



## PARENT UPDATE

April 2024

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Welcome back to school after what has hopefully been an enjoyable and restful break over Easter. Below I will share our plans for a busy third term at Kilmaine. These dates are subject to change and please also note there could be additions as new events are added throughout the term.

### Dates for your Diary

15 – 19 April	Years 2- 7	Prayer Space at Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church
17 April	Year 7	Class visits from Extern (also 24 Apr and 1, 15, 22 & 29 May)
18 April	Year 7	Badminton (also 25 April, 2, 16 & 23 May)
	Years 1 - 4	FS/ KS1 assembly, led by D. Hamilton, Towerview Church
19 April	Years 5 - 7	KS2 assembly, led by R. Sinnamon
22 April	Y3K	'Musical Pathways' performances for parents
	Y3O	'Musical Pathways' performances for parents
	Parents & teachers	PTA Committee meeting, 7pm
23 April	Year 7	Bible Explorers sessions commence (also 30 Apr, 14, 21 & 28 May)
23 – 25 April	Whole school	Kilmaine proudly presents, 'The Art Exhibition' – please see information already circulated on School Jotter and Facebook
25 April	Nursery & Year 1	Places offered for new nursery and year 1 children in September 2024
25 April	Years 1 - 4	FS/ KS1 assembly, led by G. Johnston, Scrabo Hall
	Parents	PTA Quiz. More info on Facebook. Tickets can be purchased at the door. 7.30 – 10pm.
26 April	Years 5 - 7	KS2 assembly, led by M. Nicholl, Bangor Elim
1 May	Year 1	Visit to W5
	Year 6	Parents are invited to attend a SEAG and Ganaway information event, school hall, 6pm
2 May	Years 1 - 4	FS/ KS1 assembly, led by N. Watson, Ballycrochan Baptist
3 May	Whole school	Staff Development Day – school is closed to all pupils
6 May	Whole school	Bank Holiday – school is closed to all pupils and staff
7 – 8 May	Year 7	Y7V and half of Y7M residential trip to Delamont
8 – 9 May	Year 6	Y6M And half of Y6B residential trip to Ganaway
9 – 10 May	Year 7	Y7D and half of Y7M residential trip to Delamont
9 – 10 May	Year 6	Y6C and half of Y6B residential trip to Ganaway
9 May	Years 1 – 4	FS/ KS1 assembly, led by E. Boal
10 May	Years 5 – 7	KS2 assembly, led by G. Johnston, Scrabo Hall
14 May	Year 6	Tag rugby session
17 May	Year 4	Trip to the Ark Open Farm
18 May	Year 7	Post primary school notification
20 May	Year 7	'Love for Life' sessions
23 May	Years 1 - 4	FS/ KS1 assembly, led by C. Sleator, SUNI

24 May	Whole school	Staff Development Day – school is closed to all pupils
27 May	Whole school	Bank Holiday – school is closed to all pupils and staff
29 May	Year 6	Sports Day
30 May	Nursery	Morning session visit to Clandeboye Forest School – no afternoon nursery class today
	Year 7	‘It’s Your Move’ sessions begin (also 6 & 13 Jun)
	Years 1 - 4	FS/ KS1 assembly, led by D. Hamilton, Towerview Church
	Whole school	PTA Summer Fair, 5 – 7pm
31 May	Years 5- 7	KS2 assembly, led by B. Cavan, Ballycrochan Presbyterian
	Nursery	Afternoon session visit to Clandeboye Forest School – no morning nursery class today
	Years 1 - 7	Active Youth NI and Kilmaine’s fundraising fitness event for ‘GOSH – Hearts and Lungs for Kids’. More information to follow.
JUNE – Dates TBC	Whole school	Kilmaine’s ‘Musical Summer Showcases’ will take place over two nights in June. Expect to be entertained with performances from the choirs and orchestra. More information to follow.
3 – 5 Jun	Year 1	New year 1 pupils for enrolment in Sept 2024 are visiting classrooms. Specific info for early home times for current year 1 pupils has already been shared
3, 5 & 7 Jun	Selected year 5 – 7 pupils	North Down Athletics
4 Jun	Year 5	Sports Day
6 & 7 Jun	Nursery	New nursery pupils for enrolment in Sept 2024 are visiting. No morning or afternoon sessions on these days for current nursery pupils.
6 Jun	New Year 1 parents	‘Welcome to Year 1’ evening, 7.30pm
6 Jun	Years 1 - 4	FS/ KS1 assembly, led by B. Cavan, Ballycrochan Prebyterian
	Year 5	Visit from Exploris and ‘Beach Day’
7 Jun	Years 5 - 7	KS2 assembly, led by D. Hamilton, Towerview Church
	Year 2	Sports Day
10 & 11 Jun	Years 1 - 7	‘Amazing Journey’
10 June	Year 7	Sports Day
12 June	Year 4	Sports Day
13 June	Year 5	Year 5 parents are invited to ‘Beach Day’ – more information to follow
	Years 1 - 4	FS/ KS1 assembly, led by D. Hamilton, Towerview Church
14 June	Years 5 - 7	KS2 assembly, led by R. Gamble, Trinity
	Year 3	Y3B and half of Y3K, trip to Carrickfergus Castle
18 June	Year 3	Y3O and half of Y3K, trip to Carrickfergus Castle
	Year 6 & 7 selected pupils	Tag Rugby Blitz
19 June	Year 3	Sports Day
20 June	Year 6	Rounders Tournament
24 June	Year 7	PTA’s ‘Shorts and Shades’ party for year 7 pupils
	Year 1	Jump, Jiggle and Jive party for year 1 pupils
	Parents & teachers	PTA Committee meeting, 7pm

25 June	Year 7	Parents are invited to our Year 7 Leavers' Service, 1.45pm
	Year 1	Sports Day
	Whole school	Pupil annual reports will be sent home
26 June	Year 7	Disco and last day for year 7 pupils, finish at 12 noon.
	Years 1 – 6 pupils	'Meet Your New Teacher' day
27 June	Nursery	Last day for Nursery pupils
	Selected pupils	ABRSM music examinations
28 June	Years 1 - 6	Whole school assembly
28 June	Years 1 – 6 pupils	Last day of school. Pupils finish at 12 noon.

### Uniform Reminders

Many pupils take the opportunity in this term to wear the 'summer uniform', although this is not compulsory. Children in years 1 to 7 may wear grey shorts, a white polo shirt and the yellow jumper; or the yellow summer dress and white cardigan. There has been some debate over white trainers – these are permitted if they are *plain white*, but the traditional school shoes are adequate and we are not encouraging anyone to go to the expense of purchasing white trainers just for school.

We continue to take pride in appearance and a tidy uniform. We maintain the highest of standards with school uniform, because this in turn reflects positively on children's attitude and behaviour. Do not be surprised if your child is wearing incorrect uniform and a member of staff gently reminds them of the appropriate uniform. No jewellery beyond a plain stud ear-ring should be worn by any pupil.

### School Development Planning

Kilmaine staff are continually reflecting on best practice, leading school improvement programmes and developing the curriculum to improve outcomes for all the children that attend the school. Look out this term for the 'Parent Survey', where senior leaders, teachers and curriculum coordinators will be asking for your feedback. We plan to use this information to inform our future planning and strategic direction as we commence a new three-year cycle of school development planning in September 2024.

### School Finances

I have spoken before about the dire financial circumstances all schools, including ours, are faced with. More than ever, I wish to highlight and personally thank the vital work of the PTA at Kilmaine. We have relied on this financial support to subsidise school trips, purchase educational resources such as iPads and reading books, and generally to enrich the opportunities we can offer the pupils who attend. If possible, please give generously to the PTA's fundraising efforts.

### Homework

If you have not already, I encourage you to read the school's Homework Policy, available on the website. Homework is a vital part of learning and yet the staff at Kilmaine do realise there is a fine balance between allowing the children opportunities to be proud of and experience success with their home learning and activities, whilst still having the opportunity for all the extra-curricular activities which children of this generation are often engaged with.

*In an age appropriate manner, we encourage you to support your children with ALL aspects of homework: reading, learning and written homework, spellings and maths information. Homework is still issued and viewed as really important in term three and it often sets the precedent and groundwork for your child's transition into the next school year.*

### Health and Safety at our School

I politely remind you that dogs are not allowed on school grounds, under any circumstances, without prior permission from myself and the Board of Governors. If your child is at the stage of walking home from school or leaving school grounds to meet a car a little further away, please constantly remind your children of road safety and the high expectations of behaviour and attitude that are required of all pupils at all times. With the lighter evenings drawing in, I do see lots of Kilmaine children socialising around our local area. Teachers will be reminding pupils of 'stranger danger', road safety, anti-social behaviour and their responsibilities as young, moral citizens, so thank you for reinforcing these messages at home.

Thank you for your support in all of the above. My door is always open or catch me in the mornings at drop-off or at home time for a quick hello, or to speak more specifically about any of the matters raised.

Yours sincerely,

*R. Sinnamon*

Principal

**OUR KILMAINE FAMILY**

