler, etc., into school along with instructions as to how they are to use it, stored in a Ziploc bag with their name clearly marked on the bag. The bag will then be left with their class teacher.
- All pupils are required to bring in their own **small wash bag** with face cloth / hand towel and hand sanitiser. This decision was taken by the Board of Management last year. These will be used for toilet breaks and also before break time too e.g. applying hand sanitiser before food. The rationale for introducing this protocol is that it is good for the environment and forms part of the Green Schools' Initiatives. It also encourages the pupils to become more aware and responsible for their own personal hygiene. These measures will assist us in our endeavours to stop the spread of unwanted infections and reduce the numbers falling ill in our school community throughout the year.
- **Free Schoolbooks 2024/25** - As communicated earlier this year, the Government is funding "Free Schoolbooks" to all Primary pupils for the school year 2024/25. This grant is used to purchase **Schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks** delivered during the summer. Please note that the current funds allocated to Kiltale NS by the Department of Education has been cut this year from **€96 to €80 per child**. In short, the school has to fund these resources with reduced funds this year. For example we have saved c. €800 by not covering workbooks. A reminder that the scheme **does not cover** Photocopying, Arts & Crafts Fees and Pupils' Insurance. We sent a letter by email in June informing you of these fees and the Voluntary Contribution. Thank you to everyone who has already paid. For those yet to pay please pay as soon as you can or before **Friday, 20th September 2024** by the epayment link.

● **Active Schools' Week - Monday 2th to Friday 6th September 2024**

- Children are permitted to wear their school tracksuits everyday next week
- Homework for the week will be
 - 30 minutes to one hour of physical activity daily and
 - 15 to 30 minutes reading each night.
- Formal homework will commence on **Monday 9th September 2024**.
- Please remind children to stay in their designated area on the yard as we have an unsecure boundary. Every pupil must be in the line of sight of a teacher at all times.
- **Mobile phones - NO personal electronic devices or phones are allowed in school in accordance with our Board of Management policy.** Norma Foley, TD, Minister for Education, has announced an initiative that will build on the "**Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free**" policy which is aimed at children in primary school. This policy approach is based on the growing concerns expressed about the impact of the use of mobile phones during the school day. This includes the potential for distraction during

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class time, the risk of accessing inappropriate content, cyberbullying and the potential for decreased social interaction with peers. The Department of Education has noticed there has already been a strong take-up of the voluntary agreements among parents not to buy smartphones for their children while they are in primary school. The “**Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free**” policy has also been supported by all of Ireland’s leading mobile phone network operators. We will keep you informed on policy developments throughout the year.

- **CCTV** - Unfortunately we have found Dog Faeces deposited on the school grounds during the summer holidays. This is a worrying trend as they have been found specifically in areas where the children play on a daily basis. We regret that in the interest of child safety and hygiene there is strictly **NO DOGS** allowed on school grounds (even if on leads) at **ANYTIME** due to health reasons during school term and school holidays.
- On **Thursday 5th September 2024** County Photos will be in the school to take photos of the children - **Full uniform should be worn** (NO PE gear please) and family photos will be taken. Please see their leaflet attached.
- ALL children will go out at playtime, weather permitting. If you feel your child is not well enough to go out to play, then your child is not well enough to be at school. Pull ups and outdoor shoes can be worn on the grass (waterproof trousers or an old pair of tracksuit bottoms to pull on over their clothes). Please provide a waterproof bag for these to be stored in when not in use.
- Please ensure we have at least 3 emergency contacts for your child. You can update your details on Aladdin Connect.
- PE days will be confirmed within the next two weeks. School tracksuits should be worn on PE days. Full uniform will be expected every other day unless directed otherwise.
- This time of year Kiltale NS are taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol Football competitions. The fixtures will be available soon for both the boys and girls.
- We require your permission for your child’s photo and work to be uploaded on the school’s website www.kiltalens.ie. We will be sending out requests for your permission through Aladdin Connect. Please watch out for our requests and ensure your wishes are entered.
- Aladdin Connect also allows you to enter your child’s absence and lates. Please update promptly for your child.



The Parents’ Association is looking for volunteers, if any parent is interested in getting involved please email kiltalepta@gmail.com



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Family Fun Day - Saturday 14th September 2024 from 2pm to 5pm. Please see details attached.

No School for Pupils on Tuesday 8th October 2024 - Teachers nationwide are required by the Department of Education (DoE) to attend training on the new Primary Mathematics Curriculum (PMC) as per the [Circular 39/23](#). As a result, the school will be closed on this day to facilitate staff training for teachers as they will begin the implementation phase in 2024/2025 of the new PMC provided by Oide.

Wishing everyone good health and well-being for the new school year,

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Colin McElroy
Principal.