

NEWSLETTER – October 2023



St. John's N.S., Kenmare
Bunscoil Eoin Naofa, An Neidín
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Upcoming School Closings:

Closed: Monday, 30th Oct. 2023 to Friday, 3rd Nov. 2023 – Mid-Term Break
Closed: Friday, 8th Dec. 2023 – Holy Day

A full list of closures for the coming school year was distributed prior to the school holidays. Holiday list available to download from our website.

School Mass:

School Mass will take place in Holy Cross Church on Tuesday, 24th Oct at 10am.

Halloween Dress up Day:

As is traditional to celebrate Halloween, the children are being given the option of dressing up in their Halloween costume on Friday, October 27th. Prizes will be given in each class grouping for the best costume. This year we are asking the children to bring in €2 for Brú Columbanus, which provides “home from home” accommodation for the relatives of seriously ill patients in Cork Hospitals and Hospice, especially of sick children.



School Fundraiser:

St. John's National School fundraiser lotto, is a fundraising initiative and the money raised will be used to directly support your children's education and resources in our school, including, IT and curricular resources. As a school, we are committed to providing the very best for our pupils. We will keep you updated on what we have been able to purchase, so you can see the positive benefit of your support. We hope that the weekly option of 1 line for €2.50 will allow



everybody to contribute. It would be hugely appreciated if you can contribute €5 for 3 lines, and you never know, you might just win! You can scan the QR Code or follow the link <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/stjohnskenmare>

Breakfast and Afterschool Club:

Curious Minds have been offering a Breakfast Club and Afterschool service here in St. John's N.S. The Afterschool program provides homework supervision and a range of stimulating activities. The children enjoy arts and crafts, puzzles and sports. This not only keeps them engaged and entertained, but also promotes their creativity, social skills and physical well-being.

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal:

Leaflets are being distributed to pupils from 1st to 6th class encouraging them to send a Christmas Shoebox to a child struggling in poverty or with the effects of conflict in Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In the coming days pupils will also be shown a DVD giving information on what items can be put in the boxes. The deadline for return of the shoeboxes is Wednesday, November 8th.



Green Schools 2022-2024:

We are working on our 9th flag. We are working on the themes of Transport and Global Citizenship. We got off to a great start with our W.O.W. initiative: Walk on Wednesday. We had nearly 300 students walking on W.O.W. It is our aim to continue to encourage students to walk to school when possible. We are hoping to introduce a 'Golden Boot' initiative, where the class who have the most numbers walking each month will be awarded the 'Golden Boot' at the monthly assembly. More details to follow soon. Thanks to all our school community for their support.

Amber Flag Initiative:

The Pieta House Amber Flag Initiative recognises the individual efforts made by schools to support mental well-being. The whole school community worked together to create a positive, safe and healthy environment surrounding our mental health and well-being. We gained our 2023 Amber Flag in June, and the Amber Flag committee are going to continue with these initiatives to maintain the flag for 2024. We engaged in fun activities to promote positive mental health. Mental Health week took place from the 2nd-6th of October, the children enjoyed a wide range of activities. At the end of



Mental Health Week, we had a non-uniform day to raise money for Pieta House. We also had a wear your jersey day for Goal on October 13th. Money raised of €760 on October 6th will be donated to Pieta House and GOAL, two worthy charities. Thank you to all our pupils for supporting charity initiatives in our school.

Maths Week:

Maths Week took place from the 16th-20th of October. St. John's celebrated this week by participating in a range of Maths activities, to promote a positive attitude towards Maths and to give pupils more confidence in approaching the subject. The children enjoyed bingo, riddles, Maths buddies, Maths TV and doing a Maths trail.

Homework Club:

Homework Club takes place in St. John's N.S. Monday to Thursday from 3p.m.-3.45 p.m. for pupils from 2nd to 6th Class. This is a calm, peaceful and supportive environment that allows children to complete their homework on a daily basis. Forms are available in the school office. Alternatively, contact Mr. Hussey on ronanhussey@stjohnskenmare.ie for more information.

Hurling:

This term, children from 1st and 2nd have been enjoying hurling with Colm O'Brien. The children have been learning a wide range of hurling skills.

Cumann na mBunscol:

St. John's Cumann na mBunscol team won the Urban Division 2 South Blitz in Dr. Crokes GAA pitch in Killarney on October 5th. The team showed great skill, played some great football and won all three matches. Eoghan Downing accepted the Niall McGillicuddy shield. On October 12th, the team faced Gaelscoil Mhic Easpainn in the semifinal and were narrowly beaten. Many thanks to our fantastic coaches, Mr. Hussey and Mr. Morley. The boys and girls are a great credit to themselves and their families and are wonderful representatives for our school.

Incidental Inspection:

Gerard Quirke an inspector from the Department of Education carried out an incidental inspection in our school on October 4th. The focus of the inspection was English as an Additional Language, Mainstream teaching, Anti-Bullying and Child Protection. The overall feedback was positive on the practices that were observed.

Retirement:

On Friday, September 22nd our school secretary, Mrs. Nora Finnegan retired. Nora worked in St. Clare's and St. John's for many years. We wish Nora a happy and healthy retirement. Congratulations to Mrs. Julie Harrington on her appointment as our new school secretary. We wish Julie all the best in her new role. The school office will be closed every day from 12.30 p.m-1 p.m.

Appointments:

Congratulations to Ms. Ellen Murnane on her appointment as Permanent Teacher in St. John's N.S. having replaced Ms. Maria Laffey in September. Ms. Laffey returned to her home county, Galway. We want to thank Ms. Laffey for her commitment, hard work and musical talents which enriched many school ceremonies. We wish her all the best in her new school.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR PUPILS AND PARENTS
A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE HALLOWEEN**



Mise le meas,

Barry O'Leary

Barry O'Leary
Principal.