

Christmas Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I'm sure we all agree, what a year! We all remain hopeful that we keep as safe as we have this term and that 2021 allows us to get back onto the path to a new normal life. I know the children and staff are desperate for things to return as before but we equally know this pandemic remains and we need to follow the guidelines as best we can to keep us and our loved ones safe. The children are desperately tired (teachers too!) as it's been a tough term for them to manage both physically and psychologically.

I hope the Christmas break allows us all to get some much-needed down time and that we can rest up for the term ahead. I wish you well and I thank you for your tremendous support this term, you have been brilliant following our school Covid routines and the attendance at school has been brilliant, so well done to you all as that is a success for us all to share. Following the school news below is an important new email address for you to use should there be a positive Covid test result during the holiday.

School News

Primary Science Award

Kinvara N.S. has been awarded the Plaque of STEM Excellence by Science

Foundation Ireland for the 6th year running. The Discover Primary Science and Maths Award aims to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and

mathematics (STEM) among students, teachers and members of the public.

The award is co-ordinated across the school by Ms. Marie Kelly. The hard work and preparation by teachers mean that the children can experience science

experiments in their own classrooms. Children at Kinvara N.S. have the opportunity to engage in activities and events run at a national and European level. We participate in Science Week, Maths Week, EU Code

Week, Engineering Week and Space Week as well as many more. We often have visitors to the school who hold workshops for individual classes and every year our Sixth Class present a STEM Showcase to the whole school.

For the past two years we have presented our Log of Evidence by creating a website. You can view our past entries by clicking the links on our school website. www.kinvarans.ie

This is a fantastic achievement for the pupils and staff at our school.

Well Done Everyone!

Active School Flag

We are delighted here in St. Joseph's NS to have been awarded our Active Schools Flag after a very busy school year of lots of activities and hard work. The Active School Flag (ASF) is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. The process aims to get more schools, more active, more often. We will continue to maintain our high standards and continue to focus on being active. We had lots of fun throughout the whole process and engaged in a variety of initiatives; Run around Europe, Climb the Heights Skipping Challenge. Active School Week, Sports Day, Tennis lessons, National Fitness Day, Christmas Dance, Halloween Disco, Playground Leaders and many other exciting activities.

Parents Association Santa Visit

I would like to thank our Parents Association for organising the annual visit of Santa to our school on Friday last. This was a wonderful event creating very timely Christmas cheer. I would also like to thank our PA for organising 'a gift for every child in the audience!'

I would also like to thank The Big Man Himself! Thank you Santa!

Christmas Raffle:

RAFFLE PRIZES CHRISTMAS 2020			
SPONSOR	DONATION	WINNER	CLASS
Lady Gregory	€60 family pass	Yvie Huban	5th class
Touch of Class	hair products	Maeve MacEoin	Jnr Inf
Q Beauty	voucher	Ciara Holland	6th class
Pure Skill	4 x Full Circuit u14 vouchers	Beibhinn Whitney	4th class
Pure Skill		Eva Moylan	Snr Inf
Pure Skill		Roisin Donovan	3rd class
Pure Skill		Ethan Curley	Snr Inf
Jump Lanes	2 x voucher	Carolina Conole	3rd class
Jump Lanes		Clodagh Murphy	6th class
St. Joseph's School	Hall voucher	Cian Henchy	1st class
St. Joseph's School	Astro voucher	Éabha Crossan	3rd class
St. Joseph's School	Tennis voucher	Éabha Pyne	4th class
Smyth's Toys	€50 voucher	Gráinne Sweeney	2nd class
Car Wash Ballinderreen		Katie Walsh	5th class
Car Wash Ballinderreen	2 x voucher	Abby O'Driscoll	4th class
Homestore and more	dinner set	Ava Joyce	5th class
Seaport Dental		Koby Keane	2nd class
O'Donnell's Hardware	€30 voucher	Freddie Smith	Jnr Inf
Murphy's Heating	Hamper	Jack O'Sullivan	Jnr Inf
Siar	bird box promised	Keelin Marud	5th class
Eye Cinema	Voucher €30	Cathal Daly	Snr Inf
3D Monopoly game		Ruby Gallagher	3rd class
Make up by Debbie	voucher	Alex Danjou	6th class
Doolin Hotel	Dinner for 2	Millie Glynn	2nd class
Fox's	€20 voucher	Cathal Kenny	2nd class
Cregal Art	€20 voucher	Olivio Giersz	6th class
Outback Jack's	€30 voucher	Stella Bury	Jnr Inf
VIP Pooches	Voucher for €45	Maya Voetter	Snr Inf
Pier Head	€60 voucher	Oscar Giersz	2nd class
Keogh's	€30 voucher	Jake Collins	1st class
Backgammon game		Rose Keegan	5th class
Kersplat game		Reeva Keane	Snr Inf

Christmas Jumper Winners:

The Christmas Jumper Art Winners.

Well done to all the pupils who did lovely art work in all our classes.

And remember you are all winners for participating!!



Junior infants- Aisling Kelly & Neriah Machaba

Senior infants- Rosie O'Donnell & Elloa Rodrigues

1st class- Ryan Hyland

1st & 2nd- Alex Waters

2nd- Sena Carolan

3rd- Eabha Crossan

3rd & 4th- Jessica Piggot

4th- Ru Keane

5th- Grace Kelly & Abby Finnegan

6th- Emma Fahy & Fern White

Laura Lynn Children's Hospice: Well done to you all, a total of €446 was raised for this from our "Dress Festive Day!"

Advice from School

During the school holiday please can we ask that you follow all the national guidance; we have included some helpful bullet points and web addresses below. If everyone takes individual responsibility and follows this guidance, we can collectively manage a safe and secure return to education in the new year:

- If a child from our school, or their parents/carers or a sibling living in the same household should test positive for COVID-19 during the Christmas break, please could we ask you to notify the school by sending an email to: info@kinvarans.ie
- If your child is unable to start the new term because of any other illness, please let us know in the normal way. School reopens 6th January 2021
- If your child lives in the same household as someone with coronavirus, your child must stay at home for 14 days from the first day the person with coronavirus had symptoms or had their test
- If your child develops Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared (or from the date they received a positive test result)

- COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection –

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/covid-19-schools-and-parents-resources/a-parent-s-guide-to-close-contacts-in-school.pdf>

has information for households with possible coronavirus infection including easy to read guides.

- Please remember; there are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other 1. Wash hands, 2. Cover face, 3. Make space

Date for your diary:

First Holy Communion: Saturday 22nd of May 2021-please note this is only a **provisional date**; we have to follow Government Guidelines which can change at any time.

Although the festive season will be different this year as we all continue to try and keep each other safe and healthy, we do hope that you can all enjoy this period and we wish you a happy Christmas and a safe and happy new year.



I hope that you all enjoy a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous 2021

Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh go léir.

Is mise,

Dominic Gallagher