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LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

I wish to extend a sincere and warm welcome to you and to all of those children who will be starting school in September. The teachers join me in assuring you that we will do all in our power to make school a happy place and we will work to the best of our ability for your children.

You, their parents, are the first and most important teachers of your children and we will be relying on your help and co-operation to ensure that your child gets the optimum benefit from his/her time at school.

Your children learn best when they feel secure and happy. It is important to let us know if anything is worrying you or your child. We are always ready to listen. Together we can ensure that your child receives a happy and successful start to school life.

We encourage good behaviour and this leads to respect and care for fellow pupils and respect for property and the environment.

We hope your child's education in our school will be a happy and enjoyable one.

Kevin Clohessy,
Principal.

KILMURRY NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Website : www.cillmhuire.wordpress.com

Principal: Mr. Kevin Clohessy

Chairperson: Board of Management -
Ms. Noreen O'Loughlin

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Bohan

KILMURRY NATIONAL SCHOOL

A History

The full Irish name is Cill Mhuire na nGall (Kilmurry of the Foreigners) which means “Church of the foreigners dedicated to Mary”. It is said that Norman adventurers, under De Clare, built, if not restored, a church outside the village circa 1300 and hence the name.

The ruins of the old church still remain in the burial ground, and within the limits of the parish are the ruined castles of Rossroe, Kilmurry and Kilkishen.

Although this parish is so-called after the Blessed Virgin Mary, there is no reason to suppose that it was originally dedicated to some Irish saint. A holy well a little way from the site of the church, is called Tobar Faoile after the virgin saint of that name who had a religious establishment at Ath Cliath Meadhraidhe in the county of Galway and another near Limerick from which the parish of Killeely is designated. Of the church itself not a trace remains but the graveyard surrounding it is greatly used by the people of the neighbouring country as a place of burial.

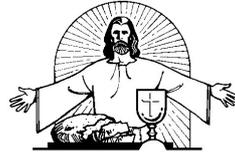
PASTORAL CARE



The school aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil including their relationship with God, with other people and with the environment. Prayer is a feature of the school day with the liturgical seasons part of the rhythm of the school year.

The school identifies itself with the parish, working closely with our Parish Priest who visits the school frequently.

The major milestones in younger children's lives are their First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. General meetings of all parents, whose children are involved in each of the Parents are encouraged to become involved in their children's preparation for the sacraments. Children are prepared for First Holy Communion and First Confession in Second class and for Confirmation in Sixth class.



WELFARE OF PUPILS

Parents please note that the school cannot undertake responsibility for pupils coming to or going from school.

The school does not accept responsibility for pupils arriving on school grounds before the official opening times or for pupils who remain on school grounds unsupervised after school closes.

The school is required to report absences totalling more than 20 days per school year to the National Education Welfare Board. Pupils who are absent for any reason must present a written note (signed by parent or guardian) giving the reason for their absence on the day the pupil returns to school.

Sick children

From time to time pupils become ill during school-time and in such cases every effort will be made to contact parents or guardians.

It is essential that the details of **contact person** etc. be filled in on your child's school application form.

******* *The school cannot take responsibility for bringing children home, but it will do all in its power to comfort a child who is ill.***

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

In 1975 a system of Boards of Management was established for National Schools. The introduction of the Boards of Management offered opportunities for partnership between parents, teachers and patron's representatives in the important task of managing their local school.

The Board is responsible for promoting the success of the school in all its work so that a high quality education is delivered to all the children.

Kilmurry National School's Board of Management has eight members:

- Two members appointed by the Bishop as school patron.
- Two parents or guardians elected by parents (1 mother, 1 father)
- One teacher elected by teachers.
- The School Principal
- Two community representatives selected by the other six members.

Every parent has the right to vote for the parents' representatives on the board and to stand for election.

N.B. All information in this booklet is subject to change as is deemed necessary by the Board of Management.

THE PARENTS' COUNCIL

Kilmurry National School is affiliated to the National Parents Council – Primary (NPC-P). The main reason for having a parents' council is to help parents get involved in their local school.

The aims of the Parents' Council and of the National Parents Council Primary are:

- To represent the views of parents
- To inform parents of developments in education and in the school
- To foster co-operation between parents, teachers and the school management.

Why should parents be involved?

The school is regarded as an extension of the home and an active partnership between parents and teachers makes this a reality, especially in the eyes of the young child, who is the central figure.

AGM of Parents Association

The Parents Association Committee in Kilmurry National School hold their AGM at the beginning of each school year. New parents are encouraged to come along to these meetings.

THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The school follows the 1999 Revised Curriculum of the Department of Education. Schools and curricula are increasingly under pressure for change, both from the changing demands of society, the workplace and from developments in our understanding of how children learn. The Curriculum has been revised and updated by National Council for Curriculum and Assessment since 1991.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

During the school year, parents will be invited to talk to their child's class teacher during parent-teacher meetings.

These meetings consist of ten-minute appointment approximately on a specific day and give an opportunity for the teacher to review a child's work throughout the term. It is important that parents attend these meetings to keep in touch with their children's progress in school.

Teachers are also available on request to meet with parents to discuss any concerns.

SCHOOL HOURS AND HOLIDAYS

<u>Classes</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Junior & Senior Infants	8.50 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.
1 st Class – 6 th Class	8.50 a.m. - 2.30p.m.

Note: To ease the child into the school routine the Junior Infants go home for the first two weeks at 12.00 p.m. From mid September all infants will go home at 1.30 p.m.

Additional Holidays

Early in September of each school year, each child will be given written details of all foreseeable closures for the year.

School Notices

Notification of events and other items of importance are communicated to parents. Parents are advised to emphasize to children that Newsletters are important and must be given to them promptly. Newsletters are on a monthly basis and contain a lot of useful information. These Newsletters are given to the eldest child in the family in our school. In the case of younger children a regular clean out of their school bags can sometimes reveal forgotten communications from the school ! These newsletters are also posted on the school website.

UNFORESEEN SCHOOL CLOSURES

Parents are advised that occasionally due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. breakdown of heating etc., it may be necessary to close the school without prior notice. Contingency plans should be made at home for such occurrences, especially where young children are involved and/or where there is no-one at home during the day. Please inform the School Secretary of your arrangements so that unnecessary worry may be avoided should the necessity for closing arise.

Should there be other closures outside of those noted on the list of days issued at the beginning of the school year in September, pupils will be given written details as soon as the school becomes aware of such closures.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

All pupils are required to wear the school uniform. It consists of a maroon tracksuit and white polo top.

Tracksuits are available from "All Seasons Sports" 061-355368. They provide us with a fitting service before the end of the school. Extras can be ordered throughout the year by contacting them directly yourself.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

We encourage all pupils to show respect to themselves, to others and to their environment.

Classroom Rules:

5 Bs

1. Be Respectful (*Be polite, listen to others and take care of property*)
2. Be Kind and Gentle (*Think about other people's feelings*)
3. Be careful (*make sure you are in a safe place and act in a safe manner*)
4. Be responsible (*Be sensible and take responsibility for your actions*)
5. Be the best you can (*do your best in everything you do*)

Rules for the yard:

5 Ps

1. Play safely and play fairly
2. Play together
3. Play in your own yard
4. Permission from a teacher to leave the yard
5. Pause and freeze for the whistle

Rewards

Good behaviour is publicly recognised both in the class and in the wider school environment using a variety of the following rewards:

- A word of praise
- A word of praise in front of a group or the class
- A reward system – ‘Student of the Week’, ‘Golden Time’, ‘DoJo Points’, occasional treats
- Sticker charts
- Stamps
- Traffic light chart
- Homework passes
- Special mention at assembly
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Principal’s Award
- Visit to another class for commendation
- Visit to Principal for commendation
- Note home
- Lucky Dip prizes
- Certificates

Please note that this list is not exhaustive

SANCTIONS

The aim of any sanction is to prevent the behaviour occurring again and if necessary to help the pupils devise strategies for this. For more information on sanctions please see our Code of Behaviour.

1. **Step 1:** For Minor misbehaviours or after a number of verbal warnings a black card is given.

2. **Step 2:** For serious misbehaviour, repeated minor misbehaviours or if there is no improvement in the child's behaviour following the issuing of a black card, a **yellow card** will be issued.
3. **Step 3:** After two yellow cards, a **red card** will be issued. A red card may also be issued for gross misbehaviour.
4. **Step 4:** Any pupil continually ending up on a red card will reach step 4. Serious or Gross misbehaviour can bypass steps 1, 2, or 3 and result in immediately moving to step 4.
5. **Step 5:** Suspension
6. **Step 6:** Expulsion

HOMEWORK

All classes in Kilmurry National School get homework. You should encourage your child to establish a homework routine early in school life:

- Set aside a regular time
- For classes that use homework journals – check the journal to see that homework tasks are listed and signed upon completion.
- The child should be sitting comfortably at a table
- Homework time should include time for oral as well as written work. This is particularly important in the early stages for both English and Irish. In the case of Irish – try to foster a positive attitude at home.
- Encourage your child to keep books and copies clean and tidy.
- Give help when it is needed. Keep a watchful eye to see how things are going. If a child is working away without help, be available to help and show an interest in what is being done.
- Praise and affirm your child at every opportunity.
- If you become impatient with your child – stop.
- If you have persistent problems with homework, contact the teacher and discuss the difficulties.
- Let the teacher know if homework cannot be finished – this can happen with the best of routines!

SCHOOL BOOKS

Before the school closes for the summer holidays, a list of books and materials for the following year is issued to each child. This booklist is completed and returned by a certain date. Pupils also receive details of our annual school charge contribution. We have a book rental scheme in operation in Kilmurry National School in an effort to keep down the cost of school books for parents. It is essential that pupils who have books on loan must care for them – they are the property of the school and need to be passed on to other pupils the following year. We would sincerely urge parents to encourage their children to care for their books and return them in good order.



SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Our teachers deliver the P.E. curriculum as set down by the Dept of Education & Skills. Kilmurry National School recognises the need for the promotion of physical fitness among boys and girls and all pupils are encouraged to participate in as many sporting activities as possible. The range of sporting activities include :



- Swimming
- Hurling
- Camogie
- Basketball
- Football
- Athletics

The School participates in inter-school competitions at all levels in the above sports with the emphasis on participation rather than winning at all costs.

During the school year, pupils are encouraged to join in inter-class leagues in hurling, camogie and basketball. The School Sports Day is usually held during the last school term and the emphasis is on enjoyment and participation.

Note: Parents are reminded that protective hurling helmets **must be worn at all times** by pupils playing hurling or camogie.

I.C.T.

Laptops/ Broadband.

We have recently purchased 20 laptops for our school. These are stored in trolleys and can be moved from class to class as is needed. These are proving to be a most invaluable educational tool for the pupils and they are thoroughly enjoying getting to grips with them!

We have also installed Broadband in all the classrooms.



Interactive whiteboards:

We have four of these boards in the school.



Green School

This initiative is designed to educate children in understanding and caring for their environment. Recently the school has been awarded its 4th Green Flag for being an environmentally friendly school. The school prides itself in its lawns, garden, shrubs, flowerbeds, lack of litter and its overall appearance. Pupils recycle the following cans, cards, papers and batteries.

Award of Maths & Science Excellence

Recently our school has achieved its 6th Award of Science and Maths Excellence.

This is a National Award which is presented to schools which excel in their levels of participation in Discovery Primary Science.

Intel Mini Scientist Awards

This is a program which allows primary school students to develop science related projects which are then exhibited at fairs held within their own schools. The program supports the Primary Science curriculum and is a great way to encourage enthusiasm and practical learning in the area of science. The initiative aims to encourage a love of science through an investigative approach to learning

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

In 2015, 5th and 6th class pupils took part in their first Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The programme aims to explore and develop the entrepreneurial talents and skills in children. It is an exciting new programme which is supported by the local business community.

PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL

You should ensure that s/he is as independent as possible - physically, emotionally and socially. If s/he can look after himself in these areas s/he will feel secure and confident and settle in readily.

It would help greatly if s/he is able to-

- Co-operate and be mannerly.
- Zip and unzip the coat and hang it up.
- Use the toilet and flush it properly.
- Wash her/his hands, without having to be told.
- Share toys and playthings with others and “take turns”.
- Tidy up and put away toys and other belongings.

Please label all your child's clothes and belongings clearly. Help them to identify their own belongings. If a child has the experience of staying for a few hours in the home of a relation, friend or neighbour, then separation from her/his parents when s/he starts school will not cause any great anxiety.

Allow your children to do things independently. Encourage confidence by having them dress themselves. Allow time for this in the morning !



PACKED LUNCHES

Lunch is an important meal for school going children. We ask you to encourage a **healthy** lunch right from the start. Only give your child something you feel he/she can easily manage to eat.

Children are not normally very hungry at school, so particularly during the first two weeks, when the pupils will have just one break of 10 minutes a little snack will do. When the pupils attend for the full day they will have two breaks - the second break will last for half an hour.

Children take time to adapt to school life and routine – don't expect too much too soon. Talk to them about how their day went and allow them to respond in their own way.



STARTING SCHOOL

Once your child has started school, your support and encouragement can play a vital part in building his/her confidence and developing his/her skills.

Here are some basic hints from experienced teachers and parents to help your Junior Infant through the first weeks of school:

- Leave your child at the classroom door – don't linger.
- Remind older brothers and sisters (or friends) to keep them company during mid-morning break.
- Always collect your child on time – they may become upset if they think they are going to be left behind.
- Clearly mark your child's name on all their belongings, a colourful identifying mark on coats is a good idea as well. **Please write your child's name on the name tag on their tracksuit. This is the only hope of returning lost property to you.**
- Buy schoolbags big enough to fit large A4 size folder.
- Make sure your child is able to put on and take off coats and can both close and put things in and out of their school bag.

CHILD'S EARLY LEARNING

Learning is any experience that contributes to the child's development.

Children are natural learners. They have an inbuilt curiosity and an eagerness to know more about everything – about themselves, about others and about the world around them.

New sights, new sounds, new tastes and new feelings are a part of everyday experience. Children learn when they are ready and when their interest is aroused.

A Junior Infant pupil is young, so we must guard against putting pressure on them to learn what they are not yet ready for. Demanding too much too soon can switch a child off completely.

At the same time one must cultivate readiness so that they can make progress at an appropriate rate. The rates of progress of children can vary greatly. We try to give them an opportunity to move ahead at their own pace.

Our first year in school therefore, is mainly about settling in, relating to others, making friends, feeling happy and gradually getting used to the routine of the school. On the learning side the emphasis is on getting children ready for learning by –

- * Developing their **oral language** and expression.
- * **Sharpening their senses**, especially seeing, hearing and touching.
- * Developing **physical co-ordination** especially of hand and fingers
- * Extending their concentration span and getting them to **listen attentively**.
- * **Learning through play** – the most enjoyable and effective way.
- * **Co-operating** with the teacher and other children.
- * Performing **tasks by** themselves.
- * Working with others and sharing with them.
- * Getting each child to accept the **general order**, which is necessary for the class to work well.

THE BIG DAY

The child's first day at school is a day to remember for the rest of his/her life. We all help to make it a really happy one for your child.

Each child will receive the individual attention s/he needs and s/he will have an opportunity to get to know some of the new friends.

Coming in...

When you arrive at the classroom, **be as casual as you can**. Your child will meet the teacher and the other pupils and will be shown to a seat. If you are feeling upset, try not to show it. Hopefully your child will be absorbed in the new surroundings. So having assured her/him that you will be back to collect her/him later, wish her/him goodbye and make your getaway without delay.

Handling the Upset Child

In spite of the best efforts of both teacher and parents a small number of children will still become upset. If your child happens to be one of them don't panic. Patience and perseverance can work wonders.



WORD OF ADVICE

Trust the teacher. She/he is used to coping with all kinds of starting - off problems!

Try not to show any outward signs of your own distress. Sometimes the parents are more upset than the child and are the main cause of the anxiety.

When you have reassured your child, leave as fast as possible. The teacher can distract and humour the pupil more easily when you are not around.

Check back discreetly in a short while, if you wish. You will invariably find that calm has been restored..

GOING HOME

Be sure to collect your child **on time**. The Class teacher has other duties once the Juniors have gone home. Children can become very upset if they feel they are forgotten.

Keep out of view until the children are released.

If at any time the collecting routine has to be changed, please tell the child and the teacher



TEACHER AND PARENT

At the early stages some parents meet the teacher almost daily and this is a very desirable thing. However, if there is something in particular that you would like to discuss you can arrange to meet the class teacher at a time when you both can have a little peace and quiet.

TEXT A PARENT

If you change your phone number please inform the school as we will use text messages for notifying parents of events or other items of importance.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school website is an excellent way to keep up with all that is going on in the school, see pictures of recent events and avail of useful links for parents. The address is **www.cillmhuire.wordpress.com**