**Scoil Bhríde**

*Nurney, Co. Kildare*

*Telephone: (045) 526767*

***www.nurneyns.com***

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20th December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Principals Christmas Message**

Please find the Principal’s Christmas message on the reverse of this note

**Christmas Mass**

A huge word of thanks to Fr. Adrian, Kathleen, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Stack and the pupils of 5th class, for organizing and leading a wonderful open-air mass before the Christmas holidays. The reading, singing and behaviour of all the children was superb! Well done everybody!

**School Assembly**

Well done to all our pupils who received well done awards over the last month for great lining up, working hard, following teacher instructions, playing fair and nice in our school and following in the footsteps of Jesus by showing kindness, compassion, respect, saying sorry and offering forgiveness. Congratulations to the following pupils who were pulled out of our “Well Done Award Prize Draw” ***Oisín – Senior Infants, Frankie –2nd class, Anabelle – 3rd class, Ava – 6th class***

**Dates for your diary**

* School will close for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday December 22nd for all pupils at 12.30pm. Buses have been told. The school will re-open on Thursday January 6th 2022 for all pupils at 9.20am

**Christmas Jumper Day!**

Wednesday, December 22nd we invite all pupils to wear a Christmas jumper in our school!

***Christmas and Thematic Art Displays***

*Thank you to all the children and their hardworking teachers for having all their wonderful seasonal work on display in our corridors and their classrooms. Our school looks so well and full of colour for the festive season! Well done everyone! We will post photos on our school website next week for all to see at home!*

**Home Learning page on our school website**

If your child has to isolate and stay out of school due to COVID-19, please go to the following link on our school website to access the school work they would be doing at that time in class <https://www.nurneyns.com/home-learning>

**Helix Panto “Red Riding Hood” live in Scoil Bhríde Nurney!!!!**

Thanks to the Board of Management for funding a wonderful Christmas show for all our pupils streamed live from the Helix in Dublin. ***Oh, no they didn’t!!! Oh, yes they did!!!!***

**Goodbye and Hello!**

We wish to say a fond farewell and thank you to teacher Ms. Lonergan, an employee of Ballyshannon National School, who finished with our school last week. We wish her the best of luck in her new change of career. She provided five hours to our school per week since September as part of a Department of Education resource programme. We look forward to welcoming her replacement from Ballyshannon National School in January 2022. This programme has been invaluable in keeping classes operational and open in light of the current teacher shortage crisis.

**Well done 6th class and Ms. Butler! On a wonderful Winter Fest Hamper Raffle and Arts and Crafts Fair**

**Thank you to all who have contributed to date, helping those that are less fortunate than our selves. A special word of thanks to Ms. Butler and all the boys and girls from 6th class and their families for helping, contributing and organising it all. You all did an amazing job! We thank you parents and children for your wonderful generosity and kindness in supporting this charity fundraiser by purchasing craft items and raffle tickets!**

**Congratulations to the following winners:**

**Senior end of school Winners were as follows:**

**1st place (Hamper) Clodagh – 3rd class**

**2nd place (Christmas Cake) Keela – 6th class**

**3rd place (Christmas Pudding) Cara – 5th class**

**4th place (Selection Box) Robyn – 4th class**

**5th place (Selection Box) Lee – 5th class**

**Junior end of school winners were as follows:**

**1st place (Hamper) Ryan – 2nd class**

****2nd place (Christmas Cake) Amelia – Jr infants**

**3rd place (Christmas Pudding) Thomas – 1st class**

**4th place (Selection Box) Emily – 2nd class**

**5th place (Selection Box) Adam – 2nd class**

**Principal’s Christmas Message**

I wish all our Scoil Bhríde Nurney parents, pupils, staff, Board of Management and friends a safe, happy and holy Christmas. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of staff, parents, pupils and the wider Nurney community to Scoil Bhríde in 2021. Walt Disney once said *‘You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality’*. This is certainly the case as a principal. The reality is that keeping our school open and the learning experiences that have taken place this year could not have happened without the commitment and support from school staff, parents, pupils and wider Nurney Community. Thank you to everyone for following ALL Public Health advice IN FULL to help keep us safe in our school. We look forward to your continued help in this regard in the New Year ahead.

I wish to applaud the staff for the way in which they have implemented the Primary School Curriculum with positivity and enthusiasm in the most extreme and toughest of conditions. I feel very privileged to be a part of a school with such highly capable and committed teachers and support staff. The stress and toil of keeping the school going during COVID over the last few months took a toll on my health last week and indeed has done on many of our staff since September. I cannot thank the staff enough for supporting each other during what has been the toughest of terms and the great work they have done in keeping the show on the road in the most extreme conditions. One of the critical factors of any successful school of course is the staff. In light of Covid-19 there has never been a time when working in a school has been more demanding or challenging. To our teachers, SNAs and support staff, thank-you for your energy, passion, enthusiasm and commitment to keep your pupils safe and to keep each other going. Well done one and all.

What a privilege it has been to be able to witness the joy on our pupils faces with the understanding or satisfaction of a problem solved, or the wonder of living new adventures through the world of literature. Our staff members recognise and applaud just how hard their pupils have worked this year in the toughest of conditions. We celebrate our pupil’s achievements, be they great or small and we share with pride, the progress our pupils have made with their learning. Not a week goes by that we are not as a school celebrating the successes of our pupils. Well done boys and girls!

Every day we welcome and appreciate the support that you have given as parents and guardians to your child(ren) as they enter our classrooms. Thank you for helping us to give your child the best start in lifelong learning by ensuring that your children arrive on time each day, ready and prepared to learn, dressed in the correct uniform, with a full and nutritious healthy lunch, ensuring that every child in our classrooms are offered a unique and enjoyable learning experience,

based on their individual needs, allowing them to grow strong and resilient, to stand on their own two feet and develop their talents within a team learning environment for the benefit of themselves and their community. Thank you for all your kind words of support to staff and understanding as, with often limited resources, we try to implement policies designed and created by others far from our daily lived reality. We will always endeavour to do our best with what we are given.

In Scoil Bhríde we are looking forward to a faith filled and safe year in 2022 and to your continued support throughout. Now, as the months go by, the work gets a little bit harder and a little bit more will be expected from each child.  Basically, we want each child to do their very best at all times, make an honest effort in everything they do, treat everyone with respect and behave properly at all times so that everyone can benefit from each day they spend in our school.

We hope the 2022 school year will be a happy one for your child but if, at any time during the year, you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to the class teacher.

As a school community we also treasure the opportunities where we worship and pray together and celebrate in our school assemblies. It is through these opportunities that we experience the message that God loves us in creative and engaging ways. This year we celebrated re-opening our school safely. The success of this event would not have been possible without staff, parents, pupils and the wider Nurney community working together collaboratively. Over the festive period and beyond, please continue to follow ALL public health advice to keep our schools open and operational in 2022.

When I reflect on my time this year as principal of what I consider to be a lovely school, I have many fond memories. The road has had bumps and many extreme challenges along the way. However, the rewards have far outweighed the challenges. All the experiences of this past year have contributed is some way to learning for us all. In our school we learn through loving and living.

Thank-you to all the Scoil Bhríde families who continue to promote Scoil Bhríde in a positive manner. God Bless you. Merry Christmas to all and have a happy and holy holiday season. Keep safe.

**Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir. Le gach dea ghuí Vinny Thorpe – *Principal***



***Wednesday Note and school information also available on***

[**www.nurneyns.com**](http://www.nurneyns.com)

***Thank you for your co-operation with the above.***

**Vinny Thorpe – Principal**

*(Doctoral Student) M.Ed (SL), MA.Comp.Mus, H.Dip.Prim.Ed, H.Dip.Mus.Tech, P.Grad.Dip.Ed.St(SEN), B.Mus.Ed(H.Dip.Ed), Dip.Mus.Ed, T.Dip.ICT*