

Whitechurch N.S.

December Newsletter 2021



Christmas!

We are getting into the Christmas mood here at WNS and the school is already very well decorated with 1st Class having helped get our tree looking festive in the main entrance. We have also received a present from Ms. Richards' mum who has been working away over the last year on a beautiful knitted Christmas Crib set!



1st Class Advent Assembly Video

1st Class gave us a fantastic assembly presentation last week for the first class assembly of advent. Take a look at their video here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RNdNCARfhjCiVuILnoU3tqAQK0HPI/view?usp=sharing>

Well done 1st Class and Mrs. Shirley!

Self Help Africa One Million Trees Project

Self Help Africa, with the support of the INTO, is calling on all schools in Ireland to get involved with the ongoing campaign to help tackle climate change by planting one million trees.

Every school that participates in the One Million Trees project will receive a free native Irish tree per classroom, along with age-appropriate lesson plans. For every native tree planted through primary schools in Ireland on the week beginning 13th December, Self Help Africa will plant 10 more in Africa. We are delighted to be taking part in the project and

look forward to planting our trees when they arrive!



Notice of Policies Reviewed

At the most recent Board of Management meeting, the Child Safeguarding and Anti Bullying policies were reviewed and the legislative checklists completed. These policies are available to view on our website and in hard copy on the school noticeboard. We always welcome feedback from parents on the operation of these two very important policies in our school.

Safety rules

This is a good time of year to go over safety rules with your children. All children at this school are taught not to talk to strangers and to follow the 3 'Stay Safe' rules that apply to any situation where they feel frightened, upset, or worried. These are:

- ✓ Say No!
- ✓ Move away
- ✓ Tell someone

Please take time to go over these rules and your own safety rules with your child.

Aladdin Absences

It is very helpful to the class teachers if parents could click the reason for absence when your child is out. It auto inserts into the teacher's roll records and avoids the school secretary having to phone you to see why your child is absent.

Dress up Day

We had fantastic costumes coming into school for our Dress Up Day. We raised €334 for the Rwanda Parish Mission Link. Thank you to all who contributed to this.

The winners were:

Junior Infants: Wren Robertson

Senior Infants – Luca Della Chiesa & Henry Mistear

1st Class – Lottie Fitzsimons

2nd class – Conor Carr

3rd Class – Aisling White & Jacob Gamble

4th Class – Kaya Salmon

5th Class – Ivor Guinness

6th Class – Luke Gamble & Lily-Rose Lalor

Please see information below about Christmas Cards for sale in aid of the Mission Link Project.



MISSION LINK

Our fundraising program continues for the health centre at Nyanagama in Shyogwe, Rwanda. Progress is good, despite covid, and the end is almost in sight perhaps 75% complete.

Heartfelt thanks to all who have faithfully returned their tins, either in person to the church or to any of the names below. And replacement tins can be obtained in similar fashion.

Our Rwandan Christmas Cards are going on sale shortly (see photo below). Please be sure to order yours in time! They can be obtained from any of the folks below

Har Allison	0868772142
Arthur Milligan	0860801718
Dave Hunt.	0872403377

Well Done Juliet!

Juliet Trenaman in 6th Class managed to raise a fantastic total of €2,760 in aid of The Irish Cancer Society, Laura Lynn and The Princess Trust. Juliet donated 13 inches of her hair to the Princess Trust.

Staffing Update

As you know, all schools are having issues with securing substitute cover at the moment and we are no different. Our local Ballinteer sub panel has had extra posts sanctioned to meet the local demand but no teachers have yet been found for the 5 extra sub panel positions. We have been short of cover for Ms. Lalor who has been on leave since early September but following two other subs leaving who both found other jobs, we have managed to secure a sub for the remainder of this term. We always do our

utmost to try to secure qualified subs but unfortunately at times, we have had to resort to SET Teachers taking classes to avoid having to send classes home. It is not something that we like having to do as those pupils with additional needs then miss out on their extra support lessons. The requirements for staff members to isolate where a household member or they themselves are awaiting a test or have Covid is proving to be a significant challenge. Hopefully things will ease up in the new year if this current wave improves. A huge thank you must go to Lynda Bannister and Elaine Murphy for their subbing this term.

Covid-19

Renewed thank you to all school parents for your continued support for our Covid Prevention measures. Thank you also for the very thoughtful messages and treats sent in for the staff during our recent challenging times. This was very much appreciated by us all.

Please remember to keep children with any possible Covid symptoms at home and to seek advice from a GP or a PCR test. If a PCR test result is negative, pupils should be 2 days symptom free before returning to school. We have many other normal illness with similar symptoms of Covid circulating at the moment.

Living Faith Living History

Congratulations to 5th and 6th Class who had completed local history projects on the school and Parish last term. These went on display in Christ Church Cathedral recently. Please see the following link for an article about this. The two classes also enjoyed a visit to the cathedral recently to see their project and to visit the historic crypts.

https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/10/26/living-faith-living-history-school?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook



A Super Science Class!

On the 27th of November 2021, 6th Class walked up to Ballyroan Library for a Science workshop about The Universe! A woman named Ali from the Rediscovery Centre held the workshop.

When we arrived, we did a lesson on the different types of constellations, which are patterns of stars. Some famous constellations are Orion, The Big Dipper and The Twins. We then made some

constellation projectors. We got cardboard cups and poked holes in them to make lots of different patterns! When it was very dark and you placed a torch up to it you could see a terrific constellation!

Later on, we had an extremely interesting lesson on different types of planets, the question of the day was: Which one would you live on? Did you know that Saturn rains diamonds? How cool is that!

Finally, we did an awesome activity where we made rockets out of recycled cardboard, polystyrene cylinders and elastic bands! They could even fly!!

All of 6th class had great fun on this trip.

By Alice Lyster, (6th Class)



A Terrific Talk with Meteorologists Joanna Donnelly.

On the 12th of November, 6th Class watched an interview with Joanne Donnelly! We got tickets to go on an online YouTube livestream with the meteorologist and RTÉ forecaster.

Joanne is 50 years and she has 24 years' experience at Met Éireann, broadcasting the weather forecast on national radio since 2002, moving to television in 2016. Joanne wrote her first book, *The Great Irish Weather Book* in 2018, Winner of a Children's Book of the Year award in 2019. Joanne also co-founded the charity Pomegranate in 2010. Joanne Donnelly is a journalist who is currently working as a meteorologist since 2000. She had also worked as a meteorological officer before being promoted as a meteorologist and has been working as a forecaster and broadcasting on RTE Radio 1 since February 2002. We learned so many cool things about the weather. We even got to ask some questions and two of them got answered live!

We asked: 1. What are the orange things on the runway at the airport? (She told us that the orange things were just to show the pilot where the end of the runway is.)

2. How do the weather balloons go up into the air? (She said that it's just like a hot air balloon, and that it is powered by gas with a satellite!)

We're really happy we got to go on the YouTube livestream and learn about meteorology. Thank you Joanne Donnelly for the great talk, we learnt a lot of cool facts and had fun!

By Erin Anthoni, (6th Class)

Headlice Prevention

A reminder that all pupils with long hair (both girls and boys) should have it tied back at school in order to prevent the spread of headlice. Please continue to check for headlice on a weekly basis- SOS- Search on Sunday! Let us know if you find headlice and treat and remove lice and eggs before sending your child back to school. Thank you

Workbook Pages

Our Class Teachers always strive to get the most learning out of each lesson and if a workbook page doesn't suit all of the priority learning objectives, it may not be fully completed. Sometimes a workbook page is used for discussion with the page being completed

orally or used as a writing prompt for work in a copybook. So please do not worry if you see some pages not filled in.



Whitechurch N.S.

for donating gift-filled shoeboxes to children affected by poverty in Eastern Europe and Africa.



Thank You



Team Hope, 5 Leinsterstown Business Centre, Ballyogan Avenue, Dublin 18. Tel: 01 284 0222 www.teamhope.ie Irish charity CHT14524 CRA number: 20047627

Team Hope Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who brought in shoeboxes. 193 shoe boxes were collected from the school on Friday 5th November which is our best ever number! Well done to 2nd Class who collected the most Shoeboxes and won the October Class of the Month award! Putting together a Christmas Shoebox is such a lovely and kind thing to do for another child. For the children who receive a box, it will probably be the only present they get this year and will mean the world to them. Well done everyone!



Christmas Jumper Day for Crumlin Hospital

On Tuesday 21st December, all pupils are invited to wear their best and most Christmassy jumpers to school! Donations will be sought for Crumlin Children's Hospital. A suggested donation is €2 per pupil. This charitable event is kindly organised with the assistance of Gail Garry.

P. T. A. Christmas Fun Day- Friday 17th December

The Christmas Fun Day will be held on Friday 17th December. A huge thank you to the PTA for all of their work in fundraising this year despite all of the challenges! Please see message below from the PTA:

We've been thinking hard about how we can try to do our usual Christmas events with the current restrictions. We have decided to hold a Christmas Fun Day (similar to last year) for all pupils in aid of PTA fundraising for the outdoor classroom.

All the usual separate small amounts normally collected at this time of year for raffle tickets, Helix Panto etc. will be combined into a suggested minimum donation of €5 per child. For this donation, the PTA will be able to purchase a small treat for each child from Santa Claus, 3 selection boxes per class for a raffle- each child will get a ticket included with their donation. All pupils will have a Christmas movie, watch the pantomime from the Helix & have a visit from Santa as well as lots of other

fund activities depending on the class level such as Christmas games/ crafts etc.

Any money left after costs, will go towards PTA fundraising for the outdoor classroom so we are really hoping that you can get behind the Christmas Fun Day and support us!

Obviously no child will be left out but we are asking for a minimum donation of €5 to cover costs and to support the Outdoor classroom. Pupils can bring in extra money if they want to buy another raffle ticket at €1 per ticket. Other donations are of course very welcome as well!

Thanks for your support, WNS PTA

The Helix Panto –Red Riding Hood

This year, we don't have our own panto to take part in up in St. Columba's College, but to keep that Christmas Panto tradition up, we have bought a ticket for each pupil to see the Helix Christmas Pantomime at school instead. It will be streamed to each classroom as part of the PTA Christmas Fun Day events. Of course, we are still working away on our own panto- The Adventures of Super Stan! This will hopefully happen some time in the new year and we'll be releasing a specially filmed version for you all with the very kind assistance of parent Jonny Somerville!

Whitechurch Mother's Union Christmas Hampers Collection

Whitechurch Mothers' Union make up hampers every Christmas to be distributed to the less well off in our community and we are once again asking for your help! Donations of non-perishable foods such as tinned foods, cereals, soup, tea, coffee, biscuits, sweets etc. would be most welcome! Thank you for your generosity with this project last year, it was much appreciated. A box will be left in the main school entrance hallway where you can put your donations. Many thanks to all of you for your support with this project.

(Whitechurch Parish Mother's Union)

Santa Claus is coming to town!

It's that time of year again and Santa Claus is busy making toys and the reindeer are preparing for their long journey on Christmas Eve. We have just received an email from the North Pole to say that Santa will be paying a visit to our school towards the end of December where he will meet the junior pupils. Many thanks to the PTA for making this visit possible!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year from the staff and pupils in Whitechurch National School!



Dates for your diary

- **Friday 17th December:** PTA Christmas Fun Day and Raffle
- **Tuesday 21st December:** Christmas Jumper Day for Crumlin Children's Hospital
- **Wednesday 22nd December:** End of Term Assembly
- **Thursday 6th January:** School reopens at 8.10am for Term 2
- **Wednesday 26th January:** PTA Clothing Collection
- **21st- 25th February 2022:** Mid Term Break
- **24th January 2022:** Wellbeing Week
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