



**CILL FLAINN**

AG FÁS, AG FOGHLAIM, AG FORBAIRT

St Teresa's National School, Kilflynn, Co. Kerry

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## October Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents,

As we approach half term of a very busy and active two months, we would like to congratulate all children for turning up and participating in school every day. Well done to you all!


**Return to School** Children may be dropped to school from 8.40am as per group drop off time. Please do not drop your child to school before this time. If your child is unwell or sick, please keep them at home. Please remember to drop on the school side and leave the car park spaces opposite the school vacant, as these are allocated for the staff of the school.

**Admissions/Enrolment** We will be accepting enrolments for September 2025 shortly. Our Teacher allocation is solely dependent on the number of students we have on roll and this of course impacts on the way classes are decided. If there are families in the area with school-going children please spread the word.

**Uniform:** All children need to wear the correct uniform to school every day. This includes black or navy socks and black shoes. Please ensure your child has the correct uniform. The PE uniform is available to purchase in Dan Fitzgeralds, Tralee. The old PE uniform can still be worn on PE days and the Parents' Association has a stock of these if needed. Please contact the school on 066 713 5633.

**School Closure:** The school will be closed on Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> to facilitate a planning day for all staff on the New Maths Curriculum.

**Policy Updates:** We will be reviewing a number of policies in the coming weeks which will be available to view on the school's website [www.kilflynnschool.com](http://www.kilflynnschool.com). Further notice will be given on Aladdin when these become available.



**SSE (School Self Evaluation).** We are currently in year 2 of our SSE cycle with a focus on both Spellings and Well-Being. Thank you to all the families who participated in our surveys, which help us continuously develop and improve teaching and learning in our school.

**School Assembly:** We held our first official school assembly on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of October as part of our SSE. September and October birthdays were celebrated, we were wowed with accomplishments throughout the school and treated to a very special performance of 'Make Your Own Kind of Music' by rang 1&2. Our next assembly will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Maths Week** Maths Week took place last week from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. All classes participated in extra maths activities throughout the week. Follow us on Facebook to see the highlights! A special thanks to Mrs. O'Connell for organising activities for all classes. Congratulations to Ronan, Anabel and Caoimhe Galvin for correctly estimating the number of sweets in a box of Celebrations!

**Parent Teacher Meetings** Parent Teacher meetings will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November. All parents will be notified of the appointment slots which must be booked through the Aladdin App. More information to follow after the Mid-Term Break.

**Science Week:** This will take place from November 10<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>. All children will participate in a range of different activities throughout the week and will have a dress up day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Hot School Lunches:** Children have enjoyed a wide variety of hot school lunches over the last 3 weeks and they seem to be going down a treat! Please remember to allow 48 hours to change your child's order.

**The Lunch-Bag App** Children can continue to order their sos/snack from the Lunch-Bag App.


**School Website** The school website has been updated and active. Parents will be able to access policies and download forms as well as view highlights of activities in all classes.

**Fundraising -Clothes** Thank you to Crotta GAA who facilitated the clothes collection which took place in September . The total raised was €367.60. Thank you to all who donated to this.

**HOPE Shoeboxes :** Please remember to drop your shoebox to school after the mid-term break. The response we get to this worthy cause is always very positive.

**Christmas Cards** -The Children have designed Christmas cards which will be available for you to purchase after mid-term at a cost of €10 per pack.

**Christmas Annuals** These will be available to purchase after the Halloween Break at a cost of €5. Closing date for ordering these is this Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Please get your order in by then.



**Read and Raise:** We will be asking you to support your child improve their literacy levels while raising funds in this worthy fundraiser, after the mid-term break. You will have received an information letter last week and we will furnish further details shortly. This initiative will commence on November 11<sup>th</sup> and run for 2-3 weeks.

**Save the Date: 'NIGHT AT THE DOGS' April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** A meeting will take place in school, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November to discuss and organise this night for all families. We hope that all families can be represented at this meeting. More information to follow.

**Parents' Association:** The Parents' Association met at the start of October. The new committee elected is as follows: Chairperson: Aoife Cashell Secretary: Jeanne McCarthy Treasurers: Yvonne McGuckin & Claire Walsh.

All parents are welcome to join and come to the meetings, which take place throughout the year. Remember when parents and teachers work together, the children are the winners!

At their first meeting the PA agreed to support the schools effort to allow all children access to gymnastics, giving €5 per pupil (total of €535), off the cost of gymnastic lessons and for the purchase of Caint is Comhrá Portfolio from 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> class, costing €327.60 .

**Smart Free Phone Agreement:** The PA would like to thank all families for signing up to this agreement and promising to keep their children free from the stress that Smart Phones cause. The agreement will be ratified by the BOM at the next meeting and will be launched on an agreed date.

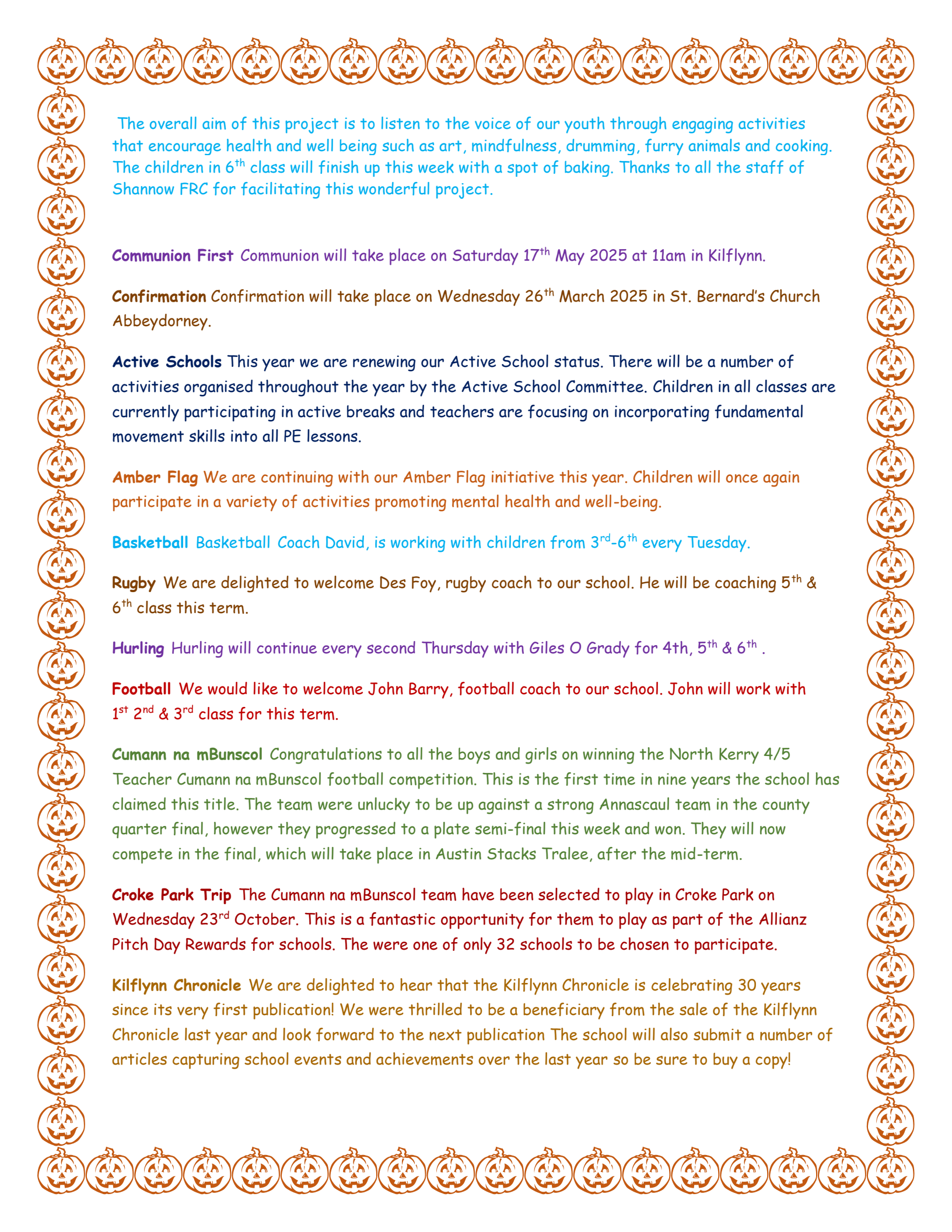
**Bake Sale:** The Parents' Association have organised a Bake Sale to raise funds for the purchase of an interactive white board. Please donate your bakes and cakes to St. Columba's Centre on Friday morning between 8.30am and 9.30am or drop to the school when dropping children. Please help us raise as much as we can! All children will be given an allocated time to buy their favourite bakes.

**Halloween Dress Up** Children can dress up on Friday for Hallowe'en. We will go on a walk down the village to scare everyone and pop into St. Columba's Centre to buy a bake!. Remember to wear warm clothes underneath the Halloween costumes!

**Hallowe'en Costumes.** The PA are asking for your help-please donate any unwanted Hallowe'en costumes to the school and help keep the cost down for future years.

**Christmas Jumpers:** Do you have Christmas jumpers no longer needed at home? Well, we have a place for them! Please donate any Christmas jumpers to the school. The Parents' Association will be organising a 'Christmas Jumper Jumble Sale' before Christmas. Jumpers can be dropped to the school up until November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Community Links with Shannow FRC** We are delighted to be collaborating with Shannow Family Resource Centre again this year as part of the Youth Voice Project.



The overall aim of this project is to listen to the voice of our youth through engaging activities that encourage health and well being such as art, mindfulness, drumming, furry animals and cooking. The children in 6<sup>th</sup> class will finish up this week with a spot of baking. Thanks to all the staff of Shannow FRC for facilitating this wonderful project.

**Communion First** Communion will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11am in Kilflynn.

**Confirmation** Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in St. Bernard's Church Abbeydorney.

**Active Schools** This year we are renewing our Active School status. There will be a number of activities organised throughout the year by the Active School Committee. Children in all classes are currently participating in active breaks and teachers are focusing on incorporating fundamental movement skills into all PE lessons.

**Amber Flag** We are continuing with our Amber Flag initiative this year. Children will once again participate in a variety of activities promoting mental health and well-being.

**Basketball** Basketball Coach David, is working with children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> every Tuesday.

**Rugby** We are delighted to welcome Des Foy, rugby coach to our school. He will be coaching 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class this term.

**Hurling** Hurling will continue every second Thursday with Giles O Grady for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> .

**Football** We would like to welcome John Barry, football coach to our school. John will work with 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> class for this term.

**Cumann na mBunscol** Congratulations to all the boys and girls on winning the North Kerry 4/5 Teacher Cumann na mBunscol football competition. This is the first time in nine years the school has claimed this title. The team were unlucky to be up against a strong Annascaul team in the county quarter final, however they progressed to a plate semi-final this week and won. They will now compete in the final, which will take place in Austin Stacks Tralee, after the mid-term.

**Croke Park Trip** The Cumann na mBunscol team have been selected to play in Croke Park on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to play as part of the Allianz Pitch Day Rewards for schools. They were one of only 32 schools to be chosen to participate.

**Kilflynn Chronicle** We are delighted to hear that the Kilflynn Chronicle is celebrating 30 years since its very first publication! We were thrilled to be a beneficiary from the sale of the Kilflynn Chronicle last year and look forward to the next publication. The school will also submit a number of articles capturing school events and achievements over the last year so be sure to buy a copy!



Mid Term Break School will break for Mid-Term on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October and return on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and spooktacular break for Hallowe'en.

Le Meas,

Nora Falvey.