



April /May 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

At last all our classes are back in Kathy b's and we are delighted that all the children have settled back so quickly into their daily routine and are delighted to be back with their friends and teachers.

It has been a strange, topsy-turvy school year, with several stops and starts. We have had to make several changes including changes in sessions we can offer, changes to our daily routine to incorporate as much outdoor lessons as possible and changes in internal room layouts and staff routines to name but a few.

I want to thank you all for getting on board and supporting us in all these changes we have had to make. We could not have made all these necessary changes without your support, so a huge thank from myself and all the team at Kathy b's.

We have 9 weeks left in our school year and ask that you please continue to adhere to all our policies and procedures, by wearing a face mask and socially distancing when dropping off and collecting your child, ensuring that your child does not attend school if they are generally unwell or showing any Covid-19 symptoms including a runny nose, cough, temperature, loss of taste / smell etc.



News from our teachers:

Nicole:

"My classes have been great since coming back to Kathy b's after another break. They are all loving being back with their friends, playing games, listening to stories and singing lots of songs. Everyone has been fantastic at following our new routines and washing their hands all the time. We are very excited for our last term preparing for our graduation for the children going to school and making the most of our days with lots of child led activities."

Lisa / Sarah:

"Hi all, since the children have returned to Kathy b's they have all settled in really well. The boys and girls have enjoyed a lot of outdoor play in both the back and front gardens. Face-painting, colouring, picnics, Practical Life, Sensorial and Culture have been some of our lessons.

Now that we are into our last term we will start to prepare the boys and girls who are graduating for National School and we will start to get ready for our Graduation Day.

Sarah and I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for co-operating with all the changes this year. We wish you all a very warm, relaxing and safe Summer."

Lisa and Sarah xxxx

Catherine / Christina:

"It was great to see all the children arrive back to school after such a long break. Everyone was delighted to see all their pals 😊. We have had lots of garden time, playing games and watching and reading some stories in our barn 📖

All the children got back into our routine straight away 🙌 and have been so good at washing their hands regularly and minding all their pals.

The next few weeks will be a lot of free play in the garden and lots and lots of fun." 🌸 ☀️

Audrey / Shauna:

"We want to welcome back our after school children, it is great to have them back in Kathy b's. We have been enjoying all outdoor activities and getting plenty of fresh air. The children really enjoyed making their Mother's Day and Easter Craft, and we are planning a couple of surprise activities for the children to be announced in the coming weeks 📅 🌸 Looking forward to the next few weeks with all the children before we finish up for the summer ☀️ Shauna and Audrey 🌸🌸



There are a few important points I would like to run through with you and if you have any queries in relation to them please drop me an email.

Parent / Teacher Meetings:

We will not be holding face to face parent teacher meetings in Kathy b's this year. Meetings will take place for children graduating only and over the phone.

Lisa / Sarah and Nicole will be in touch with you shortly through Little Vista to arrange a time for a phone call with you. Please message them on Little Vista in advance if there are any specific areas regarding your child that you would like to discuss with them.

School Closures:

Please make a note of the following dates we are closed before the end of this school year (as per our 2020 / 2021 School Calendar)

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th May 2021 inclusive – May Mid Term Break

Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June – June Bank Holiday

N.B. Wednesday 30th June 2021 - To facilitate Graduation Day please note there will be NO MONTESSORI CLASSES on Wednesday 30th June 2021.

The only children attending this day will be children who are graduating from Kathy b's who will attend for their allotted Graduation Party time only.

This means that all Non-Graduating children will finish up for Summer on Tuesday 29th June 2021. This is something we do every year to facilitate Graduation Day and each child's turn will come around when they get to attend the final day and have their Graduation party.

Please note Breakfast Club (for After School children only) and After School will run as usual this day and we will collect our After Schoolers at the earlier times from St. Kilian's N.S.

If you child usually attends After School on a Wednesday please email me to confirm if they will be attending on Wednesday 30th June and what time they will need to be picked up at from St. Kilian's N.S.



Graduation 2021:

Graduation will take place on Wednesday 30th June 2021 for children leaving Kathy b's this year and starting Primary School.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 our party this year will be for the **children only**.

No parents / guardians are invited this year and will not be permitted into Kathy b's for the ceremony. We will arrange a time slot for each family to get a photo with their child in their cap and gown after the ceremony in the front garden. We will be in touch shortly with the final details.

Please note that all plans for Graduation are subject to change should there be any changes in guidelines from the HSE.

ECCE Eligibility September 2021 – June 2022:

All children born between 01st January 2017 and 31st December 2018 will be eligible for the ECCE Scheme from September 2021. All ECCE classes and waiting lists are full for September 2021.

I will be in touch with all parents over the next couple of weeks for you to confirm your child's place for September 2021.

I am finalising class times, teachers and sessions for September at the moment. Once St. Kilian's confirm their 2021 / 2022 School Calendar I will be in touch again with details of our back to school date, your child's class time and teacher from September 2021.

After School September 2021:

I have had a huge amount of enquiries recently for After School places for September and as places are limited I want to ensure that existing After School children get priority on places.

Therefore I have attached a 2021 / 2022 After School Registration Form with this email which I will need you to complete and return to me by Friday 28th May 2021 if you would like me to hold a place for your child / children in Breakfast Club and / or After School for September 2021.

A deposit of €100 per family is required to hold the places(s) which will be refunded 4 weeks after each After School child starts back in September.

Any places not reserved by 28th May will be offered out to children on our After School waiting list.



Camps:

Due to Covid-19 we will not be running any camps this Summer and we will not be opening anytime during the Summer.

Finally a huge, heartfelt thank you for your continued support of Kathy b's. As always we welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have.

Take care everyone and here's to a great last school term.
Katherine and all the team at Kathy b's xxx