

Dear Parents, Thank you!

We're nearly there! Firstly, I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and cooperation throughout this pandemic - with your help we've managed to keep our whole school open this term and where we've been notified of positive cases of Covid-19 in our school community, we've all worked together to prevent the onward spread of the virus.

Please continue to remain vigilant for symptoms – coughing, high temperature, sore throat, headaches, upset tummy etc., keep your child at home if you see these symptoms, telephone your GP for a free Covid-related consultation and let us know in school where Antonia or

Kasia will be happy to talk to you on 041-9849001. With this level of monitoring and care we can continue to keep our school open with a low risk of viral transmission. We look forward to a well-earned break for everyone and with that in mind I want to just bring a couple of things to your attention, and share some of the fabulous artwork I've spotted around the corridors:



Travel abroad and quarantine

Some families will be travelling abroad to reunite with loved ones over the holiday period - please be aware that Ireland is now implementing the new EU 'traffic lights' approach to travel, which applies to countries in the EU / EEA (+ UK). The current advice for travel to these countries is 'exercise a high degree of caution'. The general advice for any other overseas travel remains 'avoid non-essential travel' or in some cases, 'do not travel'. Travel within the island of Ireland can continue as normal, subject to domestic public health restrictions as outlined on gov.ie. All overseas travel requires a period of quarantine upon your return - please let the school know if you will be travelling abroad so that we will know which children are in quarantine after the break.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Ordinarily at this time of year we would have scheduled parent-teacher meetings. Given current public health guidance and DES advice it looks like it will be best to organise the meetings for later in the school year so we can continue to keep social interaction to a minimum. Where teachers have concerns about children's progress, we will bring these to the attention of parents by phone or email. Similarly, if you have anything that you want to bring to our attention please do contact us at the office and please continue to use Seesaw to keep a close eye on where your children are at and to support them in their learning.





Greeting Cards and Gifts

Some children like to exchange greeting cards at this time of year or bring in gifts for their teacher - this year please do not send in cards for children to share around. This will help



minimise the risk of spread of Covid-19. If your child would like to, they could make a card at home, upload a picture on Seesaw and teacher can share it with the rest of the class on the whiteboard. On gifts for teachers, we really appreciate your kindness but we cannot receive gifts in school at the moment so your child might like to record a nice message of thanks and good wishes for teacher on Seesaw instead or you might like to make a donation to our chosen charity this year, St. Vincent de Paul, as many of you already have (see SVP.ie).

Winter Extravaganza

Due to current restrictions, sadly we won't be taking to the stage this year, but children and staff are working hard to put together an alternative Winter Extravaganza for your entertainment. We'll be using Seesaw to share with parents some of our seasonal and festive learning in the run up to the holidays and we're gathering contributions from all the classes which we'll edit together and share via the website before we finish up for this term on December 22nd at 12pm.



Showtime!

Lastly, we're all off to the Panto! *Oh no you're not! Oh yes we are!* The children have worked so hard this term and have been so patient with the various Covid-19 measures we have in place, so they deserve a special treat. We're going to enjoy the Helix online pantomime which this year is based on "The Sword in the Stone" and will be streamed between the 16th and 23rd of December. We'll be given an access code just for our school and can watch the panto on our white boards in class at a time that suits our classes during school time.

All the best, Principal Dermot.

