

St. Kilian's National School

Ní Neart Go Cur le Chéile

Imlitir 2 **Mí Deireadh Fómhair**



History was made on Tuesday evening in Breffni Park when our hurling team won a first Div. 1 Cumann na Bunscol title. The team defeated Cootehill N.S. on a scoreline of 6-0 to 1-1. Vice Captains Seán Harney and Bríon Boylan were delighted to accept the cup on behalf of the team. There were superb performances by every boy on the pitch. This title would not have been won without the efforts of the wider panel, many of whom featured in the previous rounds. The school is very grateful to Mr. Maher and Ms. Denning for all their hard work and dedication. It is wonderful to see the skills and love of camogie and hurling being passed on to our pupils. We thank our teachers for once again giving of their time, skills and expertise in the spirit of volunteerism. The team was: Brodi Cranston, Calum Sherlock, Jamie O Reilly (2 goals), Bríon Boylan (2 goals), Seán Harney (2 goals), Ruan Tighe, Seán Haigney, Daithi Whittaker, Alex McDermott, Culann Duffy, Euan Duignan, Emmet Nolan.



Attendance: We are anxious that parents be aware of the absolute necessity for regular punctual attendance at school and that we all work together to improve this area. Parents of pupils with poor attendance will be invited to the school to discuss the matter. We are tracking those pupils who continually leave early especially on Fridays!



We encourage pupils to come to school on time. We can all be late occasionally however pupils who are consistently late are disrupting the smooth running of the school. Our school opens to receive pupils at 8.40. All pupils should be through the front gate by 8.50am.

Parent Teacher Meetings: Parent teacher meetings for 1st to 6th Class will commence on Tuesday 19th Nov. Bookings will go live on Aladdin after mid-term break. Your attendance at these meetings is very important to us.

Sacraments: Confirmation Fri 21st March at 6pm in St. Kilian's Church.
First Holy Communion in St. Kilian's Church, Mullagh on Saturday 24th May at 11.00am.



Book Fair: Thank you to all the families who supported our recent book fair. The fair generated a little over €2,600, 60% of which can now be spent on books for our school.

Annual Admission Notice.

Admission Policy and Application Form (School Year 2025/26)

A copy of the school's Admission Policy and the Application Form for Admission for 2025/26 is available as follows: download at: <http://www.stkiliansnsmullagh.ie>

On request: Email mullaghns@gmail.com

Part 1. Application and Decision Dates for Admission to St. Kilian's 2025/26

The school will commence accepting applications for admission	25 th Nov 2024
The school will cease accepting applications for admission	10 th Jan
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is	24 th Jan
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission	7 th Feb

Note: the school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance with the school's admission policy. Failure to accept an offer within the prescribed period above may result in the offer being withdrawn.

Number of places available in 2025/26

Number of places in Junior Infants	2 Classes (48 pupils).
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Part 2 - Admissions to the 2024 / 2025 school year

In respect of the 2024/25 school year, the total number of applications for admission received by the school was: 35. All were allocated places.

Maths Week 2024

We celebrated Maths Week in St. Kilian's N.S. last week. It included events and activities for all the pupils and even their families. There was a family maths challenge on Aladdin. Lots of children solved this problem at home with their siblings and parents. There were daily estimation challenges and paired maths trails. Pupils really enjoyed working with children from older and younger classes on the trails around the school.

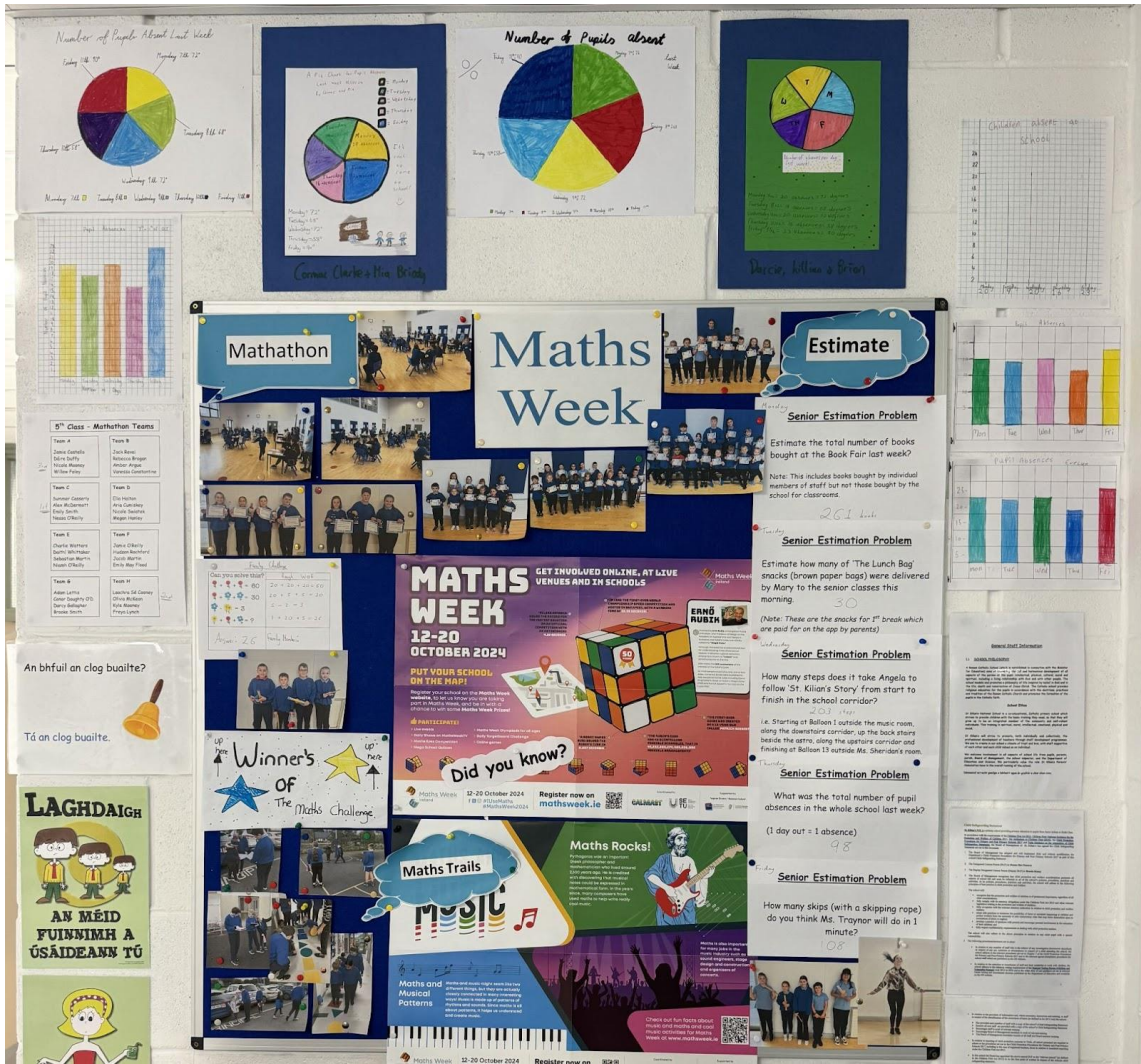


Family Challenge Winners

5th Class pupils completed a Mathathon in the GP Room. They worked in teams of four to solve a series of maths questions. Some questions were difficult and required a lot of thought. It often took them a few attempts to get the question correct. Well done to all of the boys and girls in 5th class who took part in this year's Mathathon. Congratulations to Neasa, Summer, Emily and Alex who finished in 1st place.



Prizes were presented to all the winners at a whole-school assembly on Friday where Ms. Traynor took part in a live estimation challenge. She achieved 108 skips with a skipping rope in only 1 minute. Well done Ms. Traynor! We all had great fun celebrating Maths Week this year.



Help Us to Help Your Child at School.



This term we worked on, *I Ask How to Improve.*

I Know I Have to Work Hard to Improve.

Gaeilge Neamh, Bainigí triail as sa bhaile. (Try these out at home)

Gaeilge Neamh: Téama Bia (Food)

An bhfuil orcas ort? (hungry) Tá orcas (an domhain) orm./Níl orcas orm.

An bhfuil (ceapaire) agat le haighaigh an lóin? Tá/Níl ceapaire agam le haighaigh an lóin.

Taitníonn _____ go mór liom.

Cén bia is fearr leat? Is fearr liom _____. (what food is your favourite?)

Cé acu ab fhearr leat _____ nó _____? B'fhearr liom _____. (prefer?)

Céard atá i do bhosca lóin? (lunch box) Tá ceapaire i mo bhosca lóin.

Línte Gníomhaíochta: Bogaigí (rithigí) ar an spota go mall... bígí ar bhur dtapa níos tapúla...chomh tapa agus is féidir libh.

Déan(aigí) seac léimní ar feadh _____(jumping jacks).



B.O.M. Summary Report.

There was a board meeting earlier this month. I am sharing a summary report from the meeting with the parentbody.

Correspondence	i) Pedestrian Crossing; exit procedures changed due to an incident in September. Now all children filter through the gate and cross at the pedestrian crossing. The Parents Association have written to Cavan Co Council insisting something is done regarding road markings etc outside the school. The board read all the correspondence in relation to this. We note John Mc Gahern's commitment to improve safety on the approach road and we look forward to seeing this work commence. iii) Fr Paul expressed his gratitude to the School community with regard to the preparations for St Kilian's relics. See attached letter from Fr Paul.
Bus Escort	Capitation rate up by €24 per pupil (€8,040). €45 million in cost of living once-off supports. €37 per pupil (€12,395). No change to pupil teacher ratios.
Draft Code of Behaviour	This was previously circulated. We examined it as a body. Policy adopted by the board. It has previously been shared with the Parents Assoc. Discussed at meeting Proposed by Greg, Seconded by Paul.
Annual BOM	This was previously circulated to all board members. Will be shared in

Report to Parents	the next newsletter and with PA at their next meeting.
Uniform Swap	To be discussed further with PA. Ronan will flag it.
St. Kilian's Day	<p>St. Kilian's Day will now be put in our annual school calendar. First Friday of October every year St Kilian will be celebrated in our school. A plaque could be put at the school entrance to acknowledge that St Kilian is celebrated in our school on the first Friday of October every year.</p> <p>The BOM acknowledged and praised the staff for their hard work and dedication in preparation for St Kilian's relics coming to Mullagh.</p>
Principal's Report	
School Improvement Plan	<p>i) Numeracy - there is a SIP in place. Maths Week commencing Mon 14th. New Primary Maths Curriculum being rolled out.</p> <p>ii) Wellbeing - local studies, giving pupils a sense of place and identity. The work we have done in preparation for the relics is very important.</p>
Ethos	<p>i) We examined our ethos at our first staff meeting. We looked at how it impacts our role as teachers, SNA's and colleagues.</p> <p>ii) We, as staff, have visited the St. Kilian exhibition in the Heritage Centre.</p> <p>iii) Pupils prepared the school for the visit of the relics.</p> <p>iv) Prayer service held in the Church.</p> <p>v) The board walked around the school viewing the displays on the corridors.</p>

BOM Annual Report to Parents.

2023/24.

This is the twelfth annual report from the Board of Management of Saint Kilian's N.S., to the general parent body. Its aim is to improve communication between the BOM and parents and to raise awareness of the work of the board in line with the requirements of the Education Act.

The Board of Management.

The board has eight members - two parents' representatives, two community representatives, two members of our teaching staff (one being the principal) and two

Patron's nominees. Each B.O.M. runs for a four year term. The present board's term began in November 2023. The board exists as follows:

Parent Representatives: Emma Ormiston and Greg Kerrigan.

Community Representatives: Paul Gilsenan, Joanna Mc Gregor.

Teaching Representatives: Michelle Mc Govern, Ronan Mac Namara.

Patron's Nominee: Fr. Paul Prior, Brenda Monaghan

Child Protection

Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection: Ronan Mac Namara.

Deputy Liaison Person for Child Protection: Breeda Kenny.

Officers on the Board.

Chairperson: Brenda Monaghan

Secretary: Ronan Mac Namara

Recording Secretary: Michelle Mc Govern.

Treasurer: Joanna Mac Gregor

Safety Officer: Paul Gilsenan.

Work of the Board.

The Board of Management met formally on five occasions during the school year 2023/24. The board met with the Parents' Assoc. on the occasion of their AGM in October to review the work done over the previous year and plan for the year ahead.

The board ratified the following policies during the course of the year: i) New Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment ii) Attendance Policy iii) Croke Park Hours 23/24 iv) Revised Parental Complaints Procedure v) Revised Code of Behaviour. The board through Safety Officer, Paul Gilsenan also carried out a full health and safety audit. Our Comhairle Scoile (student council) contributed to this. The board carried out its annual audit of Child Protection and Bullying.

A review of the school's standardised test results for literacy and numeracy was also conducted. The school is performing to the national norms for both. The school now uses New Drumcondra Tests for literacy, numeracy and Gaeilge.

All policies are available on the school's new website, <https://stkiliansnsmullagh.ie> or directly from the office.

The board over the course of the year upgraded the school's Wi-Fi and we now have fibre broadband throughout the building. €8,000 was invested to bring this up to the standard required. €5,000 was spent on replacing the motor in the lift. The board oversaw an annual deep clean including the cleaning of all windows, facias and gutters. Further investment

included the provision of a play set for Spraoi and the installation of a sensory corridor upstairs in school.

Our school is a Catholic school and our ethos is very important to us. To help us celebrate and reinforce our ethos we did the following:

- Held a Remembrance Ceremony in November and pupils decorated remembrance trees.
- Decorated school Advent and Christmas trees,.
- We held a special Christmas ceremony in St. Kilian's Church
- Followed the activities for Catholic Schools Week
- Held a prayer service on Grandparents Day and hosted our grandparents in the school.
- Ashes were distributed for Lent and classes went to Mass weekly..
- We remembered Ms. Eimear Gilroy in a special way on the occasion of her first anniversary.
- Celebrated the different sacraments
- Celebrated school Masses in St. Kilian's Church
- We learn and sing hymns as a whole school community every week.

Whole School Evaluation

The Board of Management welcomed the Department's inspectorate to the school to carry out a Whole School Evaluation. Following a very comprehensive inspection of all aspects of the school, they subsequently prepared a comprehensive 14 page report on their findings. This document is available to view on the school's website. The report is very positive as you will see from the summary of the main findings below:

- the quality of pupils' learning was very good.
- the quality of teaching was very good. Teachers' collective practice was very effective.
- the quality of the support for pupils' wellbeing was highly commendable; mutual
- Respect, care and concern for the rights of pupils characterized engagements observed
- during the evaluation.
- The quality of school leadership and management was very good; the school was led and organised very well.
- The quality of school self-evaluation (SSE) was very good.
- The quality of inclusion was very good.

The board thanks and congratulates the whole school community on their excellent ongoing work which is reflected in the findings of the report.

The Board of Management introduced The School Meals Programme to the school last April. It is now providing regular nutritious food to children to help improve their daily diet, to encourage school attendance and extra educational achievement. The Lunch Bag supply hot meals to all our pupils daily. The menu ensures a balanced diet, incorporating a variety of tastes and nutritional elements. A wide variety of dietary needs, including Gluten Free, Dairy Free and Vegetarian options are catered for. Meals are delivered to the school, heated and distributed to the pupils in their classrooms. The board notes the very positive response from parents and pupils to the scheme.

Spraoi

Spraoi has 3 classes catering for 18 children with ASD. It is functioning at full capacity. We have a pre-school and two primary classes. Spraoi has a staff of 11, comprising of 3 teachers and 8 SNAs. The board acknowledges the valuable work done by all associated with Spraoi.

Staffing.

We have at present 23 teachers, 14 classroom teachers, 5 support teachers, 3 teachers in Spraoi and the principal. There are 335 pupils enrolled. The school also employs 10 SNAs, 3 bus escorts, a full time secretary, three part time cleaners and a caretaker.

The Board acknowledges the dedication and sense of vocation displayed by our whole staff every day at school. We commend their flexibility and dedication. The board commends the school for the publication of a fortnightly newsletter to parents, in an effort to improve communication between the school and the wider community.

Well done as always to the ancillary staff, Angela, Sabrina and Mary, who keep the school and its grounds very well all year round. The board would like to thank all those who contributed to our very successful Run for Funds event which took place in June. A portion of the proceeds was used to install a new sensory corridor upstairs in the school.

A special word of thanks is due to our Comhairle Scoile who worked tirelessly on behalf of all the pupils over the course of the year.

Attendance.

	Enrolment	Average	Attendance	Average	%
2023/24	61,895	346	55,618	311	89.9%
2022/23	61,596	344	55,142	308	89.5%
2021/22	63,563	351	55,186	305	87%
2020/21	45,771	366	41,341	331	90.3%
2018/19	66,431	369	61,797	343	93

2017/18	63,571	363.3	59.050	337	93%
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Our total enrolment is dropping very gradually which is in line with national trends. 35 infants enrolled in Sept 2023 and 54 pupils left from 6th Class in June. We have 52 pupils presently in 6th Class. Successive governments reduced pupil teacher ratios in recent years and it now stands at 22:1. However there has been no change in the last 2 budgets. A further reduction of two pupils per class will be required to ensure that Irish class sizes are brought into line with our EU counterparts. Having class sizes of 20 would enable teachers to meet the broad spectrum of needs that children are presenting with. Teachers can use modern teaching methods more effectively and spend more time with each child in smaller class sizes.

The average attendance for the past year was 89.9%. We have a strong tradition of good attendance in St. Kilian's N.S. with an average attendance rate of 93.5% annually. However, we have noted a marked deterioration in attendance and punctuality post Covid. 6277 days were lost during the school year 23/24 and 100 pupils missed in excess of 20 days.

We are anxious that parents be aware of the absolute necessity for regular punctual attendance at school and that we all work together to improve this area.

Finance.

The financial management of our school is conducted in strict compliance with guidelines set out by the Dept. of Education and Skills. The full set of accounts is examined by the school's accountants annually who certify that they are true. The treasurer presents up to date accounts at each Board of Management meeting. School finances are kept under strict control. The board acknowledges the valuable contribution parents and the Parents' Association make towards helping to fund school activities. Copies of the annual school accounts are available in the school.

Free Books Scheme.

The Free Books Scheme was introduced two years ago and has proven to be very successful and has made a considerable financial difference to many families. The board would like to acknowledge and thank Liz O Connell who oversees the successful running of the scheme.

Conclusion.

Saint Kilian's N.S. is a Catholic primary school which strives to provide children with the basic training they need so that they will grow to be integrated members of the community and self-reliant individuals.

The BOM would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the community who actively support and assist the school in fulfilling this aim.

The Board acknowledges the excellent behaviour of the children at school. We thank them for coming to school each day ready and fully equipped for the day ahead. We are very proud of the feedback we continue to receive from post primary schools concerning the academic and extra-curricular achievements of our past pupils.

Signed _____ . _____ .
Chairperson BOM. Secretary BOM.



Our girls camogie team who took part in a blitz recently in Virginia.

Fun Outdoors

Junior and Senior Infants have had lots of fun learning outdoors this term. We practised our letters and made funny autumn faces!



We learned all about trees and we can now name all the different parts of a tree. Did you know a tree is actually quite like a person- junior and senior infants can tell you how! Thank you to Angela for helping us plant our very own Horse Chestnut Trees!



We made bark and leaf rubbings in our school garden!



We are looking forward to a colourful spring. Thank you to Angela for helping us to plant crocus bulbs. Now we have to wait and see if they grow to be yellow, purple or creamy white?

We had a fun autumn walk all around our school and the church. We loved collecting autumn leaves and jumping in them too!



Halloween is Coming!

Junior and Senior Infants have had lots of fun getting ready for Halloween!
Do you like our *Popping Pattern Pumpkins*?



We made witches and had fun giving them rather friendly faces!



We read *Room on the Broom* and sequenced the story on our own broomsticks!
 We made Chocolate Apples too! They were yummy!



We learned all about the spider and how they spin their webs. Look at our spider webs!

4th Class pupils wrote acrostic poems for Halloween.

