**Scoil Bhríde**

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8th December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

**It’s a pretty full newsletter this week, so please read both sides!!!!**

**In line with Public Health Advice, Schools have been asked to ensure that all classroom are well ventilated to limit the possible spread of infectious disease even during the Autumn and Winter months. Public Health Advice has asked schools to open doors and window vents to increase natural ventilation** **where possible. To minimize discomfort, they ask that such vents be opened above the schools heating systems (radiators etc) To view this Public Health Advice please click the following link:**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ad236-guidance-on-ventilation-in-schools/>

**For that reason, we ask all parents to ensure that their children have good thermal under garments under their school uniform as we head into the Winter months. We would also ask all parents to ensure that their child comes to school prepared for all weathers as the staggered entry and exit to school buildings takes time and your child will be standing outside waiting their turn in all types of weather.**

**Public Health advice also asks schools to bring the children outside more than usual. For that reason, they need to have the proper clothing for all weathers.**

**As Mr. Thorpe’s Mum used to say *“There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing”***

**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

**Face masks**

In line with the recent Government requirement for pupils to wear face masks from 3rd to 6th class, we are delighted to announce 100percent compliance in our school. This display of solidarity and compassion for the most medically vulnerable pupils and staff in our school community and the most vulnerable people and their extended families in our parish and its surrounds has been very moving and is a testament to you… the wonderful children and people of this close-knit parish. It is a true reflection of the Christmas spirit of giving. The greatest gift we can give to anyone this Christmas, just like Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, is to put the needs of others ahead of our own. You are all amazingly kind, understanding and so very special to think of the welfare of others first at this most challenging of times for all your families. Every public health action you follow is helping to save lives in your community and keep this school operational for your child. Thank you so much and God Bless you all.

**Substitution crisis in primary schools**

As you may be aware from news channels, newspapers and social media, currently there is a severe shortage of primary school teachers and special needs assistants in our country and county. It has been a real challenge sinceCovid arrived in March 2020 to keep our school operational. However, with the great team spirit within our school staff we have managed to plug any gaps as best as we can using whatever staff we have been able to pull from other duties (such as special needs teachers, principal and deputy principal, work placement teachers etc.). Qualified primary teachers and trained SNAs are currently like gold dust. To protect the continued operation of the school, it has been and still is vital to protect staff in as much as is possible from COVID-19, because there have been literally no easy replacements to be found since March 2020. For that reason, we will always follow what-ever public health advice is in place to the letter of the law, and always err on the side of being super cautious in order to protect the great staff we are lucky to have. We lost a colleague to heaven four years ago and we are still devastated. We will always do all in our power to keep our beloved staff, pupils and families safe from COVID and unnecessary risk and to ensure that we never go through such loss again.

*Thank you to all parents and pupils for your continued past, present and future support in this endeavour.*

**Sacred Space, School Christmas Tree and School Crib**

Many thanks to Halle and Megan for decorating this year’s School Christmas Tree and School Crib! Super job children!

Well done!

**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>

**School Policy update**

Our school’s Special Education Needs Policy and Special Needs Assistant Policy has undergone an annual review and is available on our school website for reading and comment. Thank you.

**Can you help!? We are missing reading books from all our class libraries.**

During the last lockdown, many of our new purchased school reading books (to the value of 5,000Euro) were in children’s homes. However, our return to school is showing that we are missing many of our library books. Can we ask that everyone over the next few weeks do their utmost to please check if any of these school reading books might be in your home and return them safely to our school. Many thanks.



****Winter Fest Hamper Raffle organized by 6th class for all pupils in memory of Catherine O’Donoghue late of Walterstown Nurney (partner of our great school caretaker Pat). All donations go to ‘The Dining Room’, a homeless support service which provides hot food and drinks, soup, sandwiches, clothing and sleeping bags in Newbridge twice a week for up to 50 people and various families per night.**

Tickets for the raffle will be sold Tuesday the 7th and Thursday the 9th of December. Tickets are 1 Euro per line. Christmas arts and crafts will be sold the same day as the tickets. Classes will be notified of arts and crafts prices and products closer to the time. A Covid safety risk assessment and control plan has been developed to minimize the possible spread of any infectious disease.

Winners of the raffle will be announced at our December school assembly. The winner will get a hamper. There are two hampers. One for junior infants to 2nd class and one for 3rd to 6th class. All donations to this fundraiser are welcome and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

***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*



