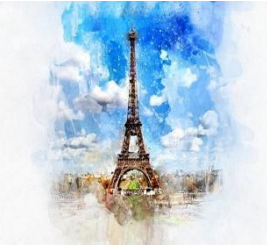


# December Newsletter

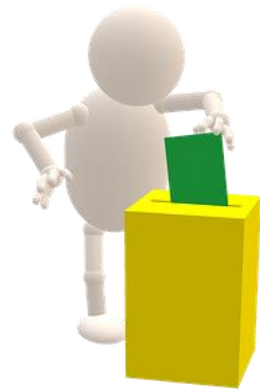
## Language Connect

Since the start of November, Ms McKenna's 6<sup>th</sup> Class have been having French lessons given by our own Ms Derbhile Byrne. Our school was lucky enough to be chosen for the Languages Connect Initiative which means that our pupils have an opportunity to learn a modern language. Ms Byrne will be moving on to our other two 6<sup>th</sup> classes after Christmas. Well done to all our pupils who have really been trying very hard to learn the new language and many thanks to Ms Byrne for giving our pupils such a fantastic opportunity.



## Student Council

Our new student council is once again up and running. Twelve wonderful pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class were formally elected by their peers to represent their class on the council. The pupils, alongside their council teacher, Mr Colin Ryan, will work alongside pupils and staff on various activities and initiatives over the remainder of the school year. We really look forward to having our new student council coming on board with us here in Scoil Mhuire na nGael.



## Internet Safety Training



At the very end of November, online and internet safety training was provided for all pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class. The training was provided by Barnardos and took place in school via a live video link.

## Minecraft for Education

Minecraft Education is a joint initiative between Dream Space and RTEjr using the Minecraft Education Edition as an educational tool to engage school

communities on the entire island of Ireland in a national competition called 'Ireland's Future is MINE'. It is a game-based learning platform that allows teachers to deliver a variety of curricular lessons which will also promote creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving as well as teaching concepts from English, Maths, Science, Geography, SPHE and more. Scoil Mhuire na nGael has been provided with 120 Minecraft accounts, currently being used by our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes. This is a really exciting initiative and has been received with great enthusiasm from the students.



### Anti-bullying Review

At a recent meeting, the Board of Management undertook their annual BOM anti-bullying review. Our Anti-bullying policy was reviewed and amended in light of the implementation of the KiVa programme. The new policy is available on our website and has been emailed to all families.



### Administration of Medication Policy



Our Administration of Medication policy has been amended and reviewed. The policy and procedures are now available on our school website.

### Parent Teacher Meetings



We had hoped that we would have been in a position to hold face-to-face parent teacher meetings this year. However, guidance from the Department of Education remains unchanged, whereby schools are advised to communicate with parents remotely. Therefore, similar to last year, teachers will be issuing written reports. The reports will hopefully be available (Via Aladdin) by the end of January.

### Fundraising

We are delighted to announce that €1378.13 euro was raised from our Christmas Jumper Day. All proceeds from the day will be given to Crumlin Children's Hospital. Thank you to everyone for your support and generous donations.



We also raised €918.50 from our pupil Christmas Card fundraiser. Thank you so very much to all the families who supported both fundraising events.

### Soup Kitchen



Thank you to everybody who supported our food collection for St Patrick's Parish Soup Kitchen. Once again a large volume of items were donated and will go a long way in helping the soup kitchen over the coming weeks.

### Congratulations and Celebrations

Sadly, we will be bidding farewell to Mr Martin Foran at Christmas. Mr Foran is a member of our teaching staff and after 30 wonderful years in Scoil Mhuire na nGael, he will now begin a new adventure as he retires from the school. He has been a super asset to the school and he will be very much missed. We would like to wish him the very best in his retirement.



Congratulations and best wishes to Ms O'Callaghan who will be getting married over the Christmas holidays. We wish her the very best for her special day.

### Poster Competition Winners

Well done to Harry Haughey for winning the 'best in school' prize for a recent Amnesty International Poster Competition. Congratulations must also be given to Rhea Martin and Bebhinn Ward who have also won highly commended awards in the same poster competition. All three pupils are in Miss Rafferty's 4<sup>th</sup> class. Keep up the good work!!



## School Photographs



The school photographer will be coming to school on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. Please ensure that your child is wearing their full school uniform on that day. Reminders will be sent to all families about the photographs when we return to school after the holidays.

## Christmas Holidays Closing Times on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December

11.50: Junior Infants - 6<sup>th</sup> Class with surnames beginning with A – J

12.00: Junior Infants – 6<sup>th</sup> Class with surnames beginning with K – Z



*We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, our staff and our families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir!!*

