



## Easter/Spring Break 2021

Dear Parents,

Although it seems like we've only just returned to school, I know everyone is looking forward to the holiday ahead. Thank you for your support and cooperation implementing our Covid-19 policy to keep children and families safe and well at our school. Some schools are choosing to send home children's belongings today for use after the Easter/Spring break. I expect and hope that we will all **return to school as planned on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. After the fantastic effort by children and families both in virtual and real school this term, everyone deserves this holiday - free of school baskets and homework folders!

Our **schoolworks (post-flood)** will be finished over the Easter break. This includes a new floor-mat in the entrance hallway and completion of lino flooring and the addition of our school crest there. Some work on our boiler is also scheduled over Easter to fine-tune the system and remove any lingering air-locks. The replacement of emergency lights is also a priority for us. Work continues to improve our grounds; a new raised bed will be added to the garden in front of the PE hut, over Easter.

I regret very much that it hasn't been possible to **host parents at the school** to check-in on school plans and to meet one-another informally, this year. We are very much looking forward to organising meetings with parents again - to see the completed works and to tour your child's classroom. This is a priority for us, as soon it's feasible, in line with Covid measures.

In the meantime, our **parent nominees on the school's Board of Management, Robin Ball and Mitzie Day** have continued to contribute to school developments. Robin is currently working on a video to compile the story of the flood on January 11<sup>th</sup> and the recovery since then. We look forward to sharing this with families when all works are completed and the video can be finished. Mitzie has provided input to our three virtual Enrolment Meetings/Webinars from a parent's perspective. This input has been invaluable to prospective parents. We are indebted to Robin and Mitzie for their support. If you'd like to be involved in organising or contributing to a Parents Group for our school, or if you have some suggestions for how parents can be involved, you can contact Robin or Mitzie: [robinball@gmail.com](mailto:robinball@gmail.com) and [mitzieday@outlook.com](mailto:mitzieday@outlook.com).

Until school reopens on April 12<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of our Board of Management and staff, we wish you and your family a relaxing and restful holiday,

*Sarah FitzPatrick*

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### Updates for Term 3

#### **Active Flag: Run Around Kildare Challenge!**

Our annual 4-week running challenge, "Run Around Kildare" began this week. As part of this important challenge in the accreditation process, children are encouraged to run, walk, jog or wheel the distance to landmarks around Ireland. We have decided to adapt this challenge to suit our small school. Earlier in the week, children worked together to select 10 villages and towns in Kildare. We measured the distance to each place from Brannoxtown CNS. Each day children will run, walk or

jog during 'DEAR time' (Drop Everything and Run), measuring the combined distance travelled. We discovered that seven laps of the basketball court equals 500 metres and we set daily distance targets. We will celebrate each town or village reached by placing a picture of our crest on the map of Kildare. If we reach the ten destinations, we will select a national landmark as a bonus journey!

### Active School Week

Our annual Active School Week is scheduled from April 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Last year, we celebrated this week at home. We are really looking forward to it and will share updates on our plans after the break.



RUN AROUND KILDARE	
*Starting point is Brannoxtown CNS	
Destination:	Distance:
Naas	11km
Monasterevin	28km
Kill	19km
Athy	30km
Castledermot	29km
Maynooth	34km
Leixlip	38km
Celbridge	33km
Carbury	40km
Kildare Town	17km

### Green Schools - Litter and Waste Flag

We are all looking forward to our Green Schools 'Day of Action' next term. This is our final step to achieve our first Greens School flag for *Litter and Waste*. The Green Schools Committee has many great ideas and we are busy planning an action-packed day for all the children in the school. We are looking forward to hearing more of the children's ideas and plans after the Easter break.

### Bridge Magazine

You'll find snapshots of children's writing and artwork in the April issue of the Bridge, Kilcullen's Community Magazine, available in Kilcullen shops. The April issue describes children's learning about, and celebration of, what it means to be Irish!

### Enrolment

Wednesday's Enrolment Webinar (March 24<sup>th</sup>) was recorded and is available on request to any family who missed the Open Day session. Thank you for sharing with any parents who may be interested. We hope to gain one more teacher next year, depending on enrolment numbers.

### Virtual Visits & Visitors

A number of 'Virtual Visits' and 'Virtual Visitors' to our school are organised for Term 3. If you know someone whom children would enjoy meeting for a short 20-30 minute session (on Zoom) or if you, yourself are willing to share your expertise/experience, please email: [brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie](mailto:brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie).