

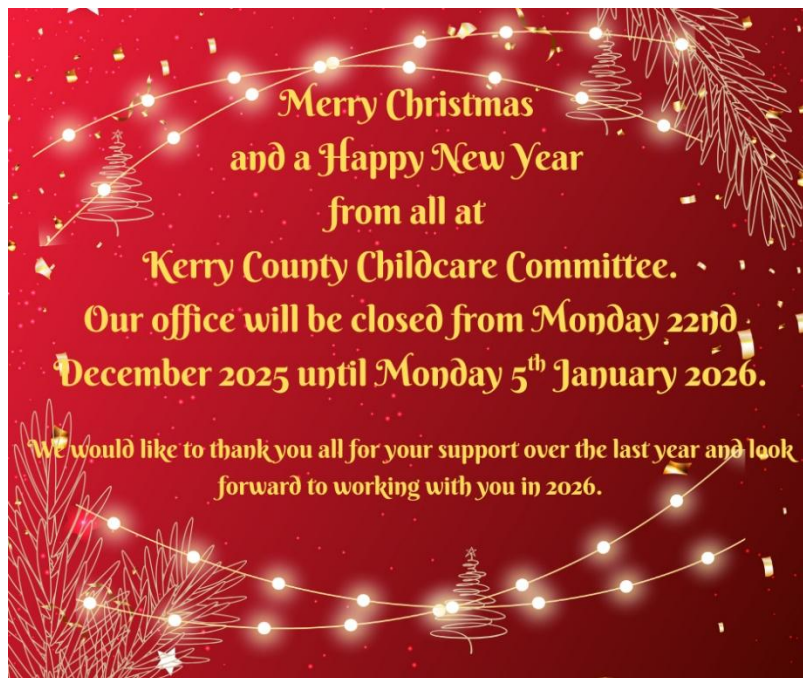
Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare 15th-19th December 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the information, and announcements for the week of 15th – 19th December 2025.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Kerry County Childcare Committee Christmas Closure Dates



Vacant Capacity Survey

Many thanks to the **138 services** who have already completed our survey – your participation and information is greatly appreciated.



If you have yet to complete the survey (which should take approximately *2 minutes of your time, less if you have no vacancies*) the link is: [Kerry CCC Vacant Capacity Survey November 2025 V1](#)

New Action Plans for the Early Learning and Care and School-Age

Childcare Sector

Two new action plans for the early learning and care and school-age childcare sector have been published by Minister Foley. The '[Shaping the Future: Early Years Action Plan](#)' commits to actions in 2026 to make services more affordable, accessible and improve quality.



The '[Simplify and Support: Action Plan for Simplification](#)' will streamline administration and regulation, helping providers, educators, practitioners and parents navigate the system more easily.

Core Funding Compliance

Please find attached the communication issued clarifying Core Funding Compliance.



AIM Level 7 Non-term Payments

AIM Non-term payments will be made over Christmas for children in the NCS with an active AIM Level 7 Non-term application. Many services may be closed during this period per the ECCE calendar but AIM Level 7 payments follow the NCS calendar open days.



Payments for Non-term capitations will only occur if there is a corresponding NCS claim and AIM Level 7 does not cover subsidised closure periods under NCS.

Christmas and New Year's Payment Dates and EYPC Operating Hours

Details of the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC) and the NCS Parent Support Centre operating hours for Christmas and New Year can be found [here](#).



For more information on the Christmas & New Year's payment dates and EYPC opening times, please check the Announcement on the Hive dated 10th December 2025

Closures & Changes

Pobal have updated the online process of how to report some changes of circumstance, including change of address, change of ownership, change of legal structure & exit from one or more programmes. Both Service Provider closure and Organisation closure can also be reported online. More information can be found in the links below:



[Webinar recording](#)

[Early Years Hive resources](#)

NCS maintenance- End of Year 2025

It may be necessary to make important changes for the NCS on HIVE as the year comes to an end.



[NCS Calendar:](#)



All service closures must be marked on your NCS calendar, closures must be marked as subsidised or not. Retrospective changes cannot be made to the NCS calendar

NCS Weekly Returns:

Weekly reporting requirements remain in place during the Christmas and New Year period.

NCS Bridging Payments:

Services closed for one full week or two consecutive weeks and at least one of the days in this period is designated as a subsidised closure, will be given the option to request a bridging provision of the closed week(s) on the NCS Return one week before closure.

Grace Period:

Services who missed the opportunity to avail of a bridging payment can apply for a grace period payment if they are unable to submit an NCS return due to closure.

Further details on these processes can be found in the Announcement Section.

Kerry County Childcare Committee Website and Facebook Page



Follow our Facebook page [here](#) and visit our [Childcare Providers Information](#) and [Childcare Providers Training](#) sections of our website for information updates.

We would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Kind regards

Kerry County Childcare Committee

