



Kilgarvan Central School

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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2025

Our school community has been very busy since Hallowe'en, with the last few weeks being taken over by preparing and performing our Christmas plays. We've been singing carols, wearing festive jumpers and enjoying the magic this season brings to school life.

School Activities

Christmas Panto

The children from Junior Infants to 2nd Class travelled to the Carnegie Hall in Kenmare on the 4th of December to see the Christmas Panto – Little Miss Muffet's Christmas Adventure. The children had a really lovely time and it was a great way to start the Christmas season.

Christmas Plays

Our Christmas Plays were performed to a full house in the fabulous Carnegie Arts Centre, Kenmare, on Thursday, 11th December. The children and the staff had spent weeks perfecting their plays and all the performances were exceptional on the day. We definitely saw some budding actors on stage.

The plays were followed by a musical performance from each class under the expert guidance of Caroline, our music educator from Music Generation. The children played an array of instruments and the music really added to the festive feel of the occasion. Many thanks to those who donated prizes for our raffle, Hickey's Centra,

Rathmore, Ceann Mara Camogie Club and The Landsdowne Hotel. A total of €1127 was raised which covered expenses and transport for the day.

Thanks also to Noreen, Danny and Ger in the Carnegie for being so helpful and accommodating, and a big thank you to Paddy and Ger, our bus drivers.

Visits to Rockmount Centre

We always look forward to our visit to the Rockmount Centre and this year, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes called to the Centre to spend some time there.

3rd and 4th visited on Monday, 15th of December and they spent a lovely morning playing board games, cards, singing, playing music and chatting. 5th and 6th Classes made their Christmas visit to Rockmount on Tuesday, 16th of December. They had a wonderful morning of Christmas carols and songs, followed by some old-time waltzes and chats. It's such a worthwhile experience for our school to get the opportunity to meet the service users in Rockmount.

Thanks to all the staff for their welcome and their hospitality. We look forward to our next visit in the New Year.

Santa Claus

The children were thrilled to meet a very special visitor on Thursday, 18th of December, when Santa Claus himself took time out from his very busy schedule to meet the pupils of our school. The children all got the chance to meet him and have a quick chat to make sure they were on the nice list. Santa gave all the children a selection box, before heading away to make final preparations for the busiest night of the year.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday, 12th of December the children wore Christmas Jumpers and Christmas colours to school. Many thanks to all who gave a voluntary donation to St Vincent de Paul. It was lovely to see all the beautiful Christmas-themed jumpers around the school and a total of

€250 was raised for the Charity on the day. Míle buíochas.

Gymnastics

The children completed a four week course in gymnastics, facilitated by Mark from School Fitness Ireland. The children had the opportunity to learn a range of movements and skills and all really enjoyed the sessions. Thanks to the Parents' Association for providing funding for this very worthwhile activity.

Active Flag

There was great excitement in November when, after months of hard work and planning by our Active Flag Committee and mentored by Ms Moriarty and Ms J Cronin, we received the great news that we had received our second Active Flag. This is a huge achievement for our school and we're very proud of all the children for their participation in all the activities which led to this award. Obair iontach ó gach duine.

Upcoming Events

Science Adventures

We're looking forward to our next visit from Mr Chuck Delpier in January.

Soccer / Football/ Hurling/ Camogie

We're looking forward to the return of brighter days, better weather and the return of matches. Both our boys' and girls' teams are registered in a number of competitions, so lots of sporting activities in the months ahead.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

Our 5th and 6th class pupils will be participating in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme next term. This is a fun and exciting programme which encourages children to develop their skills as entrepreneurs. We are really looking forward to seeing their business ideas come to life and watching as they work together to bring a product to market!

Credit Union Quiz

As we look forward to Spring, the pupils from 3rd to 6th classes have started preparing for the

upcoming Credit Union Quiz under the guidance of their teacher Ms Moriarty. The children really look forward to taking part in this quiz in February every year. Thanks to Ms Moriarty for all her work in preparing the children so well for this highly competitive quiz.

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. Children leaving before 10.30 will be marked absent, but their presence will be noted and their time of departure recorded.

Communication with Class Teacher

Should you wish to contact your child's class teacher, please do so directly using the Aladdin Connect App. This is our main communication platform and is the most efficient and effective way to contact your child's teacher as messages are checked regularly throughout the school day. Absences and early collections should all be entered on Aladdin. Please refrain from phoning the school during teaching time unless it is for an urgent reason. Please make sure that you have installed the app and that notifications are enabled to ensure you receive all messages from the school.

School Drop Off

Morning Supervision begins in our school at 9.10 am. Please ensure that children, whether being dropped by parents, childminders or buses, are not left unattended at the school gate, or its environs, before that time, as the school cannot accept responsibility for their safety until official supervision begins at 9.10 am. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Homework

Children are given homework from Monday to Thursday. Our school values homework as it helps to consolidate and revise work done in school, helps include parents in their children's learning and encourages independent learning in children.

Please check your child's homework nightly and sign their journal when completed. If your child could not complete homework for any reason please inform their class teacher, either via Aladdin or by note in their journal.

Enrolment Application Forms

Enrolment forms for children starting school in September 2026 are now available from the school, or may be downloaded from the school website. Closing date for receipt of applications is March 21st, 2026

Healthy Eating/ Food Dudes

The children are encouraged to bring healthy foods every day. A small treat is permitted on Fridays **only**. We participated in the Food Dudes Programme during this term and children were given the opportunity to try a wide range of fruit and vegetables to encourage healthy choices.

Party Invitations

Please do not send in Birthday Invitations for distribution in school.

Facebook Page / School Website

Don't forget to check out our school Facebook Page to keep up to date with all the activities in our school. Also, our school website is www.kilgarvanschool.ie. We've been busy updating our website with lots of photos of recent events.

Board of Management News

At a recent Board of Management meeting the following policies were ratified:

Communication Policy
Digital Learning Plan
School Self Evaluation Report
All of the above will be available on our school website.

Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association are a very active group and are a great support to our school. They raise valuable funds which are used to provide activities and resources for the children and taking part in these activities helps parents to meet other parents. This year, through fundraising the PA has covered the cost of Gymnastics, Science Adventures, Christmas, Easter and

Sports' Day treats for the children. They also made a contribution of €10 per child towards art / photocopying and insurance expenses. They also partially funded replacement floor covering in two classrooms, new fencing around the perimeter of the yard and pitch, new sports equipment and Music Generation classes. Our school would not be able to provide the range of experiences we do for the children without the hard work of our Parents' Association and the generosity of our community.

Bag Packing

Our PA has organised to go bag-packing in Supervalu in Kenmare on Monday, 22nd of December. We're very grateful to Supervalu for accommodating us and to the parents who have volunteered to help on the day. If you could spare an hour on the 22nd to help out, please let us know. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

A Reminder!

Parents are asked **not to send their child to school** if they are unwell. If your child is running a temperature, requiring medication please keep them at home. Children can become very upset if unwell in school and illnesses can spread quickly to others within a classroom. Please check HSE guidelines regarding returning to school after tummy bugs, colds etc.

Happy Christmas

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful, happy Christmas. We are mindful of those in our community who may have lost loved ones over the past year and we remember them in our prayers. We remember those in our school community and in the wider Kilgarvan Community who are unwell and offer our prayers for them at this time.

Ag guí Beannachtaí na Féile oraibh go léir agus gach rath agus sonas oraibh san aith-bhliain.