



27th November 2017

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Thank you all for your fantastic support and flexibility with regard to attending meetings with teachers over the last few weeks. This week should complete the meetings and it is also Science Week! Thanks to teacher Laura for organising that.

CLASS OUTINGS

We have four Senior classes attending the Mill Theatre on the 7th to see the Aladdin musical. In this our 10th year of the school, we are hoping to give all children as much experience, as possible, of the magic of theatre and drama.

On the same day, Aisling and Sarah's Class will tour a gallery at The Irish Museum of Modern Art, (IMMA), featuring works by Lucien Freud. The students will engage with the works through an *Art Hunt* and a tour. The teachers and the IMMA team have been in contact to plan this day, including an art workshop that will be tailored to their needs. They will also have the opportunity to explore the grounds and gardens.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

We are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit substitute teachers to cover 'teacher absences' and we will be writing to the different relevant bodies about that e.g. the INTO and the Department of Education. All schools, nationally, are having the same difficulty and it is creating a challenge for classroom management. We are fortunate enough to have the four American student teachers in our school for 6 weeks till the 7th of December. They are very helpful and love having the opportunity to teach and manage a class.

STAFF

We have also been reduced in our SNA hours, which means that we now only have 7 SNAs, four of whom are occupied solely with the two special classes. We would also like to welcome Thomas who will be with us for a year on an employment scheme. He is gaining experience in caretaking and will be assisting Vincent in many areas of the school.

Teachers Jacqui and Emma, who are currently on maternity leave, will not be returning until later in the year. We are delighted that teachers Aoife and Cian can remain with us on extended contracts to cover their leave. Teacher Kate will also be leaving at Xmas on maternity leave, so we hope that Caoimhe will remain on in the capacity of Learning Support teacher, as Caitriona is due back to teach 5th class in January.

Of course our congratulations to Caoimhe's 5th class on being successful in their application to the RDS Junior Science Fair, which takes place in January. We will give you more information on that closer to the time.

XMAS PLANS

As we approach Xmas, preparations begin for those important days when your children may perform some seasonal songs or dramatic pieces. This Winter, we hope to have the Junior Infants performance on Tuesday the 19th, the Senior Infants perform *The Gruffalo* on the 20th and the two

3rd classes perform (separately) Babushka on the 18th, while 6th class perform Mr. Scrooge on Monday, the 18th December, also.

We will send you more details of these closer to the time. In the meantime, if anyone has a prize that they would like to donate for our annual Xmas raffle, we will be very happy to accept! If you have any photos you would like to share for the Xmas Newsletter please send them in.

NEXT CLOTHES RECYCLE DAY:

Wednesday 13th, so please bag all those items you need to clear from your home before Xmas and send them in to our bike-rack that morning.

CYBER SAFETY

A reminder to be very vigilant regarding your child's access to the internet and how they use their mobile phones. You Tube and other supposedly 'fun' sites really should not be accessed by children without an adult present. Even YouTube for Kids needs adult supervision as there is some questionable material found on that site also.

SAFETY in the yard and around collection time

The yard is only supervised by school staff from 9.10 a.m. in the mornings. If you would like your child to leave the school yard at home time to be meet you or to walk home alone, you must send in a request in writing (only applies to students from 4th class up) to the class teacher. Children who travel by bike MUST wear their safety helmet at all times.

LOST PROPERTY

Please re-inforce with your child the importance of being responsible for their belongings, especially coats and outer garments. It is really surprising that some of the lost property remains unclaimed and it subsequently ends up in re-cycling!

Catherine