



December Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have reopened our school safely and returned to a new normal in our first term and now we are all looking forward to Christmas.

Thank you to all who have contributed to maintaining this school as a safe, happy environment where every child can be the best that they can be.

Best wishes to all our students, staff, parents, Board of Management and parish community for the Christmas season of 2020 and health and happiness for 2021.

Kind regards,

Helen Molloy (Principal)

IMPORTANT

Please continue to respect our Covid 19 Response Plan that has been devised to ensure the safety of all our pupils and staff. Therefore, please remember the following:

- ❖ Do not send your child to school if they are unwell or showing signs of Covid 19.
- ❖ It is important that pupils enter the school at their assigned times and entrances.
- ❖ Please notify the school of any change in contact number or address.
- ❖ Please wear masks outside our school when collecting or dropping your child, as directed by Public Health Advice.

What Has Been Happening.....

- Our walk to **Fourchambault**, this is a village in France which we have been officially twinned with since 1998. All of the children and staff at St. Patricks' NS have walked the distance to Fourchambault in France which is 1,155 km. This project was organised to encourage exercise, an opportunity for mindfulness and well-being and also promote a sense of achievement for the children. A special thanks to our Fifth-Class teacher, Mr Chris Townsend for coordinating the whole project.
- **Kevin Barry** was commemorated by a virtual visit to 6th class from the author Carmel Kelly. This was organized by Carlow County Library and the pupils had an opportunity to talk to and discuss the young life of Kevin Barry while he was a pupil in our village.
- Classes participated in a 5-week **GAA Skills course** under the guidance of coach Seamus Comerford in partnership with Carlow GAA club school link. The sessions are inclusive and are based on fun and participation for all students.
- We attended a virtual **Mass via the parish webcam** on the 27th of November. Thank you to Fr Mc Evoy and Fr O'Brien for making this a special child friendly experience.
- At the end of each month we have come together as a school via our **Zoom Assembly**. We have shared presentations, songs and poetry with everyone through the power of technology.
- We have celebrated **Science Week and Maths Week** through different experiments, Maths trails, investigations and problem solving.

Upcoming events and dates to remember

Thursday 10th , Friday 11th Dec: Recording of our Virtual Christmas Concert

Friday 18th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day- €2 per child in aid of Crumlin Children's Hospital

Friday 18th Dec: Staff Meeting

Tuesday 22nd Dec: Christmas Holidays

Bus Pupils/Junior/Senior Infants 11.50 am 2nd/4th/5th 12.00pm 1st/3rd/6th 12.10pm

Wednesday 6th of Jan 2020: School reopens at 9.10am and 9.20am

Homework

Now that we have returned safely, and everyone has settled back in to school life we will be reintroducing written homework to our pupils. **Therefore, after Christmas all pupils are asked to bring in their schoolbags.**

Each teacher will communicate via Google Classrooms/emails as to how they will arrange and organise homework for their class. At all times Public Health Advice will be adhered to ensure safety of all our staff and pupils.

Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association AGM was held on Friday 6th of November via Zoom and the following parents were elected Chairperson-Jennifer Wall, Treasurer-Trish Murphy, Secretary- Anne Britton. The following parents are also committee members- Louise Byrne, Marie O'Brien, Marie Sibbald, Brid Cassells, Julie Keogh and Vicki McFarland.

This term has been very productive with their very successful Bicycle Challenge, Halloween Draw and Scholastic Book Fair. All events were greatly supported, and a hearty thank you to all the parents and sponsors involved. Thank you for our new notice board which will provide school, parish and PA news. We look forward to the Christmas treats they have in store for all the pupils this month.

Board of Management

On behalf of the Board of Management we would like to wish everyone a very peaceful and safe Christmas and a healthy and joyful New Year.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.

