

St. Conaire's Newsletter

December 21st, 2020

www.conaires.ie

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we close for the Christmas holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy break. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to school life in St. Conaire's NS since the start of 2020. It has been a difficult year and one that challenged us all.

Our school staff deserve a massive "thank you" for all their efforts this year. The teachers, SNAs, in-school management and support staff worked so very hard since the first lockdown on March 12th. Thank you to the teachers who organised distance learning, supported pupils and parents and arranged a massive book drop to ensure everyone had books and copies. That this was done safely and efficiently is a testament to their dedication, professionalism and caring support of their pupils. Thank you to each and every staff member for reaching out and supporting pupils at a time that has been difficult for everyone. This work has been tiring and intense but the staff of St. Conaire's have risen to the challenge and our wish for you is a safe and happy break with your loved ones.

In preparation for the return to school in September, staff came back early and massively reorganised the school both inside and outside. Long, hard hours were put in but the effort and sacrifice paid off when we were able to reopen successfully on August 31st. Seeing the happy faces of pupils as they came back made it all worthwhile. Go raibh mile maith agaibh go léir!

Thank you to our Parents' Association for their support, encouragement and practical help during 2020. They have been actively supporting the school and assisting staff. They are providing practical support for the purchase of apps for our new iPads which are available to all classrooms.

Our pupils deserve immense credit for the ways in which they have adapted to the reality of coming to school during a pandemic. They have been mature and responsible and they look out for each other as well. Special credit to our new Junior Infants who joined us at the start of the year and who have settled in very well indeed.

Thank you to the parents and guardians who have co-operated with the new way of life during this pandemic. Your support is greatly appreciated and your co-operation enables us to keep the school safe for pupils and staff alike. We hope you have an enjoyable family break over the coming weeks.

The Board of Management of St. Conaire's NS has been of immense support to the school as we work our way through the pandemic. They have worked hard to provide the resources necessary to keep pupils and staff safe. Their work is voluntary and is much appreciated.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Dhaoibh Go Léir

Christmas Holidays 2020: St. Conaire's NS will close at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 22nd and will reopen on Wednesday, January 6th, 2020. Note: Junior/Senior Infants finish at 11:30 am.

Christmas Cheer: Each day in the run up to the holidays different classes shared songs, riddles, music and jokes over the intercom system. Thank you to all the teachers involved. A special thank you to all the staff and pupils who decorated their corridors and doors with great imagination. The decorations really added to the festive atmosphere as did the piped music every morning. A special Christmas quiz was held on Monday, December 21st for the middle to senior classes.

Christmas Raffle: The raffles will take place on Tuesday, December 22nd and the winners will be announced thereafter. Thank you to all who supported the raffles and thanks to the staff involved in the organisation of the raffles for all the work they do.

Christmas Reflections: Thank you to our 6th classes who held a beautiful Christmas reflection over the intercom system today. It was lovely to take time out and have the space for reflection in this busy world of ours.

ESB Works: The ESB works are due for completion on December 23rd. We ask all pupils and parents to be vigilant while the contractors are working in and around the school.

Return to school: We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on January 6th, 2020. We sincerely ask parents only to send their children to school if they are fully well after the holidays. Please be aware of the symptoms of Covid-19 and do not send any child to school if they have a high temperature, a cough, shortness of breath or loss of taste/smell. It is going to be more important than ever that we remain careful and responsible after the holidays. Covid-19 will still be with us in 2021 and we ask you to co-operate fully with us as we work to teach your sons and daughters in the new school year in the safest possible way.

Information updates will be posted on the school website or through the Aladdin Connect app.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Walsh

Principal