

St. Laurence's National School



Christmas Newsletter 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians, as we approach Christmas and the end of our First Term, I would like to thank everyone in the School Community for your ongoing support and I would like to wish you all a very **Happy Christmas**. We are all incredibly proud of your amazing children who have dealt with all the challenges and changes to our usual school schedule without complaining. They are a credit to you all. Throughout the term the children have been busy. They have been involved in various sporting, academic and fun activities which we intend to continue in the New Year.

School Events

- **Maths** – all classes are continuing with their maths riddles
- in order to achieve our next goal of homework pass on our maths thermometer. The children have already managed to achieve an extra 10 minutes of yard time this term!!! 
- **Science:** Ms O'Callaghans 3rd class took part in **STEPS young engineers** award. The children had to identify a problem in the community, come up with an idea to improve it and design and create a prototype to help illustrate the solution. There will be more science fun for the whole school after Christmas.
- **Sos Beag na Seachtaine** – every Tuesday at break time the children have been making a special effort to speak Irish. Maith sibh!
- **Green Schools** – our green schools committee are working hard keeping our school green and clean!
- **Marathon Kids** – the children in the senior school have been participating in the marathon kids and completed the 26.21 miles. They will be presented with t-shirts and medals in the New Year.
- **Gaelic** - thank you to Mark from our local GAA club Na Dubh Ghall for the time in giving the children some extra Gaelic in both the junior and senior schools.
- We hope to have Glen return with his **exercise to music programme**. We also hope to return to **tennis** lessons in Trackside Tennis Club.

Christmas Events

As we were unable to have our usual Christmas events we organised an **Advent Calendar countdown** for the whole school. Each day the children were given a different Advent surprise, including extra yard time, a night off homework, special quizzes, puzzles and games.



- **Amber Flag** - This year we held a fun and festive Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10th of December to raise funds for Pieta House. This fundraising activity was part of our application for the Amber Flag. The Amber Flag is awarded by Pieta House to schools that promote and foster Wellbeing within their schools. We raised a grand total of **€1,915** and we would like to thank everyone that made a donation.
- **Christmas Panto Day** – on Friday 17th December we had a whole school Christmas Panto Day. A huge thank you to the PA who funded the streaming of the Helix Panto 'Red Riding Hood' to all the classes in the school.
- **Santa Message:** Santa wasn't able to visit the school as normal this year but we are hoping Santa will send a special message to all the boys and girls next week.
- **Classroom Raffles:** The classroom raffles were a big success and thank you to all the children who bought tickets, through all your generosity we raised **€1,660** for the **Make a Wish** charity.
- Instead of our usual Christmas concerts/plays the children in some classes have prepared a Covid19 friendly Christmas message which will be available to view on our website.



Updates on all school activities and Christmas can be seen on our website at: www.stlaurencesbaldoyle.org

- **Parents Association:** Thank you to the parent's association for organising reindeer food and chocolates for the children.
- **Feet First Friday/non-uniform** days have been a great success this year and we have managed to raise **€1,302** so far this year.
- **Voluntary Contribution:** We would also like to thank all the families who have contributed to our **Voluntary Contribution** this year on Aladdin. This contribution is vital to the financial well-being of the school. This year's total to date is **€10,910**. The second part of the collection will start at the beginning of February 2022.

At this point could I pay tribute and say thanks to everyone for all their donations and contributions to the school this year and to all the local organisations who work closely with us and support us. We would like thank our local Applegreen team for donating PPE to the

school recently. This has been a difficult year and all your contributions are hugely appreciated.

Retiree: We would just like to congratulate our colleague Edel Maguire on her retirement this month. She will be hugely missed by our school community.

Enrolment for Junior Infants 2022/2023 is ongoing and as places are filling up fast, please attend to it as soon as possible. We had a number of disappointed applicants last year who we could not accommodate.



Application forms are available in both offices and on our website at www.stlaurencesbaldoyle.org

Important Dates for 2022

- Closing date for **Junior Infants applications** is **12:00 mid-day Monday 31st January 2022.**
- **Mass and Ceremony of Light** takes place on Saturday 29th January 2022
- **Confirmation-** Friday 11th March 2022
- **First Holy Communion** - Saturday, 21st May 2022.
- The ***Do This In Memory of Me Programme*** is ongoing for pupils preparing for **First Holy Communion**.

School closes for Christmas Holidays on Wednesday 22nd December - staggered finish times you will be notified of these next week

Please note: The Children will return to school at on Thursday, 6th January 2022

Aladdin notifications are in operation for EMERGENCY updates

Once again I would like to thank everyone associated with the school and especially you the parents/guardians for your continued support and encouragement, as without it the school would not run as smoothly as it does. We greatly appreciate your constant good will. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. **We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.**



Clare Finnerty (Principal)

