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I hope this note finds you and your family well. In advance of our Christmas break, I would like to bring you up to date with some of the events and activities which have taken place since our last newsletter and to bring some issues to your attention.

**Parents Association Draw and Santa Visit;**

All families are asked to support the Parents Association Annual draw which provides vital funding support to the school. The draw will take place on Wednesday 21st December to coincide with Santa’s visit.

**Christmas Jumper/No-Uniform Day;**

Children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers or no uniform on Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd. Each child is asked to make a contribution of €1 for this event.

**Parent Teacher Meetings;**

Thank you to all parents who attended these meetings. They are a very valuable exercise for exchanging information about our pupils.

**Traffic Issues;**

Donegal County Council have been in contact to advise that they are examining the possibility of imposing lower speed limits at certain times of the day on the section of the N13 which runs past our school. This would involve lowering the speed limits in the morning time when drop-offs are taking place and again around the 2 & 3 o’clock pick-up times. I will pass on information of any developments in this regard as soon as they are available.

**I am very alarmed and disappointed to see some adults are still parking on the opposite side of the road and crossing over to drop off or collect pupils. This practice involves walking across three lanes of 100KPH traffic and then bringing children back across the same stretch of road. This simply cannot be considered safe or responsible behaviour. Everyone is aware that the periods between 2:00 & 2:15 and 3:00 & 3:15 are very busy but that does not justify risking lives. I would kindly ask all adults involved to stop this practice immediately.**

**Christmas Plays & Events;**

The dates and times for Christmas plays are as follows;

Mrs. O’ Brien (4th) – Monday 19th @ 1:10

Mrs. Boyle & Ms. Browne – Tuesday 20th @1:15

Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Doherty & Mr. Winston (Jnr. Inf.) – Wednesday 21st @ 11:15

Mrs. Gardiner (Snr. Inf) – Wednesday 21st @ 11:40

Ms. Mc Geehan (2nd) – Wednesday 21st @ 1:10

Parents of children in the classes listed above are welcome to attend. All plays will take place in the main hall apart from Mrs. Boyle and Ms. Browne which will take place in the ASD centre.

The entire school will take part in carol singing on Thursday 22nd led by the choir.

**Morning and End of Day Routines;**

Our new arrangements regarding dropping younger children at the gate are working well. Parental co-operation is very much appreciated in this regard. Please note supervision is only provided from 9am each morning. The Board of Management does not take responsibility for children on school grounds before this time. All parents are asked to be on time to collect children at home time, especially our youngest pupils collected at 2pm.

**Christmas Presents & Cards;**

Parents are of course welcome to send presents to teachers but should in no way feel obliged to do so. We understand this is a demanding time of year for all families. As you know the Green team have asked for one large Christmas card per class to be used instead of many individual cards which create huge amounts of waste. Your co-operation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

**Literacy Lift-Off;**

Our senior infant pupils have benefitted from this intensive literacy support programme since the beginning of this term. Well done to all the boys and girls in Mrs. Gardiner’s and Mrs. Coyle’s classes who worked so well in their groups. Thank you to all the staff and personnel on placements who participated in supporting the children’s learning and thanks especially to Ms. Y. Kelly who co-ordinates this initiative within our school.

**First Aid;**

The first aid station is for children who have had an accident in the playground to receive basic treatment and to facilitate children who have broken limbs and are in plaster. We do not have the capacity to allow children to sit inside over break times. If you consider your child ill or not well enough to go outside then they should not be in school. For insurance reasons any child coming to school on crutches must have a doctor’s note recommending their use.

**Absences;**

Roll is called by 10:30 each morning. If your child is absent the Education Welfare Officer requires you to inform the school in writing of the reason for the absence on his/her return. **Please note: this is necessary even if a phone call has been made to the school.**

**Sport/Extra-Curricular Activities;**

40 of our pupils took part in the Sports Hall Athletics competition and represented the school with distinction. Our indoor gaelic football teams took part in a regional blitz with our boys team finishing runners-up in the competition. Our debate team have so far taken part in two events, taking victory over Glenswilly NS but just losing out to Gaelscoil Adhamhnain. Their next outing will be against Ballyraine NS. Our quiz team finished 4th in the Cumann na mBunscol county final. Well done to Sarah Walsh (5th class) and Meadhbh Butler (3rd class) who had success in the Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce and Caolan Melaugh fund competitions respectively. 6TH class pupil Ellen Bridgeman created an All-Ireland winning sausage recipe which is on sale in Joe’s Butchers.

**Staff;**

Please note the following arrangements;

Mrs. Alexandar’s maternity leave is being covered by Ms. L. Ferry, Mrs. D. Doherty’s (SNA) maternity leave is being covered by Mrs. A. Ramshaw. Mrs. C. O’ Brien’s maternity leave in the New Year will be covered my Mrs. S. Crawford.

**Gaeilge sa Scoil;**

From this week pupils will be introduced to a new ‘nath na seachtaine’ (phrase of the week) every Monday. Children will be encouraged to use this and other Gaeilge phrases throughout the week in class, in the playground and in all other parts of the school.

**Christmas Holidays;**

St. Patrick’s NS will close at 12:30 on Thursday 22nd and will re-open on Monday 9th January 2017.

Thank you taking the time to read this newsletter.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir,

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Príomhoide

