

VOLUME 1 • FEBRUARY 2021

THE KILCOSKAN TIMES

THE KNS PA NEWSLETTER



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A BIG HELLO FROM THE KNS PA COMMITTEE

We hope everyone is keeping well despite the challenges the new year has brought with it.

We're all missing the (socially-distant!) catch-ups at the school gates, so we've put together this newsletter to help keep in touch.

Hopefully all students learning from home are in good spirits, despite missing their friends. We're sure you're as impressed with the efforts the teachers are making as we are!

A big welcome back to the small classes, who return to KNS on the 22nd February. You must be really excited and we're sure you'll enjoy catching up with your classmates and teachers.

Hopefully, you'll find this newsletter useful and if you want to contact us about anything, feel free to email us at kns.parents.association@gmail.com.



FUNDRAISING SUPER STARS

Kilcoskan really is the best little school when it comes to fundraising!

We want to say a massive THANK YOU to all who contributed to our Christmas fundraiser. You're a generous bunch and we're thrilled to announce we raised over €2,000! This will be used to continue to fund tennis coaching and to purchase much-needed sports equipment for our kids to enjoy.

Thanks also for supporting our children's creativity - their gorgeous personalised Christmas cards raised €805.

The KNS Christmas Jumper Day raised more than a few smiles too, with €289.20 being collected for the wonderful cause that is LauraLynn.

And last but not least, our clothes collection in November raised €184.

More good news...

When the students get back to school, they'll find a new table tennis table set up in the school yard shelter. This was donated by the workplace of one of our PA Committee Members. In its former life, the table entertained adults in the break room of an office, but thanks to a growing workforce, that break room has turned into a meeting room. We're sure the table will have much more fun in its new home with the KNS kids!

Coming up next...

OUR SPRING CLOTHES COLLECTION WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE EASTER BREAK. SO WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED STUFFING YOURSELF WITH EASTER EGGS, GET UNSTUFFING THOSE WARDROBES!

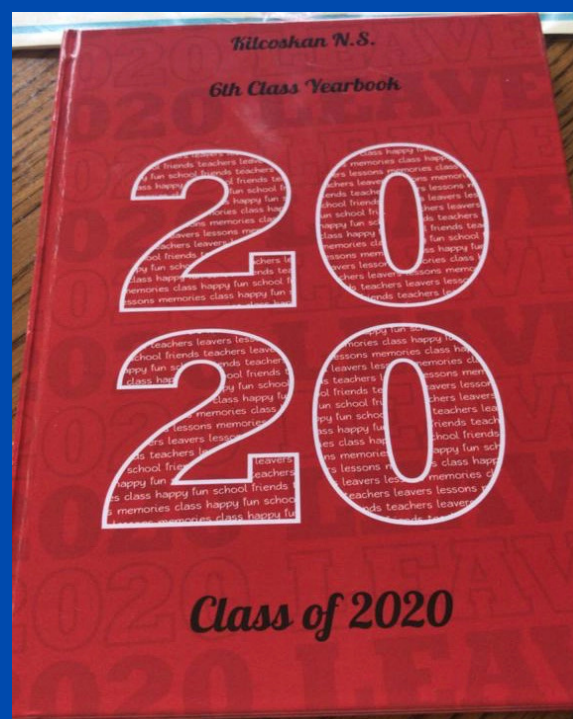


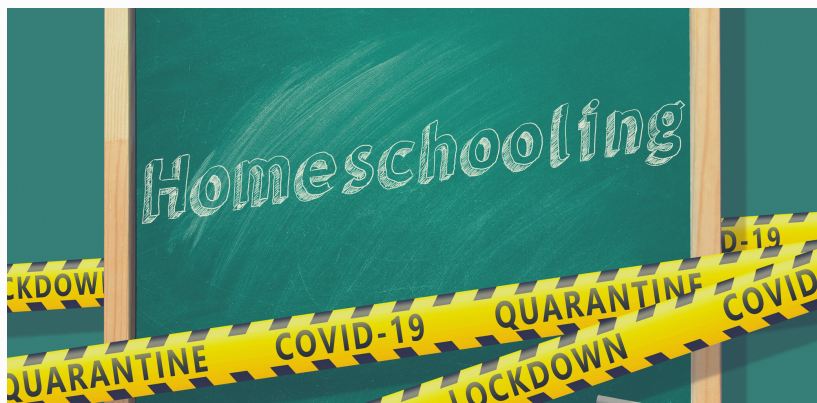
A GREAT SEND-OFF FOR THE CLASS OF 2020!

After a long wait, 6th class had their confirmation and graduation in July 2020, when restrictions finally allowed.

Everyone wanted to make it really special for them as they had missed their last few months in KNS with the first lockdown. The school organised a week long end-of-term camp in school and we finished the week off with a small and safe graduation celebration in the Coolquay Lodge. It really lifted everyone's spirits and it was lovely to give the children the send-off they deserved.

The Parents' Association was delighted to fund a yearbook as a surprise for the students and we really hope to make this an annual tradition for each graduating class. The yearbook that is, not the lockdown!





HOMESCHOOLING – SEND HELP!

The KNS Teachers have been playing a blinder and we'd like to thank them for the huge efforts they're making. It's a challenging time for everyone - all we can do is our best!

The Irish Times, with the assistance of Parents, Teachers & Schools, recently compiled a list of useful homeschool resources. We wanted to share them here - you might find some of them useful.

Home School Hub

RTÉ's Home School Hub proved a big hit with pupils and parents during the previous school closures; its subsequent Afterschool Hub has lots of great content. Programmes and activities can be played back on the RTÉ Player. There's a wide archive of ideas, worksheets and activities at [rte.ie/learn](https://www.rte.ie/learn).

BBC Bitesize ([bbc.co.uk/bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize))

While tailored for the UK education system, there's a big crossover with our own and it's broken down by age range.

Khan Academy ([khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org))

Non-profit site that provides free video tutorials in maths and reading.

IXL.com ([IXL.com](https://www.ixl.com))

Subscription-based learning experience that provides curriculum-aligned maths and English content from junior infants up to sixth year.

Storyberries.com ([storyberries.com](https://www.storyberries.com))

A free, online collection of easy-to-read and beautifully illustrated stories, comics and poems for kids. You can select stories by theme.

Handwritingpractice.net ([handwritingpractice.net](https://www.handwritingpractice.net))

Whatever happened to the art of handwriting? This site lets you create custom handwriting practice worksheets.

Sarah Webb's writing games

Award-winning children's writer Sarah Webb is posting fun writing games and story prompts over on Twitter (@sarahwebbishere).

Cúla4 ([cula4.com](https://www.cula4.com))

This free Irish app from TG4 is aimed at two groups: Cúla4 na nÓg is aimed at under-sixes, while Cúla4 is aimed at older children. As well as TV shows, there are games and creativity sections.

Go Noodle ([gonoodle.com](https://www.gonoodle.com))

Movement and mindfulness videos created by child development experts and used widely by teachers who say it is a great opportunity for kids to wake up their bodies, engage their minds and be their best.

Super Troopers ([supertroopers.ie](https://www.supertroopers.ie))

Super Troopers offers a health homework programme that encourages children and their families to live happier and more active lifestyles.

Scratch (scratch.mit.edu)

Coding! Learn to program interactive games, stories and animations.

National Geographic Kids

Learn about science, geography and history at kids.nationalgeographic.com.



Missed Mr. Christie talking about school closures on Claire Byrne Live?

Catch the interview on the RTÉ Player! Broadcast date: February 15th.

TAKE 5 WITH MR CHRISTIE

How are you finding this lockdown?

None of these lockdowns are easy – for people with kids or without – but it certainly seems to be more difficult this time round for an awful lot of people. The uncertainty over how effective lockdowns are doesn't help – I think a lot of people now feel the cure is worse than the disease. I must say I've always been sceptical of the damage done to young children in particular.

Any advice for the kids schooling from home?

I think learning outdoors is a really important way to learn about topics. It also gives you the opportunity to be with other people safely and we all know that the social part of learning is hugely important for children – they learn as much from their peers as they do from the teacher.

Any words of wisdom for parents/guardians?

I think parents and guardians are better equipped this time round to meet the challenge. I would hope that those struggling to home school their kids don't feel too down over it; that's something that teachers get used to as we all have good and bad and average days!!

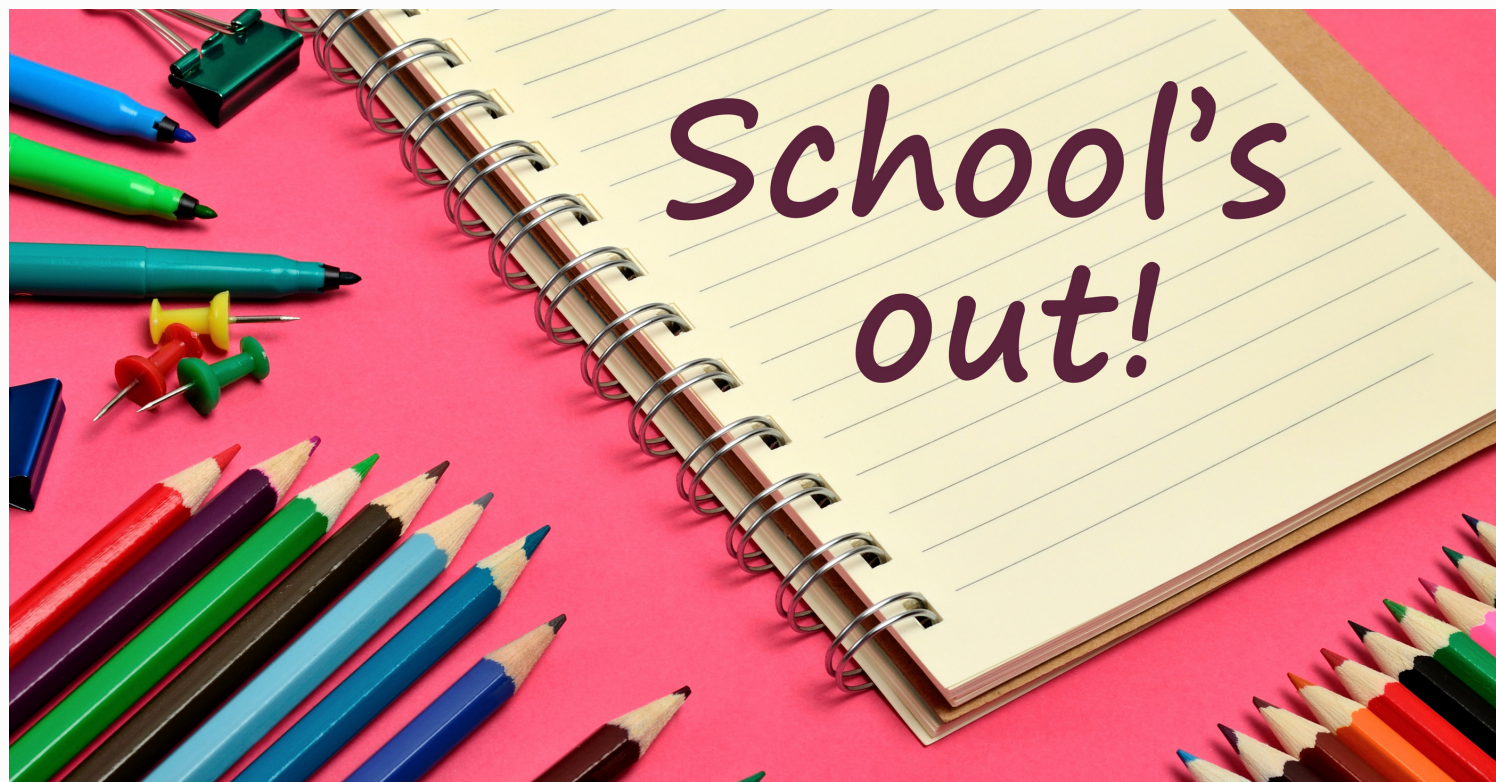
Wisdom involves knowing when to push past a sticky point and when it's best to change direction. I genuinely feel that parents shouldn't get too big into online learning as I think it makes it easier for the government to justify school closures – which I think a lot of us don't want for the reasons mentioned above!

How are the KNS teachers finding it?

I personally am delighted with how flexible and positive the teachers in our school are – it's not something many of them want to do I'm sure, but they are digging in and getting through it. Negative things like this, while making life difficult, really show people's passion for teaching. We all can truck along nicely when things are going well but it's only in adversity that character is revealed.

What are you most looking forward to when the school fully reopens?

I would like to hear the bell again and the kids going out to the yard in groups full of chat and energy and fun. I would like the kids to be able to see their teachers smiling approvingly at them and to be able to hug the younger kids if they fall in the yard or are upset. This is what makes a school – the care and attention children get. Kids will only care about what you know when they know about how much you care.



DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE REST OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

St. Patrick's Day Break

School will be closed on Wednesday 17th (Bank Holiday), Thursday 18th and Friday 19th March. School reopens on Monday 22nd March.

Easter Holidays

School closes on Friday 26th March at 12pm. School reopens on Monday 12th April.

May Bank Holiday Break

School will be closed on Friday 30th April, Monday 3rd May and Tuesday 4th May. School reopens on Wednesday 5th May.

June Bank Holiday Break

School will be closed on Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th, Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June. School reopens on Wednesday 9th June.

Summer Holidays

School closes for summer holidays on Wednesday 30th June at 12pm.