



## DROMAHANE NATIONAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

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### A STRANGE CHRISTMAS

As we approach what will be a very strange Christmas we hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to the holidays. Obviously, Christmas in school will be different to past years as well but we are still going to make it as enjoyable as possible for the children. Some classes have already sent Christmas Cards to Nazareth House, something that will be much appreciated by the residents there. As would be normal at this time of year a couple of classes are busy preparing plays with a seasonal

theme. What is different this year is that all other classes are also preparing a little 'Christmas Piece' All the pieces, large and small, will be sent home on an online platform for you to enjoy over Christmas. The children will be told which day they are recording their piece or play and on that day we are encouraging them to dress up in their festive gear. They should also wear plenty layers that day as some of the performances will be taking place outside. All children may also wear their festive

gear on the day of the holidays which is December 22nd.

**On that day, the 22nd, the Junior and Senior Infant Classes and their siblings will be finishing at 12 midday. All other children will be finishing at 12.30 . This is to avoid a build up of parents and traffic outside the school as we are finishing.**

*On the day of the holidays children will be taking home their pencil cases and hygiene packs. Please ensure that they bring them back after the holidays fully restocked.*

### Parent Teacher Meetings

Normally our Parent Teacher Meetings would have taken place in December but this year we have decided to delay them until the NewYear. The meetings for parents of our Junior and Senior Infant Classes will take place on the 20th and

21st of January and for all other classes the meetings will take place on the 16th and 17th of February. We have not decided on the exact format of the meetings yet but as soon as we do we will let you know. Obviously between now

and those meetings taking place, if you have any concerns regarding your child please feel free to ring the school office to make an appointment to speak with their teacher.

### Gifts for Staff

You will remember that last year we asked you not to give gifts to staff for Christmas but instead we asked you to donate various items to different charities. This year instead of gifts we are asking each family to donate €5 to the Cork Homeless Help and Support Group. This payment will be facilitated on the Aladdin Connect App and we hope to present a cheque to the group before the holidays.

### Extra School Closure

School reopens on Wednesday January 6th. On Monday January 25th school will be closed for all classes.

### Parents' Association

Through no fault of their own this has been a very quiet term for our Parents' Association. They have not been in total lockdown however and a virtual visitor has been arranged for every class before the holidays as well as some treats for the children. Thanks once again to all involved.



## Standardised Tests

The summer term may seem a long way off but as part of our school calendar we have already been planning our standardized tests which always take place in May. We have decided to do the two tests, Maths and English, in the weeks beginning Monday May 15th and 22nd. These tests are a very important part of the year's work and ideally all children should be in class the day they are done. We are asking parents to note these dates and to keep children's absences to a minimum during that time.

## Shoe Box Appeal

Our Annual Shoe Box Appeal has gone online and this year and if you would like to get involved your child can fill a shoe box by visiting

Community Park Development.

*On that note the Park Development Committee are holding a Choral Night in the church this Friday @8pm. Tickets are €10 and can be bought at the door on the night.*

## Parents' Association

On the day of the holidays the parents' are arranging for a special visitor to visit the school and say hello to all the children and staff. Also on that day children may wear Christmas themed clothes, hats, hairpieces etc. We ask that each child brings in €2 and the money will go to the

# **General Housekeeping— Matters for Your Attention**

### Nut Allergy

Since the start of the year we have introduced a strict no nuts or nut products policy. We have a number of children in the school allergic to nuts and the consequences of a reaction are very serious. Please respect our policy and ensure that there are no nuts or nut products in your child's lunchbox. This includes nutella, which we do know is very popular with the children but unfortunately it can trigger a reaction.

### Parking

*As our numbers grow parking continues to be a problem at drop off and pick up times. In association with the Parents' Association and the Village Development Committee we are in contact with the council to address the problem.*

*In the meantime we are asking parents to be very careful when dropping off and collecting children and try not to spend too long parked outside the school. Also please respect the residents of Cois Tobair across the road and do not park in or block their private spaces.*

### Early Mornings

Please remember that only children who are with their parents are allowed at the back of the school in the mornings. All other children are to stand at the front of the school. School opens at 9.10am and there is no need for children to be at school before that time.

### Uniforms

The vast majority of the children are excellent when it comes to wearing uniform and school tracksuit on the correct days. We are asking all parents to ensure that their children wear the uniform or tracksuit on their specific day.

## **Photo Gallery**



5th Class performing at the raising of our Green Flag



Having fun during Science Week



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



