**Scoil Bhríde**

*Nurney, Co. Kildare*

*Telephone: (045) 526767*

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21st December 2022

*Dear Parents/Guardians*

**Principals Christmas Message**

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

**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 – Junior Infants, Fiadh –1st class, Fionn – 4th class, Adam – 5th class***

***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! Photos are available to see on all our social media platforms.*

**Sacred Space**

We uphold a caring, tolerant and Christian ethos in our school. Here the children learn to respect themselves and each other, discover right from wrong and learn valuable social skills which they will need for the rest of their lives. All children are children of God. We are grateful to Peggy Brennan and Mary Hyland for designing and creating a beautiful sacred space with a Christmas theme in our school where the children and teachers can come to reflect and pray and work out how to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Helix Panto “Snow White” in Scoil Bhríde!**

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!!!!***

****Christmas Jumper Day!**

Wednesday, December 21st we invite all pupils, if they so wish, to wear a Christmas jumper in our school!

**Goodbye and Hello!**

We wish to say a fond farewell and thank you to teacher Ms. Kehoe, who finished with our school last week. We wish her the best of luck in her new position. We extend a warm welcome back Ms. O’Mahony. Since October, Ms. Kehoe 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 Christmas Hamper Raffle which raised €485.64 in aid of St. Vincent De Paul.**

**Thank you to all who contributed, 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 raffle tickets!**

**Congratulations to the following winners:**

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

**1st place (Hamper) Jack – 6th class**

**2nd place (Selection Box) Jack – 3rd class**

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

**1st place (Hamper) Kalei – 1st class**

**2nd place (Selection Box) Amelia – Senior Infants**

**3rd place (Selection Box) Aoife – Junior Infants**

**Dates for your diary**

* End of Term School Mass – Tuesday December 20th @ 11:40am. School Hall. Parents welcome. Very limited space. Standing only.
* School will close for Christmas on Wednesday December 21st for all pupils at 12.30pm. Buses have been told. The school will re-open on Thursday January 5th 2023 for all pupils at 9.20am
* School Book Fair – **Spring 2023; risk assessment pending**
* The Parish office wishes to inform you that Communion for families with children in 2nd class will be May 13th 2023 @ 11:30am in Nurney Church
* The Parish office wishes to inform you that Confirmation for families with children in 6th class will be March 25th @ 12 midday in Nurney Church

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

***on* www.nurneyns.com**

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

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**Dr. Vinny Thorpe – Principal**

*Ed.D (SL) 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*

**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 2022. 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 the learning experiences and projects that have taken place this year could not have happened without the commitment and support of 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 carried out our **core function** of implementing the Primary School Curriculum with positivity and enthusiasm. I feel very privileged to be a part of a school with such highly capable and committed teachers, SNAs and support staff. I cannot thank the staff enough for supporting each other and keeping our school operational in the midst of a teacher recruitment crisis. One of the critical factors of any successful school of course is its staff. There has never been a time when working in a school has been more demanding and challenging. To our teachers, SNAs and support staff, thank-you for your energy, passion, enthusiasm and commitment to the teaching and learning of our pupils 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. 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 2023 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 2023 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.

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 in some way to learning for us all. In our school we learn through loving and living. In the interest of wellbeing and improved learning outcomes, we have learned of a strong need to refocus more on our core function of teaching and learning by developing more sustainable work practices and creating a calmer school environment. We look forward to this task in the year ahead.

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 Dr. Vinny Thorpe – *Principal***

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