

December 2020 Newsletter

Kilruane National School



Christmas Jumper Day for Down Syndrome Tipperary

Down Syndrome Tipperary is currently renovating a house on Abbey Road, Thurles to provide vital services for children and adults with Down Syndrome in Tipperary. They have amazing plans for their building but to finish the project they need our help. This centre when completed, will provide much needed therapies, programmes and activities to enhance the educational, personal and social development of children and adults born with Down Syndrome, enabling them to reach their full potential. On **Friday 18th December** we will hold a **Christmas Jumper Day** in aid of this wonderful cause. Kids can wear their Christmas jumpers, Santa hats, etc. Please give **one/two** euro or whatever you can afford. The centre is fully dependent on voluntary contributions and all money raised goes towards enhancing the lives and services for people with Down Syndrome in Tipperary. Please give a little to help a lot!

Enrolment for Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Parents, thank you for returning the forms distributed by Ms. Butler and Ms. Lawlor last month, they have been forwarded to the parish office. Fr. Pat visited the school last Tuesday afternoon, to formally enrol our pupils for both sacraments. We hope to have provisional dates for Confirmation and First Holy Communion before we close for Christmas. As you will appreciate, we cannot finalise these dates until we have a better idea of the Covid Restrictions that may still be in place next year. We will continue to keep you all updated as best we can.

Covid Visit from Department Inspector

The children may have told you that our Department Inspector called to the school last week. As part of her visit, the Inspector carried out a thorough check on all the systems and processes our Board of Management and school staff, have put in place to keep everybody safe since we reopened in September. As part of her checks, she visited every classroom, spoke with the children and she met every staff member. She was very happy with all the safety measures we have in place since September and indicated NO area of improvement. Our Inspector was also very pleased with the **additional safety measures** we have in place throughout the school. Well done to Ms. Maguire and Ms. Lawlor, who work alongside me daily to monitor and maintain our safety systems and to all the school staff who are so attentive and vigilant to task, keeping everybody safe!

Dromineer Literary Arts Festival

Congratulations to 3rd class pupil Seán O Looney who's poem, "My Adventure in Granny and Grandad's", came 2nd place in the Dromineer Literary Arts Festival Poetry Competition held earlier this term. Well done to Seán, we are so proud of you! The competition was held online this year due to Covid Restrictions. Judge, Geraldine Mitchell commented on how impressed she was with the wonderful creativity and expression of feeling shown by all entrants!

Trick or Treat for Templestreet

Thanks to your generosity, our annual Halloween Dress-Up fundraiser for **Templestreet Children's Hospital** was a great success! This year, we raised almost **500euro** for the Isobel and Tess Duff Memorial Foundation at Templestreet. It was wonderful to see all our pupils arrive into school in their costumes, bringing a touch of normality to what has been a challenging year for our school and our families. A big thank you to Fiona and Brian Duff who provided treats for all our pupils! Sweets always taste even better at school!

No Homework!

Our pupils have worked so hard since they came back to school in September, we have decided that there will be **NO Homework** from today Friday. We feel our pupils (and parents!) deserve a break so that everybody can **really enjoy** the run up to Christmas. Mrs. Kennedy's class and Ms. Hayes's classes will continue with a little reading homework for next week only as it is such an important part of their learning and they are doing so well!

School Closure for Christmas

The school will close for a half day on Tuesday, 22nd December for our Christmas break. **Families with surname 'A to K'**, please collect at **12:20pm** and **families 'L to Z'** at **12:30pm**. Please adhere to these times as best you can as it makes a huge difference with regard to social distancing at the gate. The children can bring a **treat** in their lunchboxes on the day of the holidays, as it is a special day! The school **bus** will run as usual. The school will re-open on Wednesday 6th January.

A word of Thanks

As 2020 draws to a close, we would like to take this time to say **THANK YOU** to each and every member of our school community for their commitment and dedication to our school over the past year. Little did we know this time last year, that 2020 would bring such challenges our way, however, working together we have continued to overcome them.

As a staff, we could not have asked for a better group of pupils to work with every day! Your children have worked so hard to make up for lost time earlier this year, they have listened attentively to their teachers in class and their behaviour has been impeccable. Above all, they have come to school **every single day**, with the biggest of smiles and an energy and enthusiasm to learn! It suffices to say they have been truly inspirational! Have a lovely Christmas everybody!

