

November



Welcome back

Now that mid-term is over we're into the countdown to Christmas. With all the upcoming activities we expect the rest of the term to fly by!

Coming to school

The children are all well settled into school now and we would encourage parents to foster independence by saying goodbye at the school door and allowing your child to go into the classroom alone. Your child should be allowed to carry his/her own school bag, hang up his/her coat and put his/her lunchbox in the correct place. The senior pupils are used to being buddies and are happy to help escort little people to their classrooms. There will be a teacher at the school door in the morning to welcome the children and to pass on any messages that you might have for the teacher. Friday will continue to be 'Come and See' day and parents are welcome to visit the classrooms then.



Diocesan Service

Annual Schools Service

On Thursday the 17th October ten 6th class pupils represented the school at the annual service in Christchurch Cathedral. This is a huge event with representatives from all the schools in United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough (approx. 500 children). One of our pupils, Zoe, also read at the service. The children were great ambassadors for the school and did themselves proud.

Garda Vetting

Garda vetting is required for anyone doing relevant work in school. We have a list of parents who are garda vetted and these are the parents who we ask to help out at different times. If you have not been vetted we would ask that you would consider getting it done now. Vetting request forms are available from the school office.



Book Week

The Book Fair was a great success and raised € 2302 to spend on books for the school. The week ended with children and staff dressing up as characters from books. There were some great costumes and we had great fun!

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Book Fair and a special thanks to the PTA and parents who helped out throughout the week.



Junior Choir

It's going to be a busy term for the Junior Choir! They will be singing at the ACE services on 17th November and the 15th of December as well as at the annual parish Christmas Lunch. They are also learning the repertoire for the Peace Proms concert in February. We are also going to have a Christmas Concert on Monday 16th December in the school.

Healthy Eating

At our recent Student Council Meeting some of the children voiced concerns over treats in school and how some children have treats and others don't. We also discussed this at our recent staff meeting and we have agreed that children should have treats at home and not at school. Already children are not allowed to have crisps, fizzy drinks or sweets. We would like to extend this to include chocolate, donuts and cakes. Dentists recommend that children avoid other high sugar foods such as dried fruit and Winders so we would ask parents to be aware of this. Many of these foods also have lots of single use plastic. We ask parent to try to be aware of this when preparing lunches. The policy aims to promote good health in our children.

Medicine in school

Teachers should not administer medicine to pupils except in exceptional circumstances. Should your child require medicine in school, you need to sign an indemnity form (available from the office). Children shouldn't have medicine in their schoolbag, even inhalers. Any medicine should be given to the teacher for safekeeping.



Manners!

In our school we pride ourselves on good manners and respectful relationships. To maintain this high standard of behaviour we are going to spend some time focusing on what good manners look like and what our expectations are. It would be great if you could practice re-enforcing this with your children at home too.

Parent Teacher Meetings

The Parent Teacher meetings will take place on the 13th, 14th and 15th November. Parents have been invited to make appointments through the Aladdin Connect system.

Please note that school closes at 1.05 p.m. for all children on the Friday. As in previous years, 5th & 6th classes attend the meetings with their parents.



Christmas Fair

The annual much-anticipated Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 6th December. This is a great opportunity for a great pre-Christmas clearout while supporting this important fund-raiser. We would love any unwanted toys, fashion accessories, books, DVDs, household items, unwanted gifts or stuffed animals. Please, please **do not** send in broken, dirty or unusable items or any electrical items - it costs us money to dispose of this stuff!

We also need bottles for the bottle stall, cakes and home produce and raffle prizes. Raffle tickets will be sent home with each child later this month. Please sell as many tickets as possible; if you need more we can supply them. If you can help in any way on the day of the Fair or during the week of the fair with sorting stuff, please don't be shy and let us know; **all helpers will be welcomed with open arms!**

Grandparents' Day

Just before the mid-term break we held, what has now become, our annual Grandparents' Day. This is one of the highlights of the school calendar when we welcome the children's grandparents (or older friends) to visit the school, be entertained by the children and visit the classrooms. Once again this was a terrific success with lots of grandparents visiting on the day, even though the weather was horrible!

A huge thank you to the 6th class pupils who were great ambassadors on the day, welcoming visitors, acting as guides and answering questions as well as serving tea! Thank you also to Mr. Leonard for co-ordinating the day, the parents who helped with the teas and the teachers who prepared the children to sing so beautifully.

There are lots more lovely photos from the day on our website so check them out!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4th November: Hearing and Vision tests for Junior Infants
- 7th November: PTA AGM
- 13th, 14th, 15th November: Parent Teacher Meetings
- 17th November: ACE Service
- 21st November: Junior Infant Immunisations
- 23rd November: Parish Clothes Recycling (drop into parish centre)
- 6th December: Christmas Fair
- 10th December: Junior Choir singing at parish lunch
- 15th December: ACE Service
- 16th December: Junior Choir Christmas Concert
- 19th December: Junior & Senior Infants and 1st & 2nd class plays
- 20th December: END OF TERM

