



Scoil Naomh Seosamh,
Laragh, Bandon,
Co. Cork.

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Newsletter – Christmas 2021

The year 2021 is almost over and we have Christmas and the New Year just ahead of us. I guess we all hoped we would be in a better place with regard to Covid at this stage but it looks like we are facing into an uncertain few weeks.

Looking back on the term that has just passed, I would like to thank all the parents and pupils for their great cooperation, patience and spirit of togetherness in the face of the challenges we have encountered. It has certainly made things easier than they might have been and is a credit to you all.

I would also like to say that there have been many enjoyable and productive days in school during this term. I am confident that things will progress further during the next term and that we will gradually be able to reintroduce many of the activities that used to be such a big part of school life in Laragh.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas!

Christmas Holidays:

School will close at 12.30 on Wednesday December 22nd for the Christmas holidays and we will reopen on Thursday January 6th.

School Extension:

As you may have noticed when you visit the school, our school extension is almost complete. Most of the outside work has been completed and we have almost all of our front yard back. This is great at break times as it gives the children more play area. Our front yard now feels huge to us all.

Inside is almost complete as well and the builder, Pheilim Fitzgerald, hopes to hand it over in the next few days. Just to remind you the hall has been enlarged (widened by 3 metres), a stairs has been installed and upstairs there is a Special Education room and a spacious classroom. Ms. Gleeson's 2nd/3rd class will move into this classroom with Mr. Ambrose's 3rd/4th class moving into Ms. Gleeson's room. We hope to have all this in place for the start of next term. This is an exciting addition to our school and it means that we can have all the children together under the one roof. It also means that the Special

Education teachers will have improved space and facilities and that our hall will be available to all the classes for activities.

Photos of the interior of the extension will be on the website shortly.

Christmas in Laragh:

Our lovely Christmas tree – purchased by the Parents Association 2 years ago - is up and looking very well with its lights and decorations made by the children. Thanks especially to Anne and Yvonne and their helpers for doing such a great job. Pupils and staff have been busy putting up Christmas art and Christmas decorations all around the school. The Ryan Tubridy jumpers on the front windows look great.

On Friday Dec 17th, all the pupils were gathered outside in the Quad and the stage was erected. Each class, in turn, did a Christmas song, play or poem for the whole school. We were fortunate that the weather was dry and we had a very enjoyable occasion - great fun performances by many of our pupils (and some of our teachers as well). Classes from First to Sixth are exchanging gifts (Kris Kindle) to get into the Christmas spirit. On Tuesday Dec 21st, we may have a visit from a very important person and maybe even some treats – thanks again to the Parents Association.

Sixth Class at Fota Wildlife Park:

On Friday December 10th, sixth class were afforded the opportunity to have a guided tour of Fota Wildlife Park. We travelled on a very spacious coach, were guided by a very interesting and knowledgeable tour guide and provided with a very nice lunch.

It was a really welcome experience for pupils who have so few opportunities for such events over the past couple of years. We would like to express our gratitude to the Mayor of the County of Cork, Gillian Coughlan for making this possible.

Charity Events:

Hallowe'en Dress-up: This year, as part of our Hallowe'en Dress up, pupils made a contribution to the Mercy Hospital 'Heroes' Fund. A total of €300.00 was raised for this very worthwhile charity.

St Vincent de Paul: We had our Christmas Jumper day on Friday Dec 10th to raise funds for the local St Vincent de Paul. This time the total raised was €515.00 and a cheque for this amount was presented to SVP volunteers on Wed Dec 15th.





Cork Cancer Care Centre: Last June, sixth class organised a raffle that raised €1310.00. On Monday November 22nd Linda Goggin James, CEO of the Cork Cancer Care Centre, visited our school to accept our donation for this amount to support the great work of the Cork Cancer Care Centre.

School Policies:

Thanks to all the parents who responded to our survey on the school's 'Anti-Bullying Policy' and the school's 'Homework Policy'.

In relation to the 'Anti-Bullying Policy', feedback was generally positive and there were also suggestions for how implementation could be made better. The policy has been reviewed, updated and ratified by the BOM. Staff have engaged in some CPD and intend to engage further during the coming months.

In relation to the 'Homework Policy', parents seemed to view homework as important and were generally happy with the amount and content of the homework given. A revised and updated 'Homework Policy' was also ratified by the BOM.

School Activities:

Tennis: During October and November, Alan O'Mahony conducted tennis lessons with the pupils from Senior Infants to Sixth Class. It was very enjoyable

Drama: Now that we will have our hall back we hope to return to some of our previous activities including drama. Unfortunately, Anne-Marie who did drama with us in previous years has moved on to different things so we hope to have a new drama teacher, Paula, starting with us in January.

Yoga and Well-being: We would also like to welcome back Vivienne Fogarty for yoga classes with all the children in the school. We hope Vivienne will be with us in February.

Music: Currently Elaine Kenny from the VEC is giving individual violin lessons in school on Tuesdays. We also hope to have Kay O'Flynn back for tin whistle and guitar. Due to Covid considerations, the format of Kay's work is likely to be different from the class groups she used to take previously.

Science – Designer Minds:

Ms Gleeson's 2nd and 3rd class recently won a competition to engage in a 2 hour STEAM workshop with Designer Minds – thanks to our amazing parents and their friends!

The children spent the first hour coding using Sphero robots – they made them drive forward and back, spin around, change colour and even make animal noises. For the second hour, they were challenged to make a chariot



for their Sphero robot using K'nex – then they had to race them.

Cork County Fire Service Colouring Competition:

Congratulations to Rory Lane from Third Class and Ava Mulcahy from Sixth class who both were runners up in the County-wide Fire Safety Art Competition.

On Wed December 15th Aidan Glavin, Cork Fire Service and John O'Connell, Bandon Fire Station presented Ava and Rory with Smyth's vouchers. They also kindly laminated the colouring page so that it can be kept safely for years to come.

Both classes were there to witness this event and listen to a very important talk on fire safety within the home, especially now coming up to Christmas. The classes were delighted to receive prizes of fridge magnets, pens, pencils, rulers and colouring books.

Litter Pickers:

Mr. McCluskey's classroom are undertaking the 'Litter Pickers' programme. Each child will take the 'Picker Pack' home for a week and go on a Litter Picking Adventure in their local area.

Game Changers Workshop for 5th & 6th class:

5th and 6th Class were both delighted to recently participate in a school-based workshop with Trócaire's Primary Development Education Officer, Niall Quillinan. During their workshops, they learned all about the work of Trócaire, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The pupils will be participating in Trócaire's Game Changers competition for young people with the task of creating their own innovative games. They are really enthusiastic and excited at the idea of creating their own games and they can't wait to get started!

Congratulations:

We would also like to express our congratulations to Mr Declan Ambrose who was a very big part of the Aghinagh Football team that won the Mid-Cork Junior A football for the first time in their history.

Great celebrations ensued!

School Website:

Most of the above and more is on our new school website so please have a look at it every now and then – www.snsrlaragh.net

