



## November/December Newsletter

### **French Lessons:**

We completed 10 weeks of French Lessons as part of the Say Yes To Languages programme. Thank you to Rebecca for her expertise in teaching all the classes.

### **Gymnastics:**

Gymnastics lessons were completed on Thursday 19th December. We did 6 weeks of lessons and thank you to the Parents Association for their funding of this very worthwhile activity.

### **Read and Raise:**

We engaged in a Reading fundraiser for the month of November which was extremely popular and well supported. We registered over 14,000 minutes as a school and the children enjoyed a variety of prizes throughout the month. We also raised just over €2800 which was extremely appreciated.

### **School Calendar:**

The school has created a calendar for 2025 that is available from the school. It contains pictures from both past and present. Thank you to Una Cremin and Sandra Sheehan for their efforts in creating the calendar.

### **Christmas Panto:**

We attended the Mother Goose Panto in UL on Monday 16th December. We had a fantastic day and it was wonderful to see the enjoyment on the faces of all the children throughout the show.

### **Bí Cineálta:**

The Department of Education has released new guidelines around the area of Anti Bullying called Bí Cineálta. To fully comply with the implementation of these procedures we will be looking for parental and student involvement in this and we will provide further details in early January.

### **Gael Bhratach:**

The Gael-Bhratach Committee has been working diligently to promote the Irish language in our school through engaging and enjoyable activities. On Wednesday 18th, the committee organised a school assembly where each class performed a poem or song in Irish. Additionally, they held an art competition, facilitated yard games, and presented awards. Aine from Gaelbhratach recently visited our school and she was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm and participation shown by all students and staff in embracing the Irish language. As a result of this work we received a grant of €500, which will be used to invest in valuable Irish-language resources.

### **Active Schools:**

The Active Schools Committee are working hard to promote physical activity throughout the school. Since September, they have been working hard at the "Active Break A Day" initiative. They have danced, ran and walked through the past few months. They are looking forward to their next challenge.

### **Green Schools:**

The Green Schools Committee is currently working on the theme of Biodiversity. They have completed an Environmental Review and Action Plan with the aim to preserve and enhance biodiversity in our school. They are also participating in an Irish Garden Bird Survey and many thanks to the Tidy Towns Committee for supplying the bird feed to help support the birds in the school yard over the Winter period.

**Mental Health and Wellbeing Talk:** We were delighted to welcome Susan Crowley from Cork Mental Health, who visited our 5th and 6th class students to discuss the importance of mental health and wellbeing. During her talk, Susan shared valuable strategies for coping with stressful situations and the power of positive affirmations. We are very grateful to Susan for her time and expertise in promoting mental health awareness among our students.

**Amber Flag:**

The Amber Flag Committee is currently working hard to earn another flag by promoting positive mental health. They have engaged in a number of activities including mindfulness over the past couple of months. The committee are looking forward to organising more activities in the new year.

**Junior Entrepreneur Programme:**

The 5th and 6th class students are in the process of finalising their ideas for their JEP business project. They will be presenting these ideas to a judging panel in the New Year.

**Coaching:**

Thank you to Milford GAA for providing coaching sessions to the students in the school throughout the last few months. We have enjoyed them hugely and are looking forward to them in the new year again already.

**Santa Visit:**

Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves visited the school on Tuesday 17th December. They gifted a selection box to everyone in the school and thank you to the Parents Association for their help in organising this.

**Christmas Performance:**

We held our Christmas Performance on Wednesday 18th December in the Church at 7.30pm. Well done to all the students for their wonderful performances and thank you to all the staff members for their efforts in preparing the children so well. Thank you to everyone who came to support us on the night.

**Policies Reviewed:**

At our most recent Board of Management the School Visitors policy and the Assistive Technology Application policy were reviewed and ratified. These are available on the school website and from the office on request.

**Solar Panels for School:**

The school has become eligible for the installation of Solar Panels as part of the National initiative for schools. We are hoping to have the installation of these completed in the coming months.

**Enrolment:**

We will be opening our enrolment process for the Academic Year 25/26 in early January. Enrolment forms will be available from the school office and enrolment forms will also be distributed to the students through the preschool.

**School Sports:**

Our Boys and Girls teams participated in the Mini 7s Football competitions in Banteer GAA in November. Both teams performed very well and thank you to Ms. O’Gorman for her work in preparing the teams.

Our 2nd-4th class students have started their training for the indoor hurling/camogie competitions that will be happening after Christmas.

Finally on behalf of all the staff in the school I would like to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

*Mr O’Flynn*