

DECEMBER 2020

Rathfarnham Parish National School

Christmas Jumpers for Crumlin

One of the charities that we have decided to support this Christmas is Crumlin Children's Hospital. On Friday 11th December, we're asking everyone to wear a Christmas themed jumper and we will donate some of the money from our Christmas Fun Day to the hospital. The children will also get a chance to design a Christmas jumper in school and we'll be awarding prizes to the best designs in each class.

Student teachers

RPNS has had a long tradition of welcoming student teachers on teaching practice placement. While we have been unable to have transition year students in school this year, we have still facilitated student teachers in this very important part of their teacher training. This term we welcome Jane Doyle and ex-pupils Megan Valentine and Sam Wright who are in their final year of their B.Ed degrees and who have been working in Junior Infants, Senior Infants and Rang 5. They will be back again next term.



Christmas Fun Day!

The most anticipated event in the school year here in RPNS is the annual Christmas Fair. It's also our most important fundraiser. However, Covid 19 has put an end to the usual Christmas Fair. We still want the children to have something exciting to look forward to and therefore the staff have been very creative and have come up with the idea of holding a Christmas Fun Day on Friday 11th December instead of the usual Fair. While we won't be able to have the usual stalls, we hope to have lots of fun activities within the individual class 'bubbles' and, weather permitting, outside in the yard.

To fund the day (and hopefully raise some much needed funds) we're asking that parents pay a minimum of €15 per child for the day through the Aladdin system. We will then issue the children with tokens that they can use to pay for games, sweets, pizza, hot dogs, raffle etc, on the day. This means there will be no cash in school and everyone can still shop! Unfortunately we



NEWSLETTER

Christmas Plays

Christmas in school just wouldn't be the same without the younger children acting out the Nativity! While we can't put on any public performances as usual, the infants classes and Ranganna 1 & 2 are going to go ahead with their plays which will be recorded and share with parents. More details soon!

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings this year will be a bit different as we can't meet with parents face to face. They will take place during the week beginning 25th January and teachers will phone parents to discuss the children's progress. More details to follow after Christmas.

Solas Project

Christmas is a time when we think about others less fortunate than ourselves and RPNS families are always keen to support charities. This Christmas as well as raising money for Crumlin Children's Hospital we are supporting the Solas project which is a charity that supports inner-city children. We are asking that children bring in a gift **before** the 11th December which we can then pass on to Solas. There's a full list of suggested gifts on the school blog.

Children can bring their gifts into school and they will be collected by the class teachers.

Thank you for your support.

can't have parents visiting the school on the day so if you feel that you would like to donate more to support the fundraising effort, the facility to do so will be available through Aladdin.

Here's to a great day!



Claire's Garden

Since Mr. Gillis retired we have been without a school caretaker and Claire's garden had become overgrown and pretty messy! A huge thank you to student teacher Mr. Wright and his brother Nick who organised a work party to clear up the garden and also planted some flowers to brighten the garden up. Thank you too to student teachers Miss Valentine and Miss Doyle who also helped out. It's lovely to see the garden looking so cared for again.

Attendance

We've always prided ourselves on high school attendance, even during winter when children have lots of coughs and colds. Therefore you would expect that the pandemic would have an impact on attendance numbers and they would drop. However, attendance this term has been really high at 98.3% in November which is higher than it was last year; so very well done everyone on getting here every day!

Our Elf is here!

Since it's now December our elf arrived in school last night and was waiting for us when we arrived this morning. He is however, restricting his movements for a while. Here he is wearing his visor. He'll be washing his hands lots too!



NEWSLETTER

End of term Service

We will have a special Christmas Assembly on Friday 18th December at 8.45 a.m. via Zoom. We hope as many families as possible can join us for this important celebration.

Enrolment for 2021

REMINDER: If your child has been offered a place for Junior Infants for 2021 please remember to return the Admissions Acceptance Form as soon as possible. If we don't get the form we will assume you don't want the place and it may be offered to another child on the waiting list.

There are still some outstanding forms for children who already have siblings in the school - please remember that you still need to accept the place formally.

Jingle Bells Dip!

For those of you who love a nice bracing sea swim, the Jingle Bells dip might be just for you. If it's not your thing you can still sponsor the other brave souls! You can sign up or get more information by contacting jinglebelldip@gmail.com

See details below:

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 19TH AT 10.00AM
IN BULLOCK HARBOUR DALKEY,
FOR THE JINGLE BELL DIP
IN AID OF RATHFARNHAM PARISH
AND ASSOCIATED CHARITIES.**

**DO YOU LIKE A DIP IN THE SEA?
HOW HARDY DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
COULD YOU STAY IN LONG ENOUGH
TO SING A CHORUS OF JINGLE BELLS?**

Looking for brave and hardy sea swimmers prepared to take the plunge on the last Saturday before Christmas (19th December) in aid of Rathfarnham Parish and associated charities. Sponsorship cards and your jingle bell hat will be provided AND we'll be having hot cider and snacks afterwards!

**Rathfarnham Parish
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

We'll be asking you to leap into the sea and get that hat jingling (chattering teeth don't count), making sure that someone films your bravery. When in the water, you have to sing at least one chorus of Jingle Bells! Afterwards, please send the clip to gillperdue@gmail.com and standby for the movie!*

Contact gillperdue@gmail.com for further details and sponsorship forms.

*If you're not free on Saturday 19th you can still take part. Dip at a time of your choosing and don't forget to send us photographic evidence!

Christmas Holidays

School will end for all children on Tuesday 22nd December at 12 noon.

We will re-open again on Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 8.20 a.m.

The same arrangements for arriving and leaving school will continue next term.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!