



Scoilnuacht 5: August 2020

- **Welcome Back:** We are thrilled to be back together again. We had a very positive start to our return this week and we are looking forward to the term ahead with positivity being to the core of all we aim for. We look forward to welcoming Ms. Arlette Phelan to our staff as our shared SET teacher. Arlette replaces Carol and will be with us every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- **New Routines:** Thanks so much for adapting so well to our new routines. The personal bags are working very well. The children are finding them comfortable and easy to access. We will continue with bringing just our lunch box and bottle to and from school for the coming weeks. We have changed our breaktimes this term and included a Junior movement break and a Senior movement break. This is with the view of getting the most out of our lessons and the best energy from the children early in the day. We are very mindful that being in the classroom again may be difficult to settle into so we are being proactive and doing our best to make it as stress free as we possibly can. Our morning break is now at 11am (previously 10.45) and our lunch break is at 1pm (previously 12.30).
- **First Holy Communion:** We are so looking forward to October 3rd to celebrate with Aoibhe, Cliodhna, Molly and Noah. Ms. McGrath has already started preparations with them and will continue to work with them on the lead up. We will be meeting with Fr. Hayes this week and will keep you informed of details/requirements for the day.
- **Extra Curricular Activities:** Currently, we are advised to limit access to such activities as swimming and trips. We will continue to keep ourselves updated on current guidelines and the minute we get the green light to proceed we will. The Senior Room will do P.E. each Wednesday and so can wear their tracksuits then.

- **School Cleaner:** We send our best wishes and appreciation to Mary Maher for her years with Killea N.S. Mary did not wish to take up our 2020 Cleaning Contract and stepped down from the position of cleaner. We have put an interim arrangement in place for our safe return to school and we will advertise for the position in the coming weeks.
- **Communication:** Email and Text-a-Parent will continue to be our way of keeping you up to date in the coming weeks and months. The DES advises us to limit what goes in and out of the building so we will keep to paperless contact as best we can. With this in mind, we would ask that absence notes be emailed to the school at killeans2020@gmail.com and we will print them off and file them.
- **HSE and DES Guidelines:** If we find ourselves in a situation, going forward, where a child or staff member is not in school due to their symptoms- we will not be asking other pupils or staff to stay at home. The HSE Departments of Public Health will be the ones to take action if the person has confirmed Covid-19 infection on testing. This will include HSE advice and guidance on communication to school pupils and staff where needed. We are advised that parents/guardians should contact their G.P. as usual if your child is sick. If your G.P. determines that our child requires a COVID-19 test, then any other household contacts should be removed from the school setting.
- **Staff Training:** Both Kate and I have reviewed the SEESAW programme over the Summer months, with the view to using it to compliment our teaching if we were to experience a situation similar to the final term of the 2019/2020 school year again. Kate and I have signed up for training on this programme which takes place, after school hours, later this month.
- **Past pupils:** We send our very best wishes to Jack, Páidi, Tara and Tommy as they begin 1st year. We hope the new routines will prove only a small challenge for them and that they settle in and enjoy the adventures that await them.
- **Enrolments:** School numbers are a concern for us going forward. The past few years have seen very small numbers enrolling in our school. Our updated school website and Twitter page are ways for us to try raise the profile of the school and encourage new parents to choose us. We will need the whole school community to be on board and help us with this, if we are to keep our school as a living and vibrant part of the community. Thanks to all of you who already follow us on twitter and engage with our posts.
- **Emails/ Contact Details/Twitter:** killeans2020@gmail.com. Twitter page @nsKillea.