



December Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of 2018, I wish to congratulate our students on completing a hardworking and successful term. I also wish to thank you, parents and guardians, for your continued support, for bringing important issues to our attention and for supporting your children at school. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff members for their dedication and continued hard work for each one of our pupils. Míle buíochas to the staff members who give freely of their own time to coach teams, attend quizzes, organise trips and experiences, creating lifelong, happy school memories for your children.

Literacy and Numeracy: December is always a very busy and exciting time of the year and very much enjoyed. As we prepare for Christmas Carol singing and Christmas Concerts and fun activities, we continue to focus on progressing the learning experiences for all our pupils. This month we are concentrating on Algebra, Report Writing and Questioning.

Reminder: There are some Classroom Requisite fees still outstanding. This money is essential for the purchase of classroom provisions for your child. School expenses are €35 for the first child, €30 for your 2nd child and €25 for your 3rd child. Maximum is €90 per family. We would be grateful if you could pay any outstanding fees as soon as possible. If you have any issue, please contact the Principal, Mary Magner. Please label all envelopes with child's name, teacher's name, class and amount.

Christmas Spirit: During the next few weeks we will emphasise the gift of generosity and kindness in the true spirit of Christmas. We are asking our pupils to "write a list" of 12 Good Deeds and to undertake to do them before Christmas Day. Instilling the wonderful feeling of giving into our children is the greatest gift we can give them. We would encourage you as parents to tailor the 12 Good Deeds List to your family and get ready to watch your children really sparkle with generosity this Christmas season! Some Good Deed ideas for home:

- *Hold a door open for someone. Greet and smile at family, friends and neighbours.*
- *Surprise someone with a hug / Give someone a compliment.*
- *Set the table for dinner / tidy the bedroom / empty the dishwasher etc.*
- *Pick up rubbish someone else dropped / Turn off the lights to save energy*
- *Call Grandparents to tell them that you love them.*
- *Call into to an elderly neighbour. Donate an item to the Christmas food bank.*
- *Write a thank you or greeting card to someone. Draw a picture to cheer someone up.*

Student Council: Our Student Council consists of two members from each of 4th - 6th classes. Student Councils give pupils an opportunity to experience democracy in action and provide a formal communication line to the school principal and the Board of Management. They allow pupils a formal platform where their views can be listened to and acted upon where possible. Huge thanks to Mr. Cronin for facilitating and organising Scoil Chroí Íosa's Students' Council.

Christmas Hamper Appeal: This year, with your help and donations from our pupils, the Student Council will prepare hampers for needy families in the Blarney area. Perhaps you could share some food items from your kitchen press and / or shopping trolley. Suggested items include tinned foods, pasta, rice, jars of sauces/vegetables/jams; tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cereals, porridge, toilet rolls, paper towels, soups, sugar, biscuits, selection boxes etc. etc. - indeed any long lasting food items. All donations will be gratefully appreciated and well received. There are food trolleys in each building to facilitate same. Many, many thanks.

Christmas Concerts: We look forward to meeting you at the forthcoming Christmas Concerts on the 18th Dec (Junior Building) and on the 19th Dec (Senior Building). Times of the concerts will be communicated via each class. I wish to acknowledge the Trojan work of all teachers in preparing our pupils for their performances and we hope you enjoy the show.

Turning On of Blarney Lights will take place in the village square on Saturday 8th Dec. at 6 p.m. Pupils from 1st class will join with our neighbouring Gaelscoil Mhuscraí to lead us in a sing-song of seasonal tunes. A lovely Community event for all ages.

The annual **Community Carol Service** will take place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at 7 p.m. on Mon 10th Dec. The school choir will perform carols and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Many, many thanks to Mrs. O' Connor, Ms Dennehy, Mrs. Humphreys and Ms. McPolin for preparing the children.

Carol Singing: Classes will perform in the Blarney Woollen Mills. Parents, Grandparents, family and friends are very welcome to join in the fun. Each class teacher will notify parents of day and times of carol singing as soon as Blarney Woollen Mills notify us of available dates and times.

Bambineilli Sunday: A gift of the presence of Christ in the home this Christmas. Over the past number of decades, on the Third Sunday of Advent, children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figurines from their homes to St Peters Square in Rome where they are blessed by the Pope. As part of Blarney Parish preparation for Christmas, Fr. Fitzgerald is inviting all children and families to bring the 'Baby Jesus' figurine from their homes to be blessed at Masses on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, 15th /16th December. A suggestion is, that following the blessing, families take their 'Bambineilli' home, wrap it and open it first as a family on Christmas morning and the youngest member of the family would place it in the crib. Alternatively, you can, as a family, place the Baby Jesus figure in the Crib after the blessing at Mass.

Christmas Jumper Day: Everyone is encouraged to wear their Santa Hats, Christmas Jumpers or Christmas themed accessories on Fri 21st Dec. You all are very welcome to join in the fun and Christmas Cheer.

Christmas Cards: In line with our Green Schools Policy, we request that children do not exchange Christmas Cards in school.

School Website: Please check out our school website for the latest news in each of our classes.
www.scins.ie

Dates for Your Diary: N.B. Don't forget Bug Busting every Friday night.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Turning on of Christmas Lights: Sat 8th Dec in Blarney Square at 6 p.m.

Community Carol Service: Monday 10th Dec in the Church of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at 7 p.m.

Christmas Performances in the Junior Building: 18th December from 9.15 a.m. onwards.

Christmas Performances in the Senior Building: 19th December from 9 a.m. onwards.

Christmas Holidays: Friday 21st December@ 12 noon. School re-opens on Monday 7th January.

Go raibh síocháin na Nollag agus Bliain Nua faoi shéan 's faoi shonas ort 's ar do mhuintir. Happy Christmas.

Mary Magner

Anne Humphreys