



Hello and welcome to our December newsletter! A busy few weeks ahead as Scoil Bhríde is buzzing with Christmas activities.

Here are some points of information:

Winter / Christmas Fair: Another magical Christmassy day was held in Scoil Bhríde last Sunday 2nd December. Huge congratulations and thanks to the Parents Association members and volunteers who have worked so hard over the month of November to ensure its success. Thanks also to the teachers and staff who have helped to collect all items and decorate our school to look so festive. Thanks to all families for their donations of books, bric-a-brac, toys, etc for the stalls. The Lego competition was a huge success as always and the Niall Mulvey memorial cup was presented to Ruaidhrí Archbold, the overall winner on Monday 3rd December. A massive €5,090 was raised on the day for school funds. These monies will go towards maths equipment, I.T. maintenance and purchases, books and other classroom resources. Again, a huge thanks to all involved and to those who came along and supported on the day.

Carol Service: Scoil Bhríde annual Carol Service will take place on **Tuesday 18th December 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in St. Brigid's Church, Curragh Camp.** Our sincere thanks to Monsignor John McDonald and all at the Curragh Church for allowing us to use this superb venue. All children wear their full school uniform on the night and girls may wear small Christmas hair decorations. The staff and pupils have been practising all the carols over the last number of weeks and we look forward to another spiritual and moving musical celebration of the true Christmas story. **On the night the 2 Junior Infant classes AND Senior Infants will sit with their parents/family members. They will be invited up to sing their special carol towards the end of the service – Seniors will be called to sing; followed by Junior Infants being called up to sing. All other students will stand with their class group and teacher.** Please ensure your child(ren) have eaten before they come as they will be standing for approx. 30 minutes.

Christmas Holidays: Scoil Bhríde will close for the Christmas break at **12.30 p.m. on Friday 21st December 2018** and re-open for the new term at **9.15 a.m. on Monday 7th January 2019**.

Gardening Club: Please see attached leaflet about our Gardening Club's upcoming event.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Appeal: Thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause organised by Ms. Cosgrove and her 6th class pupils. The closing date for sending in non-perishable food and Christmas treats is **Friday 7th December 2018**. Hampers will be prepared by the 6th class pupils and given to St. Vincent de Paul Society on this day to be distributed to needy, local families.

Junior Infants: Scoil Bhríde will have one class of 30 junior infants for September 2019. All applications must be completed and left in the Newbridge Parish Office, Station Road, Newbridge, ASAP.

Girls Football: The U/11 girl's football had a wonderful autumn league. They finished top of their group following victories over Kilashee NS & Newbridge Educate Together. The girls began really well and led by 3 points at half time. During a highly competitive second-half, the girls showed real character and wonderful skill and ran out 1-9 to 2-3 winners! On Thursday 18th October, the girls headed to Moorefield grounds for the County final. It was a wonderful occasion and experience for the girls. We faced a very strong Kilmeade team but our girls never gave up and fought right to the final whistle. They should be very proud of themselves. Huge thanks to the girls for their commitment and the effort they put in and to their parents for their continuous support. It has been an absolute pleasure for Ms. Tennyson & Ms. Kelly to work with you all. We look forward to the U/13 league in the Spring of 2019. Our thanks to Ms. Tennyson & Ms. Kelly for giving of their time and expertise to work with and train this great bunch of girls.

WOW Re-launch: Our WOW re-launch will take place in the New Year, due to weather it was cancelled this month but please continue to Walk on Wednesday.

Basketball:

Boys: Both Ms. Kavanagh and Ms. Harney are very proud of the team's achievements so far this season. The boys defeated both Newbridge Educate Together and Castledermot and lost by only one point to Gaelscoil Chill Dara. Ms. Kavanagh and Ms. Harney are so impressed with the team's dedication to training and development of skills since September. The boys have shown great sportsmanship through victory and defeat and have represented Athgarvan brilliantly. We are currently awaiting the fixtures draw at the moment to see who will progress to the league semi-final.

Girls: Well done to the girl's basketball players from 6th class who showed great sportsmanship, team spirit & excellent basketball skills throughout the league. Ms. Cosgrove & Ms. Clancy are very proud of the determination the girls showed in each match. We look forward to continuing our training in the New Year with 5th & 6th class girls. More details to follow

Christmas Boxes: The Christmas requests begin each year with the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for children in war-torn and deprived countries who are the innocent victims of conflict. The response from the Scoil Bhríde community each year is always overwhelming and this year was no exception. Thank you, one and all. To Ms. Breslin and her 5th class pupils who co-ordinated and arranged the collection in our school, sincere congratulations and thank you.

Advent: The Liturgical Season of Advent begins last Sunday December 2nd. Our thanks to Shelly of Laura's Flower & Gift shop in Athgarvan, who made a beautiful Advent wreath for the children of Scoil Bhríde. We will be displaying, explaining and praying the Advent prayers as we light the Advent candles on the wreath over the coming weeks. At our carol service on the 18th December our youngest pupil, Bella-Rose Birchall, will light the central candle at the start of our service. As a catholic school we read and discuss the Christmas story of the birth of Baby Jesus to the children, so we encourage parents to read and talk about this story with your children also over the coming weeks as we promote the true meaning of Christmas for all. Thank you.

Parking: As the mornings and evenings are getting darker, wetter & colder, please be even more conscious of using the set-down area and car park safely and appropriately. Especially please do not pull in to the designated bus drop off area at the front of the school at any time. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in this matter as we strive for the safety of **all** children.

Story/Study Club: Study Club will finish up for Christmas on **Wednesday 19th December** and Story Club will finish up on **Thursday 20th December**. Both clubs will resume again on **Monday 7th January 2019**.

Temple Street Children's Hospital: On Tuesday 4th December Santa Claus came to visit Scoil Bhríde in his sleigh on his way to visit the children in Temple Street Hospital. Thank you to all who sent in donations on the day. All monies went directly to the hospital and are greatly appreciated.

Book Fair: Our Book Fair was a great success. €2,360 was raised and €1,416 (60%) is now being spent by the teachers on new books for their classrooms. Many thanks to everyone who supported the Book Fair.

Grandparents Day: As part of Catholic Schools' Week at the end of January 2019, we will have a Grandparents (Great-grand parents) Day on **Wednesday 30th January 2019**. More details will follow in January 2019 but for the moment we are just letting you know the date to plan.

Old Tracksuits / Ties: It is always handy to have spare tracksuits, particularly bottoms, available in the office. We are particularly in need of small tracksuit bottom donations if you can help. Also elasticated ties are available again to purchase in Emer's office (€4).

Christmas Plays: As part of the Christmas festivities in Scoil Bhríde some classes put on a Christmas play in the last weeks before the holidays. Details of class plays will be sent out by individual class teachers.

Staff Meeting: A staff meeting will be held on **Monday 14th January 2019 2pm-4pm** (originally set for Tuesday 15th January but had to be re-scheduled). To facilitate this meeting all classes will be **dismissed at 1.45 p.m. on this day**. Please arrange prompt collection of your child(ren). Thank you.

We wish all pupils, parents & staff a happy & peaceful Christmas and every best wish for the New Year.

Le gach dea-ghui,

Kate Gallagher

