



## Kilgarvan Central School [kilgarvanschool@gmail.com](mailto:kilgarvanschool@gmail.com)

064 – 6685428 / 086 2313246

## HALLOWE'EN NEWSLETTER 2025

### Welcome

Welcome to our October newsletter. It has been a busy few weeks since the start of term with the pupils settling back into school, meeting their friends and taking part in a wide range of educational experiences and activities. A special welcome to our 11 Junior Infants who started on September the 1<sup>st</sup>. They're a great bunch and have really added to our school community.

### School Activities:

#### MS Readathon

It's almost time for the 2025 MS Readathon. Every year our pupils participate in the Readathon, which supports a very worthy cause and encourages the pupils to read for pleasure. Ms H Cronin always ensures the Readathon is a great success in our school. We look forward to seeing all our bookworms reading lots of books.

#### Green Schools

Our Green School's Committee under the stewardship of Ms H Cronin and Ms J Cronin, are really working hard to promote Global Citizenship in our school. They actively seek to ensure our school focuses on recycling and sustainability. They organised a very successfully Hallowe'en Costume Shop this year. Pupils donated fabulous costumes they no longer needed and these were then sold for €5 each at a pop-up shop over two afternoons. The funds raised, which totalled €339 will then be donated to UNICEF to support vulnerable children throughout the world. This great initiative really emphasised the value of reusing, recycling with the results also

promoting a Global Citizenship mindset. B'iontach an smaoineamh é. Maith sibh ar fad.

#### Active Flag

The Active Flag Committee really hit the ground running this year with all classes having completed 3 weeks of Skip Around the World which took us to some really interesting destinations.

We are currently waiting on an accreditation visit, having submitted our application. Huge well done to Ms Moriarty and her committee who have put a huge amount of time and effort into making this a worthwhile and fun process.

#### Gaelic Football and Hurling:

Gaelic football and hurling coaching takes place every second week in our school. Our football Coach is Emma O'Sullivan and our Hurling coach is Katy Lynch. The children are given the opportunity to enhance and practice their skills. We're very grateful to have this opportunity in our school.

We were also very excited to welcome the Sam Maguire Cup recently, accompanied by Sean O'Shea and Tadhg Morley. The children gave them a rousing reception and were delighted to received a night off homework to celebrate Kerry's 39<sup>th</sup> All Ireland victory. Ciarraí Abú!

#### Cumann na mBunscol:

The Boys and girls were narrowly defeated in a Plate Semi-Final by a strong team from Coolick NS, in the 4/5 school category. Many thanks to PJ Delaney and Dan Healy for mentoring the team. Thanks also to Paddy Lynch for providing transport and for being a great supporter of the team! We look forward to many more games in the Spring.

#### Camogie

We were very lucky to have been offered the chance for the girls from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class to receive camogie coaching under the auspices of our local camogie club, Ceann Mara. All girls participated in these fun and engaging sessions led by Katy, Sarah, Ger and Bríde from the Club. We look forward to seeing some Kilgarvan Girls lining out for Kerry Camogie in the years ahead. Míle buíochas do Ceann Mara as an deis iontach seo.

#### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Arwen and Nour from 5<sup>th</sup> Class on winning the

Restart a Heart Competition, organised by The Killarney Cardiac Response Team. Both girls produced very colourful, detailed posters. Maith sibh beirt!

#### Goal Jersey Day

On Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October the pupils wore their jerseys in support of GOAL. A total of €193.80 was raised within the school for this very worthy cause. Maith sibh!

#### Maths Week

As we continue to embed the new primary Maths Curriculum throughout the school, Maths Week gave us a fantastic opportunity to try a range of fun and challenging activities based around Maths. All classes participated in a range of different activities from Maths trails, station teaching, problem-solving activities and a wonderful Maths Quiz via Zoom, facilitated by Michelle Culloty from Tralee Education Centre. All the activities gave us a great opportunity to practice our Maths Talk, use our Maths Eyes and record and reflect in our maths journals.

#### Music Generation

Every Monday our fabulous music teacher, Caroline, from Music Generation visits our school to teach music to all the pupils throughout the school. The infants have been having great fun working on body percussion and the children from 1<sup>st</sup> class up are learning to play the ukulele. The pupils are making fantastic progress and we can't wait for you to hear them at our Christmas Plays. Our thanks to Grousemount Windfarm, the Parents' Association and all who donated to our Coffee Morning, giving us the chance to provide free music lessons to all our pupils.

#### Science Adventures

Mr Chuck Delpier visited on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. As always the children had great fun, while learning lots and developing their scientific investigating skills.

#### Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent –Teacher meetings will take place on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> of November. Appointments may be booked via Aladdin after the mid term break.

#### Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association AGM took place on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of October.

The following were elected Chairperson, Catherina O'Sullivan (Healy), Vice Chairperson – Siobhan Delaney, Secretary – Sinéad Healy, Vice Secretary – Fran Freitag, Joint treasurers – Niamh Healy and Joyce O'Sullivan. The PA provides vital funds for our school and we would encourage all parents to become involved. The next fundraising event organised is bag packing in Super Valu in Kenmare on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. Our Coffee Morning will take place on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2026.

### **First Communion**

First Communion will take place on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 at 11am in St Patrick's Church, Kilgarvan.

### **Christmas Plays**

This year we will hold our Christmas Plays on Thursday morning, the 11<sup>th</sup> of December in the Carnegie Arts Centre in Kenmare. There will be two performances, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will take to the stage first followed by Junior and Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will confirm performance times after the mid-term break. All are welcome to join us for this very special occasion.

### **Hallowe'en Dress Up**

The school was a scary place to be on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of October as ghost and ghouls, witches and warlocks took over the building. Well done to all the children (and their parents) who went to such great effort with the spectacular costumes this year. Bhí said go léir ar fheabhas!

### **Agree to Agree**

Our school, together with all the schools in the greater Kenmare Area has agreed to take part in this initiative, which seeks to open discussion and develop a policy for school and families around the use of devices by our children. The initiative has been hugely successful in other areas and is being facilitated by Tralee Education Centre. We would strongly encourage all parents to engage with the webinars associated with the programme as we try to support our children and keep them safe online. We will update you regularly as the year progresses. Thanks to Ms Carol O'Sullivan for agreeing to co-ordinate the programme in our school.

### **Board of Management News**

At a recent Board of Management meeting the Board of Management

ratified the Child Safety Statement and the Child Protection Procedures. These are available from the school and have also been provided to the Parents' Association.

The Board is pleased to facilitate Curious Minds before and after school childcare in Kilgarvan School, while the Kilgarvan Childcare Committee work hard to secure a more permanent, sustainable facility. The before and after school club provides a valuable wrap around childcare service to parents. If you would like any further information about the service, please contact Curious Minds directly.

### **General Information and Reminders:**

#### **Roll Time**

A reminder that in line with Department of Education & Skills rules, children who arrive at school later than 10.30am will be marked absent in the school roll book for that day. Children arriving later than 10.30am are recorded as a late arrival.

Please make every effort to ensure that your child arrives on time for school, as children can find it unsettling if they arrive late.

#### **Contact Information**

Please inform the school of any changes to your contact details. These can be updated on the Aladdin App.

#### **Homework**

Parents are asked to supervise children's homework, checking and signing the homework journal/sheet on completion. Help and encourage the child but do not do the homework for him/her. If homework is not completed please send a note to the class teacher.

#### **Healthy Eating/ Food Dudes**

As we continue to promote healthy eating and pupil well-being, our school will once again, take part in the Food Dudes Programme to encourage the children to try different types of fruit and vegetables. This programme will take place in November this year and more information will be provided after mid-term.

#### **Standardised Testing**

Please take note of the standardised testing dates below

and ensure your child is in school on those dates. Unfortunately, due to the extremely busy nature of the last weeks of school, we may not be in a position to test children should they miss the class testing days. Your co-operation in this matter is very much appreciated,

May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>  
May 25<sup>th</sup> – May 29<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Communication with Class Teacher**

If you need to communicate with your child's class teacher please do so via the Aladdin App, as this is the most efficient way to make contact during the school day. Contact may also be made through the school mobile phone via WhatsApp or text. Please refrain from ringing the mobile during teaching hours unless there is an very urgent reason as all our teachers, including the principal, have full time teaching responsibilities. Should you wish to speak to a teacher please make an appointment as unscheduled meetings cannot be facilitated, due to teaching commitments and supervision requirements.

Also, we endeavour to treat all members of our school community with respect and we would ask that all communications and encounters with our staff members, both teachers and SNAs are respectful in nature.

### **School Website Facebook Page**

The work to improve and streamline our school website, [www.kilgarvanschool.ie](http://www.kilgarvanschool.ie), is still ongoing. Many thanks to Luke Scanlon for all his work on our website so far. It looks great!. Please visit the website for information on school policies etc. We continually update our school Facebook Page, so don't forget to check it out **Kilgarvan School** on Facebook to find out about all the happenings in our school. Thanks to Ms Moriarty for co-ordinating our Facebook page.

### **HSE Guidelines**

Parents are asked **not to send their child to school** if they are unwell. Please check HSE guidelines regarding returning to school after tummy bugs, colds etc.

We hope that you all have a lovely mid-term break and we look forward to seeing everyone for another busy term on Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.

***Beannachtaí na Samhna oraibh go léir***