



Christmas Newsletter

December
2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Christmas to you all and I hope you have a safe and special Christmas this year. The staff are delighted to have made it to the finishing line of Term 1. Thank you to everyone for your support. Your children are a credit to you. We have kept the feelings of positivity and happiness to the fore this term and the children settled back into school very quickly and got back into routines and structured learning without too many hitches. There has been super creativity and fundraising in the school and well done to all involved. We are very proud of all the children.

I wish to thank all the staff for their wonderful work and for their great creativity in overcoming any obstacles that we have faced in the past few months. They are an amazing bunch of people and they kept the happy, welcoming atmosphere alive this term. I hope that they all have a great break.

A special thank you to Tommy Duffy as Acting Deputy Principal; Anne and Kate in the office and David, our caretaker.

We are very sad to see Seamus Lynch retire after 33 and a third fantastic years in Holy Family S.N.S. He has been a most dedicated teacher; colleague and friend to everyone here. We will miss him.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and thank you, as always, to Siobhan Leonard for producing it.

Next term, we will, please God, have lovely spring weather to look forward to and hopefully, we will be able to plan events like Confirmation in the coming months.

Have a wonderful, happy Christmas and we will see you in the New Year for even brighter days ahead.

Kind regards,

Geraldine Gowen

Principal

Sponsorship Projects

The school is looking for your financial support with three very worthwhile, practical projects.

Outdoor Classroom. We have recently purchased a set of logs to use as chairs/stools for an outdoor classroom. We need sponsorship of approximately €300 to purchase tree trunks to make tables for the outdoor classroom.

Cycle Track. Mr Duffy has been running a cycling course for all the sixth class students in the school for the past thirty years. The vast majority of the training is done on a road track which is painted on the school yard. Unfortunately this track is faded and has all but disappeared and we need your support to have it redone. Approximate cost €1100.

Science Equipment. The school science equipment needs a financial boost. Magnets, simple circuits, batteries, bulbs and a host of other things all need to be replaced due to wear and tear. Approximate cost of restocking our science equipment is €500.

If you think you can assist us with any of the above projects Ms Gowen or Mr Duffy would love to hear from you.

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Swords Localise Youth
Volunteers in Holy Family SNS
Rivevalley raised €6,400 for
their local chapter of Saint
Vincent De Paul.

 Localise

News2Day and SVP Food Appeal

We had a very exciting day in Holy Family SNS on the 14th of December. RTE's News2Day heard about our fantastic Funky Friday fundraiser and wanted to visit our school to find out more.

The pupils in Ms Flynn's class were very excited. The reporter, Aisling Moloney, came early on Monday morning with a cameraman. She interviewed pupils in Ms Flynn's class and they told her all about the yard games, hot chocolate party and PE slot prizes and how they promoted the event. Denis Barry from SVP Rivervalley and Deborah Reid from Localise also spoke about the importance of fundraising for people in our locality during the Christmas period. Then a cheque was presented to SVP from Holy Family SNS. After the interviews, pupils from Ms Hanley's class demonstrated how we carried out the games on yard. Special thanks to Ms Mc Donagh's 3rd class who did a fantastic job showing News2day an example of what we did on Funky Friday.

Once again Ms Flynn's class would like to say a huge thank you to our school community for their generosity in raising €6100 for St Vincent de Paul. We'd like to say thank you to Supervalu Boroimhe for their donation of €300 bringing our total to €6400. Amazing!

Have a very merry Christmas.

<https://vimeo.com/493671033> The video from news today is available to view here.

Reading Class News

In September 2020 the Reading Classes welcomed seventeen new students. Some of our students travel from as far as Ashbourne and Ratoath in County Meath. Their taxis collect them from 7.20 in the morning. Our students use the Wilson Reading System to support their reading. They have all made fantastic progress.

This year all of the students have their own PC's, laptops or chrome books. This is because of Covid 19. We don't allow students to share equipment. Our students enjoy using Nessy educational programmes. Their favourites are Nessy Reading and Spelling and Nessy Fingers which is a typing programme.

We also use the IXL maths programme which is very helpful for revising and learning new maths.

We like to take a movement break twice a week. We bring footballs, skipping ropes and tennis balls down to the yard. If we are really lucky we get the whole yard to ourselves. We usually bring our school bags and then go straight to the taxis. Our drivers are Brian, Karl and Brendan. They make sure we sanitize our hands before we get into the taxis.

We have enjoyed a Halloween dress up day and funky Friday which raised money for the Vincent de Paul. We raised a lot of money and won an extra P.E. slot and a hot chocolate party. We are enjoying Christmas art activities and are really looking forward to the Christmas panto in the week before Christmas.

Ms. Leonard (SNA) has a lovely Advent tradition for the Reading Classes. Every day a student from one of the classes gets a chocolate bar from the Advent calendar. Ms. Leonard also helps all of our students with reading. She sees the wonderful progress they are making. Mr. White, Ms. Kearney and Ms. Leonard are very proud of all of our students. We know they will continue to work hard in 2021!

Ms. Kearney and Mr. White



December 2020

Dear Future Self

Hi Future Self,

It's Louis here, your past self. Hopefully we haven't already lost this letter because we can be forgetful at times. You're probably having a better time in college than me stuck in school during the pandemic. Yes, I am writing from the covid-19 lockdown. It's really, really boring here. But 2020 is almost over so hopefully we can have a normal Christmas.

It's really different now. Everyone has to wear a mask and we all have to sanitize and wash our hands more than usual. Social distancing is also a big pain and we can't meet up with grandparents.

I have a couple of questions for you. Is the virus still around and do they have a vaccine yet? Are you still involved in sports (aka GAA/hurling etc)? Anyway, hope you made the Dublin team. Do you have a dog of your own and if so, what breed?

Just a little advice for you. #1 keep fit and healthy. I know it's hard but keep it up. #2 Stay in school.

So hopefully you make the Dublin team and good luck with the rest of college and with the rest of life.

Louis Hickey 5th Class

Dear Future Alannah,

What's up? It's little you! It is 2020 and I am 11 years old. I am in 5th Class and my teacher is Ms. Fallon. My best friend in school is Natalia and at home it is Skye. Speaking of them, are you still friends? I really hope you are. I actually have some questions for you. At the moment I have two dream jobs- acting and architecture. Are those still your interests? I think you would be good at architecture because I love designing houses and I love to be creative! I think you would be good at acting too. It's very fun but I get nervous to perform. Did you ever get the confidence for it?

Also, what about the Corona-Virus? Is it gone or is it still a thing? Did they find a vaccine yet? I really hope so. Do you still have to wear a mask or visors? If you can get through 2020 then you can do anything!

I would also like to ask you about your appearance. What colour is your hair right now, since I know I'll be dyeing it different colours almost every week! Did you get all the piercings that Dad won't allow? Also, what's your style?

I want to know about school. Did you get into Fingal or did Dad make you go to Loreto? Have you gotten into any colleges with Natalia yet? Me and my BFF Natalia have planned our whole future! I hope we are still friends then.

Now just some random questions. Do you still love Stranger Things? Do you still love Hershey and Aero chocolate? Do you have any more siblings? Do you wear glasses? Do you have a pug? Did you ever get a pug? And what is your favourite childhood memory? I hope you have had a good life And remember, BE GOOD!

Alannah Duffy

5th Class

Dear Caoimhe Murphy,

Hi, today it is the 19th November 2020. I'm 11 (don't know what age I am when reading). Anyway today there were 69,058 cases and 2,006 died altogether. You probably know what I'm talking about but I'm going to tell you anyway. Covid 19. Covid is a whole pandemic and it all started last December and then the world got shut down. Most countries shut down in February but Ireland shut down in March. The schools shut down on the 12th of March. I know I use a lot of Tippex and my writing is really bad but I'm working on it. The schools opened back up on the 27th of August (3 days before my birthday). Isabel left and Casey joined. Anyway back to Coronavirus, it is the 20th November, 35 days till Christmas! We are in level 5 now of Covid 19, that's the highest level. I don't know if Coronavirus is still around but if it is I hope family is safe and happy. On December the 1st I think we are going into level 3 or 4 so if we do then Christmas will be ok. My favourite programme at the moment is Sister, Sister. It's about two twins that are separated at birth and then one day they meet in a mall and move in together but their mam and dad don't get along, it's really good. My teacher asked me to write this down, his name is Mr McDonald. This is what he asked me to write: at the moment we are in level 5 of restrictions. Only essential shops are open. Restaurants are closed but can offer at takeaway service. Many people are annoyed as clothing is not essential but sweets are! Hello, it's me again it's the 24th of November and it's 31 days to Christmas. The Late Late toy show is on Friday the 27th. Yay I'm so excited the Toy Show is in 3 days ahhh, it might be a bit different but I'm so excited we're getting pizza and sweets! Anyway I'm coming to the end of this letter, hope you enjoyed it and enjoy the rest of your day. Oh and also tell Mam and Dad and Saoirse you love them.

Signed: Caoimhe Murphy 5th Class

Dear Anna 2030

Hope you are keeping well. Have you caught the coronavirus? I hope everything is back to normal and you are all now free! Do you still live with Mam and Dad and did they let you get a dog? Can you drive? I really want a 7 seater but I need my licence first. Do you remember when you were 11 in 2020 in Ms Walsh's class? She had to wear a mask and there were yellow dots everywhere! Did you give up on becoming a vet because you always wanted to be one? Was secondary school hard? Did you do transition year? Do you remember Christmas 2020? Was it normal? Think back to when you were in 6th class, did play works go ahead? How Nana and Granny and Grandad doing? Tell them 2020 Anna says Hi! Remember when Joe Biden won against Donald Trump? Did you get to have a normal confirmation? Is it normal to wear masks? Do you remember Ciara, Addi, Rebecca and Ellie-mae, if you do give them a call? Have schools closed since 2020 or is it normal now. Do you know you always wanted to decorate a house. Do people still go on zoom for meetings and stuff? Do you have art from primary and secondary school? Was secondary school fun? Did you get on well? Who is the president of Ireland, is it you?

Here are some tips:

Always believe

Remember anything is possible

You can achieve anything you put your mind to

Worrying is like a rocking chair, takes time but doesn't get you anywhere!

Signed: Anna Satell 2020

Date:23/11/2020



My Future Self.....

Advice, Wishes and Quotes from 5th Class

'You can get through anything if you get through 2020', Tyler Slaney

'The school closed for two weeks because of Covid-19. It was fun at the start but then it got really boring when they closed for 6 months', Ryan Reynolds

'Be kind, study and save your money', Ryan Reynolds

'Take care of Mam and the family', Tyler Slaney

'Stay safe, try your best, never give up, work hard, be the best you can be', Dean Barbour

'Maybe you remember that you wanted to go to the Safari in Africa...it costs a lot but it sounds wonderful!', Nora Garcia

'One thing I really want to say to my future self is if anyone brings you down remember that you are worth it and words can't change that', Natalia Wojdyla

'Never get into too much drama', Cara Gaffney

'One of my dreams is to own a bakery on Swords Main Street', Aoife Boylan

Stay healthy, stay out of trouble, take care of your house, be wise about what your money is spent on and take care of your kids (if you have any yet!)

Always try new things and try your best.

Always be the best you can be. Never give up on your dreams. But always remember, God is with you.

Shoebox Appeal



The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is running a little differently this year due to Covid.

Although you will not be able to create a shoebox like previous years you can still build a virtual box or donate at



<https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/>

The closing date is December 23rd.

Thank you for your continued support for this appeal.

Science Week

Ms Walsh, 5th class

Science week took place at the end of November. There were lots of fun experiments, discovery based learning and research on scientists taking place in different classes across the school. We had a fun, exciting week. We may have some future scientists in Holy Family SNS!

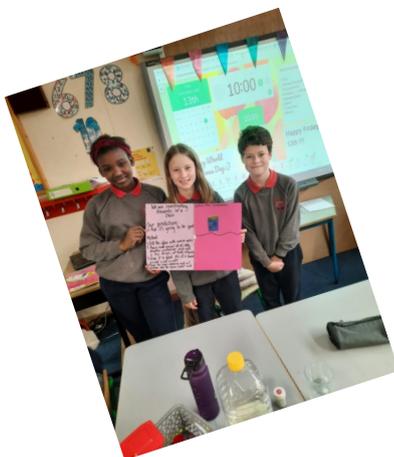


Photo Competition

3rd Class.

Theme: Winter wonderland



1st Place: **Amelia Ciurylo**

Ms Ralph



2nd Place: **Jack Lynch**

Mr Lynch



3rd Place: **Hannah Lyons**

Ms Nash

4th Class.

Theme: What 2020 means to me



1st Place: **Alex Farrell**Ms

Ms Fitzsimons



2nd Place: **Max Weiss**

Mr Mc Guinn



3rd Place: **Ryan O Neill**

Ms S.Walsh



5th Class

Theme: What 2020 means to me



1st Place: **Jenny Cummins**

Ms Byrne



2nd Place: **Rebecca Bayle**

Ms Walsh



3rd Place: **Amita Prakash**

Mr Mc Donald

6th Class.

Theme: Light



1st Place: **Anna Cherkaska**

Lorena Blanusa

Ms. Flynn



2nd Place: **Paulina Kominowska Coughlan**

Ms O Connor



3rd Place: **Ngene Godfrey**

Ms O Connor



Ms Mc Donagh

3rd Class



We made these little woolly winter hats using a ring of cardboard and lengths of wool. They were tricky to do but really worth it. We are so proud of our creations!!



In November we learned all about similes, comparing things using the words 'like' or 'as'. We really enjoyed illustrating some well known similes. Some of us made up our own new ones too!

In November we remembered our relatives, friends and pets who have died. We prayed for them and remembered all the good times we had with them. With these special memories in our hearts, they will never be very far away.



Stars of News2day

On Monday the 14th of December we were on News2day!

Our school raised money for St Vincent de Paul with an event called Funky Friday. On that day, Ms. Hanley's class set up games for our class out in our yard. The two classes worked well together. We enjoyed the games and the pupils from Ms. Hanley's 6th class enjoyed working with us too. When we were chosen to be part of the show, we were so surprised and excited that we were jumping up and down, screaming and shouting!

On Monday morning, the presenter Aisling Moloney, came to the school along with a cameraman. Aisling had a cool pink reindeer mask! They sent Mr. Duffy for us just as we were starting P.E.

We were upset about missing P.E. but we were excited about being recorded for News2day!

The game we played for the news recording was ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS. It was a race to get from one end of a line of hoops to the other. On the way you had to stop and challenge anyone coming along the line from the other direction. It was great fun! A few people made sure to get a good look at the camera!

We were jumping for joy when we saw ourselves on the programme. We have all been practising our autographs just in case anyone asks!

Green Team

Recycled Christmas Decorations



The Green Team ran an exciting new Christmas competition this year. We encouraged the children to make a Christmas decoration using recycled materials. The entries were fantastic and we had a tough job narrowing down the finalists for each year group. Take a look at the amazing finalists for each year group! Well done to everyone for participating. We have a lot of creative and talented students in our school. Have a lovely Christmas from the Green Team.

6th class

1st place Mr Byrne

Wiktoria Korzepska

2nd place Ms RoseNel

Rebecca Earley and Neha Jacob

5th class

1st place Ms Walsh

Alice Roma

2nd place Ms Ryan

Ellie D'etorre

4th class

1st place Mr McGuin

Chloe Godwin

2nd place Mr McGuin

Thomas Omoniyi

3rd class

1st place Ms Ralph

Riley Reynolds-O'Neill

2nd place Mr White

Eve Lawler

