



Allen National School Newsletter

2024/2025 Issue 20

June 6th 2025



REMINDER

School will close at 11:30am on Monday June 9th for staff training. Please note this closure has changed from Tuesday June 10th to facilitate 5th class pupils to participate in the Music Generation Kildare Concert.

Childline Breakfast & Brunch a Huge Success



Kindly brought to you by

John W. Cambridge

On Friday June 6th, the Student Council co-ordinated by Ms Conway, treated us all to a lovely treat – breakfast and brunch in school. They transformed our school hall into a first-class restaurant. They served a range of breakfast options from fruit, cereals, sausage rolls, rashers, croissants, toast, brown bread, a range of fruit juices, milk and tea. The breakfast was in aid of ChildLine, Ireland's only national call service for children. Many thanks to all parents who sent in donations. Proceeds will go to the charity and the Student Council.





We have had a number of enquiries from parents asking if it is still possible for their children to join and participate in the coding lessons. We have contacted Coding Ireland and they have very kindly agreed to provide more licences if required. If your child is not currently participating and you would like them to, the cost is €9. Please contact Colette in the office.

We feel like dancing, dancing, dancing

Great fun was had on Wednesday with our dancing lessons organised by Mr McNally taking place in the community hall. Dancing is taking place instead of Gymnastics this year. All classes attended to get a taste of what is in store over the coming weeks. We are planning a dancaton as part of our Activity Week this year – may the best class win!!! The cost of the dancing is €17 and payment notifications have issued via Aladdin. We would appreciate if payments could be made by Tuesday 10th June please and thanks.



School Tours

Notification of School Tours was carried in the past two Newsletters. Teachers will commence preparations for the tours with their classes over the coming weeks.

Notification for payment for tours has also issued to all parents. We are asking all parents who have not yet paid for the school tour to please do so by Friday the 13th of June at the latest. Venues have to be paid in advance and with school finances across the country really under pressure this year it is not possible for the Board to carry the costs of the school tours this year. Therefore, payment needs to be made on or before the 13th of June in order that the entry fee for your child can be paid in advance as required by the various venues. If you are not in a position to pay for the school tour please contact Ms McDonagh in confidence.



Summer Programme and Home Based Summer Programme 2025

It was the Board's intention to run the Summer Programme in school again this year. The Programme ran last year and proved to be a valuable addition to our school and a very positive benefit to the children who took part. However, the Board had applied to have some building work completed on the school over the summer period and we have just learned that our application has been successful. While this is a very positive development for our school we have had to await dates from contractors. These dates have been confirmed today and the Board has had to commit to not use the school building over the summer holidays. Therefore, unfortunately we will not be in a position to hold the summer programme this year.

A Home Based Summer Programme is available and have just been published on the Department of Education's website.

Any parents with children eligible to participate in the programme are advised to access the overview of the Home Based Summer Programme 2025 on the Department of Education's website at the following link:

<https://gov.ie/en/department-of-education/publications/summer-programme-2025-home-based-programme/>

should you require any further information on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact Ms McDonagh or Ms Conway.

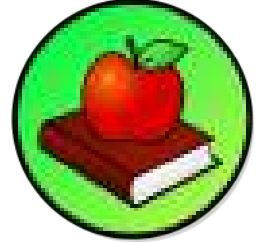
Presentation of Hoodies to 6th class pupils

The Board of Management, represented by Ms.Miriam Nolan and Ms. McDonagh, presented 6th class pupils with their Class of 25 hoodies at the school assembly on Thursday this week. The hoodies represent the final stage in the pupils journey through primary school. Board members congratulated all the girls and boys and reflected on the eight years they have spent in Allen National School. They affirmed them for their hard work dedication, determination, friendship, loyalty and their growth and personal development over their time in the school. They spoke to each child individually wishing them well in their upcoming transition to second level. Ms. Brennan paid tribute to the class and noted how they had all matured so much during 6th class and how they now act as good role models for the other pupils. The presentation was observed by all the pupils of the school who joined with the Board and staff in cheering our 6th class pupils and giving them a huge round of applause. The pupils then changed into their new hoodie symbolising they are now embracing their final weeks in primary school with fond memories and great excitement for the adventure that lies ahead. Many thanks to the Board members, Ms McDonagh, Ms Brennan and Colette for organising the 2025 hoodies.



Free Books Scheme

The free book scheme for primary schools will continue next year. School books, workbooks, copies and some digital resources will be provided free of charge for all pupils. Details of parent fees will issue before the end of the current school year.



Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour

Ms. Fulham our Anti Bullying Coordinator has updated our Anti-Bullying Policy with guidance from of the Department of Education's Bí Cineálta Guidelines. In line with the Guidelines, surveys were conducted with pupil, staff and parents. The draft has currently been provided to the Student Council, the staff and the PTA for comment. Suggestions received will be incorporated and the policy will then be presented to the Board of Management for consideration and ratification. The new policy will then be available on the school website for all parents.



Upcoming Events and Dates for your Diaries

June 9th	School closes at 11:30 AM for all pupils
June 10th	5thA and 5thB pupils attending Music Generation Kildare Concert in Newbridge
June 16th	3rd and 4th class school tour
June 24th	5th and 6th class school tour
June 25th	1st and 2nd class school tour
June 26th	End of Year School Mass 11 AM All are Welcome
June 26th	6th Class Graduation Ceremony for six class pupils and their families
June 24th to 27th	Active Schools Week and Outdoor Classrooms (weather permitting)
June 27th	11:30am School's out – Summer Holidays

End of Year Accounts

Our Accountant is working with our Treasurer to complete our End of Year Accounts. The accounts are highlighting shortfalls in payments from some parents. Reminders have issued to parents in relation to the payment of fees for last year's gymnastic lessons and swimming lessons that their children attended. Unfortunately, some parents have still not paid the fees due. In addition, there are a number of parents who have not paid for some of the school activities this year. If you are aware that you have outstanding monies owed to the school can you please make payment this week. If you are unsure please feel free to ring Colette and she will be able to inform you. Accounts are overseen by the FSSU (Financial Support Services Unit). Shortfalls in parent payments will mean that the Board will have to revise the number and range of extracurricular activities being provided for the children. As the majority of parents pay, it would be a great shame to have to deprive children of these various experiences, however the Board may have no option as the cost of running the school is running ahead of grants provided by the Department of Education over the past number of years.

The Board would really appreciate prompt payment now of all outstanding monies in order that the Treasurer and the Accountant can finalise the accounts. If after Friday 13th of June fees remain unpaid the Board will have no other option but to formally write to parents involved requesting payment. As always, for families who are in financial difficulty or have particular issues and cannot afford to pay, payment plans can be put in place and parents can contact the Principal in confidence to put a plan in place to clear any arrears. The Board would like to thank sincerely all those who do and have made payments to support the provision of enhanced learning opportunities for the children

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

We are Going Solar!



The Board of Management has been working to ensure we are playing our part in embracing renewable energies. The Board's application under the Schools Photovoltaic Programme has been successful and next week we will see the installation of mounted solar panels on the roof of our school. This is another milestone in ensuring the future sustainability of our local school for the local community. Working with the installation company the Principal has ensured that monitoring software will be provided inside the school which will allow the children to monitor the energy being generated by the solar panels on an hour by hour, day by day and seasonal basis. This will provide real time data and will enhance their understanding of how renewable energies work. It will also allow them to better understand the science and technology involved. When we are up and running, we will make the facility available for parents to visit and for the children to explain it all. Most of all we look forward to the reduced electricity costs promised!!

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