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December 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Green Day for Limerick: Ahead of the All Ireland hurling final next Sunday, we will be running a Green jersey/ colours day this Friday to show our support to the Limerick team. We would be delighted to see St Patrick's GAA, Limerick jerseys or anything green to create some colour and excitement amongst the pupils. We will be collecting €2 from all pupils which will go towards the cost of special educational needs resources in the school.

Covid-19: As the Christmas holidays quickly come upon us, I would like to remind all members of our school community to continue to take the precautions necessary to keep everyone safe and well. Hand hygiene is one of the core parts of public health measures to help curb the spread of the virus. Please ensure that your children come to school with clean hands and that school clothes are washed regularly. With almost 210 pupils and 20 staff attending our school each day, it is vital that we all work together for the good of ourselves and our wider families.

New guidance on wearing masks advises that they are worn in busy or crowded outdoor spaces. We again, strongly encourage the wearing of masks on the school grounds when dropping and collecting your children. As always, please do not approach staff members at any time without a mask.

Attendance: Our overall attendance is running at 90.4%, 4% down on last year. Children must be kept at home when they are sick, however when they are fit and well, please make sure they are in school every day for before 8.50am. It is school policy that a note of explanation is provided on return or a dojo message is sent to the class teacher. Where this does not happen, the absence is marked as unexplained. In light of current circumstances, we strongly encourage you to use Dojo messaging for this purpose to avoid unnecessary paper being brought into school.

Christmas Cards: There is great excitement in the run up to Christmas and there is always great generosity and kindness between children and families. However, due to Covid-19, the exchanging of cards is not permitted this year within the school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this.

Christmas performance: As you are aware, it is not possible to have families attend school for any Christmas shows this year. This is obviously very disappointing for all but hopefully we will make up for it in 2021. We will be doing some carol singing on our school yard for the pupils over the coming weeks. Santa will also make a virtual visit in the run up to the break.

Miles4Rian: €730 in total was donated to the Mile4Rian charity run for past pupil Rian O'Halloran. David Tidswell, along with the O'Halloran family would like to sincerely thank everyone for your generosity in the school's collection and to all those who donated privately. As of today, a total of €52,086 was raised.

Sport: We are delighted to continue to welcome Limerick Games Development Officer

Limerick Gateway to Education: We donated over 30 jumpers and other school uniform items to the Gateway to Education charity in Limerick this week. They provide second hand uniforms and school books to families at reduced prices. Their shop is located on Wickham Street and may be of use to you next year.

Parking outside the school: We have had communication from the Gardaí in relation to illegal parking along Kilmurry Road at the rear of the school. They have warned that parking tickets will be issue to anyone parked illegally or blocking the entrances of local residents. Please park along the school/Geraldines FC side of the road to avoid disruption. It is important that we respect our neighbours at all times. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Christmas Holidays: Please be aware that we will be finishing at 12pm on Tuesday December 22nd for our Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Liddane

Principal