

Christmas Newsletter 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

A Message from the BOARD OF MANAGEMENT Chairperson, Mr Frank Gallagher

At the recent meeting of the Board on Monday, Dec. 14th, satisfaction and thanks were expressed at the success of the safe re-opening and progress in maintaining the children's education and well-being in such difficult circumstances. All the protocols and safety measures are being adhered to in order to minimize the risk of Covid infection and transmission among the school community of over 440 pupils and staff. It is evident on a daily basis that having children back in their classrooms in the company of their peers is vitally important, not just for their education, but also for their social development and mental well-being.

A plea to parents, guardians and children

Please ensure that everything possible is done over the holiday period to keep the risk of spreading the virus to a minimum. The children are well versed by now in the sanitizing, hand-washing, social distancing and room ventilation that the health professionals tell us are so important. Great progress has been made in bringing the 'R' number below 1 in recent weeks.

Let's continue to be cautious, while enjoying the Christmas season.

Going Abroad during the holiday?

Please note quarantine must be observed on return before children can attend school

New Stay Safe Programme

It is school policy that all classes do the Stay Safe Programme. Due to the Pandemic and school closure, the programme was covered in the first term of this school year. Please take time to look at the content of the new Stay Safe lessons which are available online at www.staysafe.ie

Health and Safety Notices

Road Safety and Parking Awareness

We thank you for your co-operation in relation to road safety and parking when dropping off and collecting children. We ask you to continue to be extra vigilant at all times. **We ask all parents to please reduce speed when coming in**

around the church area to drop off and collect pupils. Please do not park in the bus bay at any time.

Extreme caution is necessary at all school exits, but particularly at the Traffic Lights and the bus bay as the children exit after school

Please continue to remind your child of the importance of keeping safe coming to and going from school, especially during these dark winter mornings and evenings. Younger Pupils should never be alone nor should they deviate from their normal route to and from school. Seat belts should be worn at all times when travelling by car/bus while helmets should be worn when cycling.

Children should never exit cars onto the roadside.

We also encourage pupils to wear high visibility jackets at this time of the year. Children should use the Pedestrian lights or the lollipop lady, Mrs Mary Madden to cross the road safely at all times. We ask parents to continue to remind their children of the importance of good behaviour when travelling to and from school by bus.

Social Media

So far this year we have had at least three incidents of children encountering difficulty and upset while engaging on social media platforms. While these did not take place in the school, the aftermath impacted heavily on school life and actions had to be taken in line with our Anti-bullying and Safe-guarding policies. There were probably many others we were not made aware of.

Please continue to be vigilant around pupils' use of Social Media. We remind our pupils of the importance of showing respect at all times when communicating with and about others. Parents will always be notified if concerns are brought to our attention.

Winter Season Jumper Day, Monday, Dec. 21st

If pupils wish, a donation may be made to a Charity of the Students Council's choice, which is St. Vincent De Paul

Lions Club Hamper Appeal

In line with Level 3 guidelines and the school Inspector's advice there will be no involvement this year.

Gifts for Staff

Again, in line with the Guidelines, staff will not be accepting or exchanging gifts

Science Week, Active School's, Nativity plays, Zoo Animal Fundraiser

Sincere thanks to staff who managed to promote these activities in a safe manner within their classroom or school grounds

Creagh National School Parents' Association

Chairperson, Caroline Treacy, wishes pupils, parents and staff a safe and peaceful Christmas and hopes all will return safely in 2021

Admission/Enrolment for 2021/2022 school year

Parents wishing to enrol children in our school in September 2021 should note the following:

- **Admission Notice Published on School Website, 17/12/2020**
- **Enrolment open from Monday, Jan. 11th to 12 noon on Friday, March, 26th.**
- **Board decision on applications in line with the school's Enrolment Policy on Friday, April 23rd.**
- **See *creaghonline.com* for further details and relevant documents**

**Parent Teacher Meetings for all classes will take place from January, 26th to February, 5th, 2021.
(Details of the format for meetings to be decided)**

Healthy Eating Policy

We remind you of our school's Healthy Eating Policy, which may be downloaded from our school website. Alternatively, a summary version is available inside your child's homework journal. We ask for the full co-operation of all parents with the implementation of this policy.

Voluntary Contribution

We thank you for your generous response to our Voluntary Contribution Scheme.

Minor Improvements

The perimeter fence around the school is almost complete. Our thanks to the main contractor, Hogan Engineering; Gerard Greene for ground preparation, Gerry Downey, Carty Construction and Dolan Associates Consultants for their work.

Our Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to all families who have suffered a bereavement in recent times. We remember you in our thoughts and prayers, especially at this time of year.

Christmas Holidays

The school will close on **Tuesday December 22nd**.

Junior, Senior Infants and children on buses will go home at 12:20pm

All others pupils will exit their classrooms at 12:30pm.

The school will re-open on **Wednesday January 6th**

Nollaig shona daoibh go léir. A safe and restful Christmas Holiday to all.

Frank Gallagher, Board Chairperson

Noel Lohan, Acting Principal.