

Dear Parents,

My goodness, we have had a busy time here in Edmondstown over the past few months. There has been lots of fun and lots of learning. Thank you to parents, children and staff for following all our Covid protocols. This has meant that our school has managed to remain a safe space once again this year. I wish you and your families a peaceful and happy Christmas. I look forward to a productive, energetic, safe and healthy year in 2022 and the ideals of our motto being lived out: Creideamh, Cairdeas, Crógacht - Faith, Friendship, Fearlessness.

SACRED SPACE

Our Sacred Space is displaying a crib and an Advent Wreath plus a “good deeds” tree. This reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. We have enjoyed our Advent assemblies and listening to some beautiful poetry by some of our students.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Unfortunately, we could not have our traditional Christmas Nativity, concert and fair. However, we have put together a little Medley of greetings which we hope you will enjoy. This will be available on the school website shortly. Many thanks to Ms Tighe for putting it all together.



RTE'S NEWS2DAY

It was wonderful to see all the children on RTE's News2Day programme on Wednesday 15th December for our Christmas Jumper Day. I am delighted

to say that €320 was raised for Crumlin Children's hospital. The wonderful cards and selection boxes were gratefully received as were the beautiful hats and scarves which were donated to the homeless. It is fantastic to see children thinking of others at this time of year.

Some children also made an appearance on Friday, 18th December on News2Day talking about Christmas traditions in other countries. We are very proud of all our children.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION:

We would like to express our gratitude to our hard-working Parents' Association. They are truly inspirational. Special thanks to Ms Jen Kelly, the Chairperson. They held their AGM on 22nd November and I am delighted that some of our newer parents are now involved. The AGM included a very informative talk on Internet Safety by NPC.

The recent “cash for clobber” raised €208. Thank you to Karen for organising this and to one and all for supporting it.

The P.A. also organised a collection of Hallowe'en treats which were donated to the Sisters of Erin charity – thank you to Elizabeth Mackay for this.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Thank you sincerely to our hard working Board of Management. These wonderful people are all volunteers and they give up their valuable time to support the school.



GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE:

Congratulations to all those boys and girls who continue to 'Walk and cycle on Wednesdays' - keep up the great work. This year we are striving for the "Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste" flag. The children have been working hard sweeping leaves. They organised a wonderful Christmas Decoration competition and our winners were Hugo, Harrison, Maya, Ben, Imogen, Hayley, Lucia and Amelie. They planted four native trees as part of Self Help Africa "one Million Trees" campaign. Well done to our co-ordinator Ms Browne.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Please continue to keep all members of our school community in your prayers, especially those who are ill.



KILLAKEE CHRISTMAS FARM

On Friday, 26th November, 1st and 2nd class visited the Christmas tree farm at Killakee. Thank you to Karen and Justin Morton who gave them a wonderful workshop on the importance of trees to our world and a lovely gift of a mini tree. The Mortons also donate a Christmas tree to our school every year and the children have the very important job of picking it

CROCUS PROJECT:

On 29th November, 5th and 6th had a brilliant Zoom chat with Tomi Reichental as part of the Crocus Project. The children did various projects on the theme of the Holocaust and they planted Crocus bulbs in memory of the departed.

GAA

Mr. Dunne and Ms Browne organised 4 weeks of a GAA blitz for children from 3rd – 6th class. Everyone had great fun up at Frank Kelly Park.

COMMUNITY LINKS:

We had a very special visitor on 16th December who was escorted by our local Gardaí. There was great excitement as the man in red arrived to the sound of the sirens. This uplifting event was much appreciated by us all.

STEM ACTIVITIES

Science week was a great success during the week of 8th November. The children had great fun carrying out various experiments and activities including learning about static electricity and designing protective layers for eggs and hover crafts. 1st – 6th enjoyed Zoom stem workshops courtesy of SFI and 5th and 6th also got to visit Ballyroan Library for an in-person workshop courtesy of South Dublin Co. Council. Check out our STEM pages on the website.

SCHOOL THERAPY PROJECT

Fionnuala Devlin (speech and language) and Ronan Flynn (occupational therapist) will begin working with the school in January. They will focus on targets at the

universal level i.e. whole class. This is a follow up to the "Demonstration Project" which was suspended due to Covid 19.

MARATHON KIDS

On 24th November, The children from 5th and 6th finished the final "mile" (1.6 km) of their Marathon in Tallaght Stadium. This was a fantastic achievement and they received beautiful medals and t-shirts.



ETHOS

We have been told that Confirmation will take place after Easter so probably in May sometime. Please continue to practise the mass responses at home with your child.

FOOD DUDES:

On 10th November, we began a week long appreciation of fruit and vegetables courtesy of "Food Dudes". It was delicious! Junior and Senior Infants really enjoyed their food dude gifts.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS

Our Active committee members are doing great work every day organising playground activities and Active lines each day. They organised an Active Poster competition and the winners were Ted, Harriet, Ellen, Lily, Karl and the overall winner was Aaron. Our slogan this year is: "Activity is the key to unlocking the body". They organised a Santa Dash and a daily 10 minute Active Advent calendar which

kept us all on our toes each day. Thank you to Mr Dunne for all the work he is doing with the committee.

"VIXEN"

Sincere thanks to Ms Boyle who donated the proceeds of her wonderful book "Vixen" to the school. This was an extremely generous gesture and we are beyond grateful. So far 78 books have been sold. It was a great treat for the children to have an "author in residence" read to them.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council did great work over the past few weeks organising the Gaeilgeorí na Seachtaine competitions. They also organised a very interesting Art competition. We love to hear them announcing the winners over our school intercom. Keep up the great work and thank you to Ms Tighe their co-ordinator. The winners of the Art completion were Leah, Pádraig, Maya, Savannah, Finola, Niamh, Sophie and Hugo.



ADVERSE WEATHER:

Weather conditions, during school terms, are sometimes so uncertain, due to flooding, snowstorms, etc., that it is impossible to predict the certain opening of the school, located as it is in the foothills of the Dublin mountains. However, every effort will be made to keep the school functioning if at all possible. If it is obvious to you that road conditions are so hazardous, staff and children

may not be able to reach the school, please **DO NOT send the children until 10am. You are asked to adopt a common sense approach - if in doubt, wait.**

If an emergency should result in the closure of the school (an extremely rare possibility), the gates will remain closed and the children will be sent home ON ARRIVAL at the school. A text message will also be sent via Aladdin, if possible.

Suggestions in such circumstances

- Please ensure that the school is open before dropping your child off in the mornings.
- Please have alternative arrangements made for your child should the school be closed. This is especially important for children of working parents.

N.B. THE SCHOOL WILL REMAIN OPEN IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

Please remember to send in a "Return to Educational Facility" form after any absence (available on our website under the Parents' Tab and Downloads).

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

The school will close on Wednesday, 22nd December, at **12 noon** and re-open on Thursday, 6th January 2022 at 8.45am. Please read our Covid Logistics Plan and Response plan on the school website. Don't forget to send in your child's "Return to Education" form available under the Parents' tab and Downloads.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY:

If you have not already sent in a signed Acceptable Use Agreement for your child, please do so as soon as possible. This should be sent to the school email at edmondstownns@hotmail.com. This covers the posting of pictures of your child on our website www.edmondstownns.ie and on our two Twitter accounts: @EdmondstownNS (daily updates of goings on) and @Edtownactive (weekly/fortnightly updates of Active Flag endeavours).

I take this opportunity to thank all our staff, SNAs, cleaners, teachers and especially Ms Wallnutt, my Deputy and Linda our Secretary for their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication. I am blessed to have such a supportive team around me and I hope they get a well-deserved rest over the holidays. Keep safe and well one and all.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh go léir



**Philomena Cleary
Principal**