

# NEWSLETTER – June 2024



**St. John's N.S., Kenmare**  
**Bunscoil Eoin Naofa, An Neidín**  
**Tel: 064-6642598 / 064-6642300**  
**e-mail: [info@stjohnskenmare.ie](mailto:info@stjohnskenmare.ie)**  
**web: [www.stjohnskenmare.ie](http://www.stjohnskenmare.ie)**

## Upcoming School Closings:

Closing for Summer Holidays: Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June at 12 noon.

School re-opening: Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August at 9.20 a.m.

The calendar for the School Year 2024/2025 is now available on our website.

## Class Groupings 2024/2025

The eighteen class groupings and teachers for 2024/2025 are as follows:

|          |                |   |  |
|----------|----------------|---|--|
| Class 1  | Junior Infants | - | Mrs. Cremin                              |
| Class 2  | Junior Infants | - | Mrs. R. O'Sullivan                       |
| Class 3  | Senior Infants | - | Ms. Downing (Mrs. R. O'Sullivan's 23/24) |
| Class 4  | Senior Infants | - | Mrs. O'Leary (Mrs. Cremin's 23/24)       |
| Class 5  | First Class    | - | Ms. Costello (Ms. Downing's 23/24)       |
| Class 6  | First Class    | - | Mrs. Brosnan (Mrs. O'Leary's 23/24)      |
| Class 7  | Second Class   | - | Ms. Cashman (Ms. Costello's 23/24)       |
| Class 8  | Second Class   | - | Ms. F. O'Connor (Mrs. Brosnan's 23/24)   |
| Class 9  | Third Class    | - | Ms. Healy (Ms. F. O'Connor's 23/24)      |
| Class 10 | Third Class    | - | Ms. O'Neill (Ms. Cashman's 23/24)        |
| Class 11 | Fourth Class   | - | Ms. O'Dwyer (Ms. Healy's 23/24)          |
| Class 12 | Fourth Class   | - | Ms. Doyle (Ms. O'Neill's 23/24)          |
| Class 13 | Fifth Class    | - | Mr. Hussey (Ms. O'Dwyer's 23/24)         |
| Class 14 | Fifth Class    | - | Ms. S. O'Sullivan (Ms. Doyle's 23/24)    |
| Class 15 | Sixth Class    | - | Mr. Devane                               |
| Class 16 | Sixth Class    | - | Ms. Murnane                              |
| Class 17 | Sixth Class    | - | Ms. Buckley                              |
| Class 18 | Class Neidín   | - | Ms. O'Shea                               |

## Report Cards:

By now you should have received a Report Card giving details of your child's progress during the school year 2023/2024.

## Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Congratulations to the pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> in Holy Cross Church.

## **Graduation:**

Congratulations and best wishes to our 6<sup>th</sup> Class students who are graduating this June and will begin their Secondary education in September. A graduation ceremony will take place this week for the students. Thank you to Mr. Devane, Ms. Murnane, Mrs. Fiona O' Mahony and Ms. Buckley for the hard work and guidance they have extended to 6<sup>th</sup> Class this school year.

Thank you to the parents and guardians of our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils for your eight years of cooperation and support. We wish all students and parents/guardians a fond farewell and good wishes for a safe, healthy and happy future.



## **Active Week:**



Active Week was held in June with a variety of activities and sports being organised. The pupils had a great week playing games, partaking in School Walks and completing Sports Day. In our final week at school a number of walks were organised to fundraise for The Palliative Care unit in Tralee. This fundraiser is in acknowledgement of the wonderful care that was given to the

late Nora Finnegan, our former school secretary, who retired last September and sadly passed away in April of this year.

## **Purchase of School Uniforms for the 2024/2025 School Year:**

Uniforms can be purchased for the next school year through <https://grantsclothing.ie/> in conjunction with John O'Brien. The Grants Clothing website carries the full St. John's National School uniform. Follow the link and the onscreen instructions to buy using the school name St. John's N.S Kenmare. You will be able to view all items of the uniform, as well as order and pay online. Your uniform(s) will be delivered to your home within a couple of days once you have completed your purchase (there will be a small delivery charge).

## **ePayments:**

An epayment request via Aladdin will be sent to the parents/guardians of every pupil during the summer break. This is a fee of **€40** and is for Pupil Personal Compulsory Insurance, IT and Administration Costs. See separate note attached.

## **Primary School Games and GAA Skills:**

Well done to our boy's and girl's GAA skills teams that represented St. John's in the Kerry County Skills Competition in Austin Stack Park Tralee in May. Congratulations to Alice O'Connor who came 1<sup>st</sup> and to Eoghan, Darragh and PJ who came 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are all very proud of you in St. John's N.S.



## **Basketball:**



In May, pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class travelled to the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght for a fun day of basketball representing the Portland Trailblazers. They enjoyed meeting NBA players and learning skills. Also, St. John's N.S. took part in the Super Sevens Slam Competition in Killarney. Boys and girls from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class took part in this basketball event. They played a lot of games and played brilliantly throughout. The boys won the Cup Bronze. Congratulations to Sadhbh O'Mahony and Aidan Lehane on receiving All Star awards. Thanks to the coaches Ms. Browne, Nigel and Tadas.

### **Hurling:**

Well done to our St. John's N.S. Hurling Team on reaching the final in Austin Stack Park. Unfortunately, they lost to a strong Lixnaw team. The boys are a great credit to themselves and their families and are wonderful representatives for our school.

### **Cumann na mBunscol:**

Our fantastic girls football team won the Cumann na mBunscol final in Austin Stack Park in Tralee on May 29th against a strong Nagle Rice Milltown. The girls played brilliantly and were well deserved winners. There was great excitement after the final whistle and when Chloe O'Shea accepted the shield on behalf of her team. Many thanks to our coaches, Mr. Hussey and Mrs. O'Mahony. It was a super achievement to reach the final. The girls are a great credit to themselves, their families and are wonderful representatives for our school.

### **STEM Award:**

St. John's N.S. were very proud to have achieved the Curious Minds Gold Award 2024 in May. The reviewer acknowledged that the pupils had a lot of engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Pupils in each class engaged in STEM activities and workshops throughout the year, which contributed to the improvement of skills including critical thinking, analyzing, estimating, measuring, fair testing and recording.



### **Green Schools:**



We have recently been awarded our 10<sup>th</sup> Green Schools Flag. Luain O'Byrne and Alie Wiley attended the An Taisce awards ceremony in Killarney to collect our new flag which we were awarded for our work on Global Citizenship and Travel. Congratulations to our Green School committee members, Ms. Buckley, all our students and staff for all their hard work on this theme over the last two years.

### **Therapy Dog:**

We are thrilled to introduce the newest member of our school community, Vesta! Vesta is a 7-month-old puppy from the charity My Canine Companion, who is currently training to become a therapy dog. Over the next few months, she will interact with our pupils, contributing to a positive school environment. Students will have the opportunity to take turns walking and caring for Vesta as part of their daily routine. In return, Vesta will be a loyal and affectionate companion. My Canine Companion specialises in training therapy and autism service dogs and collaborates with schools across Ireland, positively impacting hundreds of children.

### **School Lotto:**

We extend our most sincere gratitude to everyone who supported our School Lotto Fundraiser this school year. As you know, this was our first time running a continuous fundraiser throughout the school year, and thanks to your support, it has had a positive impact on our school. This year, we focused on using the funds raised to invest in ICT and curricular resources. With your contributions, we were delighted to purchase two 'Lego Spike' kits and two 'Beebot' kits for our students. These resources will be instrumental in promoting learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). We are confident that the children will greatly enjoy learning with these new STEM resources. For the upcoming school year, we plan to use funds raised through the School Lotto Fundraiser to enrich our pupils' learning experiences in Physical Education (Dance), Science, and the Infant Curriculum. Additionally, we aim to raise funds for

upgrading the Infant yard space. We will provide further details on these initiatives early next school year. Thank you once again for your continued support.

### **Principal's Message:**

Dear Pupils, Parents, and Staff,

As we wrap up this school year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone for your hard work, dedication, and support.

**Pupils:** You have shown tremendous interest, curiosity, and enthusiasm in your learning. Your achievements, both big and small, are a testament to your hard work and the high standards that you set. The behaviour of our pupils has been exemplary this year, both in school and on school outings. It is often commented on when our pupils are on tour. I'm particularly proud of how you've supported and encouraged each other throughout the year.

**Parents:** Your ongoing support and involvement have been instrumental. From attending meetings and events to helping with homework and projects, your efforts have made a significant impact. Thank you for being our partners in education.

**Staff:** Your commitment and dedication have been the driving force behind our school's success. Your efforts to create a positive and effective learning environment are deeply appreciated. Thank you for your hard work and for going above and beyond to support our pupils. This year, like every school year has brought its share of challenges and triumphs. We have learned, grown, and celebrated many milestones together. As we look ahead, I am confident that our school community will continue to go from strength to strength – 'Is Treise Linn le Chéile'

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer break. Take this time to relax and recharge. I look forward to seeing everyone back at the end of August ready to go for another school year.

Best regards,

Barry O'Leary



Barry O'Leary  
Principal.