



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This Sunday we will celebrate the '1st Sunday of Advent'. Advent comes for the Latin word 'adventur' which means 'arrival'. It is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus' birthday. The four Sundays of Advent each represent a symbol: Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace with the white Advent candle being lit on Christmas Day. The children shall be doing a lot of work in their Religion class over the next few weeks preparing for Christmas.

Homework - following our meeting with parents on 14th November last, where we discussed the results of our recent 'homework survey', the following points were summarised by those present:

1. Final term of 6th Class, children are to be given some guidance and instruction with regards to 'Study/Revision' tips and strategies as they prepare to enter secondary school.
2. When children in the senior classes have a project assignment this shall be their sole written homework. They shall however, have some mathematics to complete nightly.
3. No written homework on Thursday nights for 1st to 6th Class to allow the children to focus solely on their oral homework i.e. revision of spellings, tables and reading. *This is to be done a trial basis until mid-January. Teaching staff shall then revisit and may reverse this decision.*
4. It was suggested that only one subject be given per night to allow the children time to focus solely on it, however, it is felt by the teaching staff that the written homework has been reduced enough for the moment.
5. <https://arithmetic.zetamac.com/> and <http://www.khanacademy.org/maths> these websites may help support your child with the learning of their tables.

Fundraising: as you are aware the school has been and shall continue to be engaged in a number of school fundraising events. We recently held our Hallowe'en Hike which raised €1491.40. The Parents Association, staff and pupils shall hold our Christmas Fair on Sunday 9th December from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the school.

Parking - parents are requested **not** to park in the delegated car spaces in front of the school. Please **do not** block the spaces where the teachers park in the mornings. I would ask therefore that you continue to park appropriately when collecting/dropping your child(ren) to school and work to minimise the potential for an unwanted incident.

Junior Infants 2019 - if you or someone you know has a child commencing school in September 2019, please contact the office for an enrolment form.

Gymnastics - full payment is due into the office on or before 7th January. The full cost of the 6 week Gymnastic programme is €13 per child.

Le gach dea ghúí,

Maria Brophy
Principal

Dates/Upcoming Events:

- ✚ Parent/Teacher Meetings - official date 5th December 3pm to 5.45pm*. **All children from 1st - 6th Class shall go home at 2.45pm on this day.**
- ✚ Christmas Craft Fair - Sunday 9th December from 10.30am to 12.30pm
- ✚ 2nd Class First Confessions - Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm
- ✚ Christmas Carol Service - Thursday 20th December in the parish church at 7pm.
- ✚ Christmas Holidays - school shall close at **12pm** for all children on Friday 21st December and re-open on Monday 7th January, 2019.
- ✚ Grandparents Mass - Thursday 24th January, 2019 in the parish church at 11.30am.
- ✚ Spring mid-term break - Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February, 2019 inclusive. School closed this week.
- ✚ School closed Tuesday 7th May, 2019 for staff training on the new oral language curriculum. This closure is sanctioned by the DES for all schools.



Parent Info Update

- Healthy Eating - Reminder that the school operates a 'healthy eating policy'. Children are allowed a small treat on Friday's and we thank parents for their support in implementing this policy.
- Homework - please sign your child's homework journal daily. It is extremely important that parents are aware of and up to date with the work being completed both in school and at home by their children.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

A total of 56 shoe boxes were donated to the school for the 'Shoe Box Appeal' and I would like to thank you for your kind generosity.

Report from Ms. Lawlor's Junior/Senior Infants Class

During the month of November Junior and Senior Infants enjoyed learning all about planet Earth in space! Our role-play area was transformed into NASA space station. The children were astronauts, scientists and mission explorers. They travelled to space in their rocket, collected space rocks to bring back to the laboratory and examined them closely back at the space station.

In science we did two fun experiments. We raced two balloon rockets and the children made their own rocket which they could launch using a straw. It was a lot of fun! The children also began their GAA training which they have been thoroughly enjoying. They are learning how to hold a mini hurl and are playing lots of games to practise working as a team.

We are now looking forward to the month of December and all the fun that will bring. The Santa-cam will be on!!

Report from Ms. Ormonde's 1st/2nd Class

1st and 2nd Class have had another action-packed month. This month our theme in Aistear has been 'The Post Office.' We had a visit from our local postman, Dickie Murphy, and we asked him lots of interesting questions. We watched some videos from the 'An Post' website where we learned all about where our letter or parcel goes once it has been posted. We even went on a trip to the post office where we bought a stamp and posted some Christmas cards to a class in Copenhagen. It was great to see a real-life post office.

In maths we have been learning about time. We have been revising the days of the week, months of the year and the seasons. Ask us about our rap and we will sing it for you! We have also been working hard on our tables and using friendly numbers and doubles to help us add quicker.

In English we have started writing letters. We will all be able to write our own Santy letters now that we know how to write them ourselves. We are really looking forward to a fun filled December in 1st and 2nd Class.

We would also just like to wish 2nd Class the very best of luck with their First Confession which will take place on Tuesday the 11th of December. 😊

Report from Ms. Pitt's 3rd/4th Class

3rd and 4th Class had been busy practising for 'Sing Out Loud' for the last number of weeks. They performed in 'Sing Out Loud' in the National Opera House on Thursday November 22nd. It was a fantastic show with non-stop entertainment from start to finish. Well done to all the children on their fantastic performance both singing and doing the actions on the night. They all did themselves proud. I know that everybody is already looking forward to next year's 'Sing Out Loud'.

We have been doing lots of art this month in preparation for the upcoming Christmas Craft Fair. We have created snowmen, picture frames, stables and other Christmas crafts. They have been painting, gluing and designing some beautiful crafts. They have shown great creativity in their artwork and are very excited about having their artwork in the Christmas Craft Fair.

In Irish we have been learning about the theme 'Sa Bhaile' (at home). The children have been learning about how to say where they are from, what type of a house they live in, the names of the different rooms in their houses and much more. They also learned a new song 'Oró Sé Do Bheatha Bhaile' and a poem 'Obair an Tí'.

In history we have been doing some work on stories of the lives of people in the past. We learned about the great scientist Louis Pasteur where the children learned about pasteurisation and the cures he developed for diseases. We also learned about Robert Louis Stevenson, the famous poet and writer. We are currently learning one of his well-known poems 'My Shadow'.

Report from Ms. Morrissey's 5th Class

Where has November gone?! We have been working hard learning all about fractions the last few weeks, such as finding equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions and turning fractions from mixed fractions to improper fractions and vice versa.

In English, we have been doing a lot of work around the art of persuasion. We have looked at a variety of arguments, speeches, and brochures and created some very convincing arguments. We have also analysed how advertising is using this skill of persuasion to sell products and lure in the customer.

We have had a great time learning all about what life was like during the Victorian era. The students particularly enjoyed learning about school punishments and how children had an extremely different life to a child growing up today. Children learned about the changes to people's lives before, during and after the Industrial Revolution.

In art the children have been absolutely fantastic preparing for the Craft Fair with the focus this month being on fabric and fibre. The children have been using needles and thread to come up with all kinds of creative ideas based on a Christmas theme. It has resembled Santa's workshop at times over the last few weeks but it has been worth it. The children really have worked very hard, as most were learning brand new skills!

Report from Mrs. Brophy's 6th Class

November has been a very busy month in our class. We have been working very hard on all our subjects and the children are making excellent progress. In English we studied 'persuasive writing' and looked at a variety of advertisements, wrote our own and published them as bound books. In Maths we revised some of our earlier topics and also worked on decimals and number theory.

Geography saw us study Russia and the children have a project to do on this for early December. This integrated very well with our history topic of Communism where we learnt about Stalin and China's Chairman Mao. In science we looked at 'magnetism' and conducted experiments to determine the magnetic properties (or not) of various classroom equipment and resources.

In art we explored clay and made snowmen. We shall be working on our Christmas logs, Fairy Doors and finishing our 'Snow Angels' for the Christmas Craft Fair next week. Music - the children learnt 'Stocach Brochach' which is the Irish version of the Wheatus hit 'Teenage Dirtbag'.

Our theme in Gaeilge this month has been 'Sa Bhaile' agus tá na páistí ag obair go díon. They have written two Irish essays (aistí). The first one 'Rothar Nua' (new bike) was composed with a lot of support from each other and their teacher.

However, their second aiste 'Lá Sneachta' (snow day) was written by each of them individually. I am so proud of the work they have done in this subject and their essays are absolutely excellent. We have published them for you to read if you would like to. Just pop in and ask ☺

We are looking forward to a busy December with the Craft Fair, Carol Service, Confessions and of course decorating our classroom and preparing for the Holy Season of Christmas.

Parents Association News

Finally, we wish to remind you that **all parents** are members of the Parents Association and the Committee formed simply represents the 'parent body'. By having an effective Parents Association in our school, parents can enjoy the support of other parents and are enabled to meaningfully support the aims of the school.

We shall be hosting a Christmas party for the children on Friday 21st December ☺

Craft Fair - all donations of cakes and/or buns shall be greatly appreciated. Please leave any donations into the school from 10am on Sunday 9th December. Thank you.

Spirituality and Personal Development

A Message from Fr. Finn - The Coming Season

I attended a Storytelling House recently where an elderly man told a very interesting story about his childhood.

It was set in the late 1940's when there was very little car traffic on the roads. Twice a year his mother's relations from Carlow came to visit at his home. On the evening of their arrival they would tidy themselves up earlier than usual, his mother would be preparing for these visitors for days. His relations would hire a car to bring them to visit at his home. They would listen excitedly for the sound of a car, and when they did hear a car they were sure, because there were so little cars on the road, that the arrival of their relations was imminent.

The word **ADVENT**, when translated means 'This kind of watching, waiting and excited expectations'. Advent starts on Sunday 2nd December and four weeks follow before Christmas Day, of preparing ourselves for the celebration of a Saviour coming among us. Advent becomes a time of looking at the scriptures that are fulfilled, our own life in its relationship with God and to experience the graces and the blessings of the Christmas Season.

In the midst of all the hype, all the pressures let us be wise enough to find space to shed all the things that are unnecessary in the coming weeks and make room for reflection and prayer.

SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises

Monday to Friday ----- 9.20am to 3.00pm

Infants (Junior & Senior) ----- 9.20am to 2.00pm

Outside of these times there is **no supervision** for children on the school premises.