



## April – May 2022

Welcome back, everyone! We hope you all had some time to rest and recuperate over the Easter break. In some ways, it's hard to believe that we are beginning term three. A busy term lies ahead with many of our traditional school and sporting events returning! While we hope Covid continues to fade into the background, we continue to ask for your patience and understanding. We may encounter staffing difficulties this term due to the ongoing substitute shortage nationwide. We will keep you updated on what continues to be, a very fluid situation. For now, we will look forward to a summer term filled with plenty of sunshine, outdoor activities and child centred fun!

### **Office hours**

Our secretary's working hours are from 9:00am – 11:30am. Unless it is an emergency, please avoid ringing the school phone from 11:30am – 2:30pm. As a teaching principal, answering the phone can take from valuable teaching and learning time. We are happy to accept phone calls from 8:30am – 11:30am and again after 2:30pm.

**Drop off and collection arrangements** will continue to operate as they have been up to now. May I please remind you that school begins at 8:50am. School gates are locked at 9:00am for health and safety reasons. We would ask parents not to drive along the hall avenue in the morning time as children gather here on arrival.

### **Absences**

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, please fill in the 'Absence Form' on the homepage of the school website (see the green box). The school is required by law to report unexplained absences, frequent absences or late arrivals to school to the Education Welfare Office, who will investigate the report.

## **Enrolment**

We continue to receive enquiries about school placements for September 2022. If you know of any families looking for school placement, please ask them to contact the office for further information.

## **Termly bills**

Bills for this term will be set up on Aladdin and you will be notified of details in due course.

## **Homework**

Homework is to be completed each day. Please ensure that you sign your child's homework diary every day. If for any reason your child is unable to complete his/her homework on a given night, please provide an explanatory note.

## **School packed lunch**

Children must bring a healthy lunch to school – no fizzy drinks, no sweets, and no crisps, please. We are a Plastic Free and Healthy Eating School so we expect re-usable lunch boxes and drink bottles. No plastic straws. Children should bring water to drink – no juice/smoothie cartons please. Milk is available to order daily through the school. We would appreciate your cooperation with implementing all of the above in helping to maintain a healthy environment within the school.

## **Amber flag update**

As part of our renewal of the Amber Flag this year, we supported the work of Special Olympics Ireland and celebrated with them the importance of friendship in February. Friendship February was a fun chance for our pupils to take part in two acts of friendship a day across one week while raising funds for Special Olympics Ireland.

We know how important it is to be nice to one another and we learned how important kindness and friendship are for the athletes of Special Olympics Ireland. Through clubs and competitions, Special Olympics athletes make life-long friends, learn to include and support one another, help celebrate their successes and support each other through the tough times.

We also showed an act of kindness towards the athletes by raising a total of €277 in aid of Special Olympics Ireland. Thank you, everyone! This donation will go towards supporting children and adults with an intellectual disability across Ireland who are enjoying all the benefits of being part of a Special Olympics club, taking part in sports leagues, development days and healthy athlete programmes as well as so much more.

## **Clothing collection**

Many thanks to all who supported the clothing collection in February. €140 was raised and this money was used to purchase art materials.

## **House of circuits workshop**

The children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> class took part in an online workshop led by the Lifetime Lab based on the theme of electricity. The children learned about circuits, how to create them and conductors and insulators of electricity. They also had the opportunity to experiment with practical and hands on activities. A great time was had by all.

## **Active School Flag**

### **Cycling**

Ulick from Sprocket Rocket is expected to visit ourschool in May as part of Cork Bike Week to teach some practical cycling skills and road safety to the children in all classes. We have applied to Cork County Council for funding, and we hope that this will be a free event as a result. Thank you to the PA and Active School co-ordinators who researched this. More information to follow.

### **Running**

This month, the children will be 'Running Around Ireland'! This is an initiative to encourage children to run regularly over four weeks. We will create a measured running track around our school and pupils will have the opportunity to challenge themselves to run and record on their class map of Ireland, where they have collectively run.

### **Active Walkway**

The Active Walkway always gets lots of use in the Spring and Summer term. It has lots of diverse activities and challenges of a cross-curricular nature for all classes to partake in.

**Congratulations to Attila Magyar (5th class)** who came 2nd at a recent Munster Table Tennis Grand Prix held in Cork. What a wonderful achievement! We are delighted for you, Attila. Please continue to share good news stories with us! We love to hear of personal achievements.



### **Ukulele le Chéile**

Many thanks to Ms Christine Deady for her ukulele lessons to date. We will have a new teacher, Ms Isobel Towse coming to work with 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class in the summer term. She will be with us on Thursdays for approximately six weeks.

### **Inchydoney Ukulele le Chéile Gathering**

As part of our Creative Clusters initiative, all staff and pupils in our school hope to travel to Inchydoney Beach on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May (weather dependent) for a fun-filled ukulele bonanza in the amphitheatre. We will be joining with the children in Kilgarriffe NS and Ballymoney NS. There will be close to 200 staff and pupils congregating there. We are hoping that the children will jam together and perform for one another collectively and in groups; playing covers and pieces they have composed themselves in class. It is the culmination of a year of work. More details to follow.

### **Robotics - VEX IQ**

The 6<sup>th</sup> class children had a wonderful day visiting Kinsale Community School in March and learning about the VEX IQ robotics competition. Since then, they have been working in their classroom, building their very own robot under the tuition of some of the TY students from KCS, some of whom are past pupils. It's always a treat to welcome back familiar faces and see their fantastic contributions. On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> class went to Sáile to see a VEX IQ competition in progress and to gain ideas, insights and have an opportunity to mingle with other children from other local schools. Many thanks to Niamh Hay, the TY Co-ordinator in KCS, who applied for funding for a robot kit for St Multose, and for supporting us and liaising with us on this new journey of discovery!

### **Polytunnel**

The children have been busy preparing the ground for planting. They have dug in the green manure, added some of the compost we made last autumn and have been watering the beds like mad!

Each classroom has been planting and propagating seeds ready to plant out after Easter; tomatoes, beans, peas, pumpkins, cucumbers, carrots etc.

The senior children prepared some of the ground outside the polytunnel for wildflowers to support pollinators and some of the children in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class have planted the seeds. Hopefully, we will have a wonderful show of flowers very soon.

### **School Plant Shop**

Some of the children in Mrs Buttimer and Ms Whitley's room have been preparing plants for sale. If you would like to buy some strawberry plants, they are now ready and flowering. They are available for €2 per plant. We also have a selection of dried herbs for sale. All funds will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the school polytunnel. Please email Sue in the office if you would like to purchase some.

### **ISSA Sports events**

We would like to reiterate our thanks to all who gave of their time and helped on 2<sup>nd</sup> April during the ISSA hockey blitz. Other events which are due to take place this term include a soccer blitz and the athletics event which takes place in CIT. We are regularly looking for volunteers and helpers for these events and others. As a school, we are obligated to have any visiting teachers/volunteers vetted. If you would be interested in getting involved and have not already been vetted, please contact Sue in the office and she will send you the relevant information and forms.

### **PA news**

We would like to extend our huge thanks to the Parents' Association. Already, this year, the PA has agreed to fund both the cost of laying a new footpath into the polytunnel and the installation of LED classroom lights in the two older classrooms. The PA will host a table quiz in Acton's Hotel on the 11<sup>th</sup> May at 6:15pm. (Please see the flyer attached) This is not only an opportunity to raise funds for our school but also a chance to meet each other face to face, something which has been very difficult to organise over the last two years. There is an array of fantastic prizes up for grabs. It's always a great night in the PA calendar. Keep an eye out in your child's schoolbag for further information regarding this event. Even if you can't make the event, you can still support the school by purchasing raffle tickets.

### **Booklists and uniform orders for academic year 2022/2023**

Information regarding booklists and uniform for next academic year will be relayed to you later in the term. Please keep an eye on your child's schoolbag over the coming weeks as we will send home any unused copies before you place your order for next year.

### **Dates for your diary: Term 3**

May Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May
PA Quiz Night	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May at 6:15pm, Actons Hotel
June Bank Holiday	Monday 6th June
School Sports Day	10 <sup>th</sup> June (Weather permitting)
Incoming students open hour	Provisional date – 16 <sup>th</sup> June
School Tour	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June Smugglers Cove and The Lagoon Activity Centre, Rosscarbery  Specific details and costings will be sent to you nearer the time
Summer Holidays	Tuesday 28th June School finishes following End of Year Service

**Holiday list for academic year 2022/2023 to follow soon**