



# St Paul's SNS Newsletter



December 2020

## Christmas 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, although a very different one this year for all of us. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to have some of our usual Christmas activities such as the Mince Pie and Coffee Morning or Carol Singing in aid of the Alzheimers Centre. We also want to remind parents and children that for the safety of everyone, Christmas cards and gifts may not be exchanged in school this year.

However, we have done our best to bring Christmas cheer to the children. We held a **Christmas Art Competition**, with prizes for winners in each class. The standard of entry was outstanding and the winners and their pictures can be seen on our school website. Thank you to Ms Martyn who organised the competition.

Our hardworking **Parents' Association** did a great job ensuring that we still had our annual **Christmas Raffle** for the children. The raffles were held outside on Friday and there was a record number of prizes for each year group. It looked like nearly every child was a winner! Thank you very much to the Parents' Association, especially to Cora, Gráinne and Bernadette for all their work on Friday.

Children may wear Christmas jumpers, hairbands etc to school on Monday and Tuesday if they wish. If not, school uniform should be worn.

## Digital Ninja

St Paul's is now a Digital School, with all pupils having Google for Education accounts. The children have been very busy making amazing projects with Google slides, typing up super poems with Google Docs and creating brilliant stories on the Book Creator app. All of their work is saved to the cloud. This year we have decided to recognise the two best Digital Ninjas in each class. All the winners received a Digital Ninja Certificate and a prize. A big thank you to all the children, the teachers and members of the School Digital team, led by Mr Harrington. Keep up the great work!



## Active Schools

It has been a busy start to the year for *Active Schools*. Now, more than ever we recognise the importance of our health and wellbeing. Classes are making great use of the running track every day. In October, we managed to run a collective 4000km as part of the Run to Europe initiative. We were also awarded the *Daily Mile Flag* – a great achievement!

In November and December we completed *Active Break* challenges in class, with great competition between classes! Ms Corey and Mr Barnes would like to thank teachers and children for their continued enthusiasm and participation. We are glad to say that Gaelic coaching for classes has also been able to continue. Thank you to Ms Corey, Mr Barnes and Mr B Murphy for coordinating all the activities.

## Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

Covid-19 has also affected HSCL activities but our HSCL teacher Maura and Kate in St John's have been very resourceful in adapting to the current situation. They organised an online cookery course with Tara Walker from East Coast Cookery School and twenty parents followed the demonstration in their own kitchens, creating delicious dishes. They even managed to hold three face-to-face Christmas wreath-making classes for parents (with limited numbers) with Dulores from Listoke Flowers.

## Reminders for January

- ❖ When coming into school at the Marley's Lane Gate, please make sure your children cross at the lights with the lollipop lady. If you are accompanying your child to school, please walk them to the lollipop lady and do not cross with them at any other place.
- ❖ School starts at 9a.m. for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class children. Please do not send the children to school before 8.50a.m. as this is the time supervision begins in the yard. School starts at 9.15a.m. for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class children. Please do not send them to school before 9.05a.m. This is to allow for the yard to be cleared of the previous group.

There are only two exceptions to these start times - if your child comes on a bus and gets dropped off earlier than the start time or if they are accompanying a younger sibling to school. They may then wait in the Basketball court until their start time.

These rules are for the safety of your children so please adhere to them.

## School Holidays

School will close for Christmas Holidays on Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at **12 noon for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Classes** and **12.15p.m. for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes**. We will re-open on Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. We would like to wish all our pupils, staff and their families a Happy, Peaceful and Safe Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

*Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh*

