**Knockconan School News 5 11 22**

**Good Luck!**

First – Good Luck to Truagh in the final on Sunday. The excitement for the children is at fever pitch. There was a great turnout today in red and black (see the photos on the web site)

**Covid Measures**

Thank you all so much for your help so far in keeping Covid out of the school. Parents have been great in keeping children at home when necessary. This makes all the difference. Today we have some updated information and videos for parents from the Department of Education – click the link here.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#health-advice-for-parents>

**CatchmentCare Project:** The CatchmentCare project has funded the development of new landscaping at the front of the school. This includes a small shallow pond which will be planted up to encourage wildlife (hopefully we’ll have some tadpoles in the spring!) and will become a learning resource for the school. This landscaping has the added benefit of fencing off what was problem area that was frequently wet and mucky. Further small trees, shrubs and flowers are being added as well as bulbs for early flowering next year.

**Reminders**

**School Closure:** The school will be closed on Thursday 18th November for training with Department advisors in the new primary language curriculum and digital learning.

As part of our review we will be sending you all a survey for your thoughts on digital learning in the school.

**Warm Clothes:** As the weather gets colder it is important to ensure that children have coats, hats, scarves etc to keep warm when they are outside. Going outside at break times is really important as the classrooms *must* be ventilated.

**Hometime:**

We will continue with staggered collection times at home-time for another while. However teachers are concerned about a few safety issues at the gate. It is very difficult for the teacher at the gate to keep track of every child so please note the following.

We will be reminding children that no child should go out through the gate unless the teacher (usually Mrs Boyle) is there.

There will be a teacher outside the gate to watch children cross the road.

The side gate is **not** to be used for collection as it causes confusion. All children to go out through the front gate.

Children will need a note for their teacher

* If they are going home with someone different to the usual person
* If they are going home with another child’s parent ie to a birthday party or play date
* If they are walking home
* If they are being collected from a parent who is parked up at the chapel

If you have already notified the class teacher of any such arrangement that’s fine, if not please do so asap.

**Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

The date for the shoebox collection is November 12th. Remember, this appeal is entirely voluntary. You can fill and wrap a shoebox with items suitable for child or you fill a box online. See
<https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/how-to-fill-a-shoebox/> for all the information you need.