



Christmas 2018

The holidays are coming and the excitement with the children is tangible. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas. We are grateful to the Kelly Family, who have provided us with two beautiful Christmas trees. We would also like to thank Frank who always does a great job of decorating them. They look great and the children are loving them.

Charity Collections

Through your generosity, the school has supported the following charities since September:

Yei Project: €355.00
Focus Ireland: €378.55
SVDP: Giving Tree and collection: € 378.00
Christmas Market: €436.50

Christmas Services

Sunday December 23rd:

8:30 am Holy Communion
10:30 am Short Morning Prayer
Service of 9 Lessons and Carols
4:00 pm

Christmas Eve:

10:00 pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day:

8:30 am Holy Communion
10:30 am Family Service

Sunday December 30th:

8:30am: Holy Communion
10:30 am Morning Prayer

We look forward to having you worship with us at some of these services.



Christmas News

Shepherds and Angels

We hope you are all planning to attend the

Carol Service

on Wednesday evening, December 19th, 2018
at 7:00 pm in Christ Church, Delgany.

Our Annual Carol Service is one of the highlights of the year and is thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children and teachers put a huge amount of work into the service and we request that you keep in mind that the church is large and echoes. It is difficult to hear the children if there is a lot of noise and chatter. Younger siblings may get very excited but it is their older siblings' time to shine and they should be allowed to do so!! I am aware that some of you were disappointed that you were asked not to take photos of children at assembly, however it is important to remember that the school is legally constrained re the taking of photos without consent and the new GDPR and child protection regulations. The law is not formulated by us but we must abide by it. Please remember **NO PHOTOS** at the Carol Service.

Notes from the office...

- ◆ You have all had the opportunity to meet with the class teachers and learning support staff. The staff and I are always happy to meet with you at mutually agreeable times to discuss any concerns that you may have. We would actively encourage you to always seek clarity re issues that may arise from time to time. However, please do not delay the teachers at 8:30 am in the morning as they have classes to supervise and may not be able to give your concern the time it warrants.
- ◆ Thank you all so much for the fantastic array of gifts that were donated for the St. Vincent de Paul Toy Appeal. They were overwhelmed by your generosity and Mona O'Rourke thanks the children. We were assured that the toys collected are distributed locally.
- ◆ Please note that as we return to school after the 6th of January this year, there will be no Epiphany Service in the church. We will revert to the usual beginning of term service which will be held in the church on **Tuesday January 15th, 2019.**
- ◆ We were sorry to say goodbye to Brittni Rezac from Winona State University as she headed home in early December. Second class will certainly miss her and we hope she enjoyed her time with us.
- ◆ In the event of snow, please let the office know if you would be available to help with clearing the car park, paths, etc.



Dates to Remember...

School finishes on **Friday December 21st, 2018.** Juniors and siblings go home at 11:55 am and all other children at 12:10 pm. **Children using the bus should leave school at 11:55 am.** Please note that on early closing days, Junior Infants and their siblings must be collected by their parent/guardian from the main entrance (by the office). Senior Infants and their siblings must be collected from the Senior Infant door. No child may leave the school before closing time unless they are collected by an adult. School re-opens on **Monday January 7th, 2019, at 8:30 am.**

After-School Activities and other Events!

Many Thanks to Southside SS or offering a free child activity day on December 14th while the staff attend their in-Service training. Extra-curricular is, as always, proving to be extremely popular with hockey, soccer, cricket, dodge ball, tennis, golf and drama all doing well.

Our sporting achievements continue apace with all classes from third up achieving medals in the two cross – country events in which they have partaken. At the time of writing the boys were unbeaten in their hockey games. The children are continuing to progress and improve in soccer. Third and fourth class loved partaking in the Tug-O-War competition organised by the Wicklow Sports Partnership.

Sophie, our new drama teacher, is busy putting the finishing touches on a “Christmas Performance” she is preparing with her group.

The Infants love Playball with Karl and his crew on Mondays.



Parent Association

Well done to Miranda and her team who have been working tirelessly for the school over the last term. The Christmas Market has been a phenomenal success with a sum in the region of €10,000 raised to be shared between the parish and the school. The children’s own art and craft work added to the occasion! The Christmas cards and other gifts were also very successful. The Parent Association are busy putting plans in place for the new year and will be sending out a flyer, outlining their plans, once we return in January. All funds raised this year are going towards classroom refurbishment including the up grading of our ICT equipment. You can keep up to date with the PA’s activities on their Facebook page at:

DNS PA Noticeboard

Green Schools

For the next 2 years we will be working towards our 9th Green Flag which is called “Global Citizenship Travel” about which you will be hearing a lot more in the new year. Currently all classes are being reminded about the three R’s **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** and the role they and you can play in helping the environment. Here are some questions you might ask yourself this Christmas.

- ◆ Do you need single use plastic bottles?
- ◆ Does your lunch need to be wrapped in cling film?
- ◆ Can I recycle tin foil?
- ◆ Can I recycle wrapping paper?
- ◆ Do I need a plastic bag?

Controlling our use of plastic is important for all of us who share the planet! Reducing our use of plastics is crucial. From January, we have been informed that we will be charged 17c for every kg we are over our allowed waste collection allowance. We will be encouraging the children to use less packaging and bring home their waste.



Christmas Fun!

Can you figure out who they are???

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ESGCORO | 5. SYRFSO HET MONSNWA |
| 2. TSANA USLCA | 6. ETH HGICNG |
| 3. HRPLODU | 7. SSCITAMRH GLNAE |
| 4. VEESL | 8. CRPNEA |

Snippets!

Classroom Makeovers

Second and sixth class received new floor coverings and a much needed coat of paint over the half Term Break. The staff and pupils are delighted with their new, bright, and sparkling clean rooms and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the BOM and you the Parents without whom this would not have been possible. Thank You!

Aladdin Connect

We have received very positive feedback re the Aladdin Connect staff meeting scheduler. This has certainly done away with the congestion re- signing up that used to take place in the corridors. If all parents/guardians could register their number through the Aladdin Connect App, it would hugely reduce the cost of messaging families as we could use the Aladdin Noticeboard system, which is free.

Visitors

Thank you to all those who have taken on board the need to sign in when doing anything in the school. If you have “visitor” badges from the office could you please return them. Lots seem to have disappeared!

Creating independence

In January we would actively encourage the junior classes to come into the building on their own and to take responsibility for their belongings/homework etc. It helps them feel grown up and encourages them to act responsibly.

Dressing appropriately

Please remember that children must have coats with them during the dark, damp days of winter as we do think that fresh air is good for them even if it is raining outside. They may not take their coats off without the permission of the class teachers on duty.

Illness in School

There has been a lot of illness in school recently and we would remind you that children should not be sent into school if they have been vomiting or have had diarrhoea for at least 24 hours since they were last sick. They may appear fine but are still carrying infection and spreading it to other class members. Please remember that Friday is check hair day and we would ask that everyone make the effort to keep the tiny, irritating, unwanted visitors at bay!!! We are also finding it very difficult to reach parents when their children are sick and have noticed that a lot of people do not have a messaging service. Please ensure that you are contactable throughout the school day.

