

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A warm welcome back to all our girls. We hope you all enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. After a lovely rest, we are excited to be back working with the children and have some lovely things in store for the girls in January.

We would like to pay tribute to Ms. Karina Kelly, who was involved with the school as part of the Supply Teacher Pilot Scheme since November 2019 and who very sadly passed away over the Christmas holidays. Please keep Karina and her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this incredibly difficult time.

We will be fully supporting our wonderful school secretary, Geraldine Carberry with the Forsa strike action scheduled for Friday 10th January. There currently exists a two-tier pay system for school secretaries: most secretaries are paid out of a grant issued by the Department which results in them being on irregular short-term contracts, having to sign-on for unemployment benefits for holiday periods and getting a significantly lower wage than those paid directly by the Department of Education. Hopefully the planned strike action and withdrawal from certain duties will help to progress their extremely warranted claim. Our secretary is so central to the running of our school and deserves better. Please show your support for Ger outside the school on Friday morning!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week will run from 27th January- 31st January and will include 2nd, 3rd and 5th class leading the school in prayer services along with added daily religious activities.

Grandparents' Day falls on Wednesday 29th January during Catholic Schools Week and Grandparents will be invited in from 11.00-12.00 to share with the children what their own school days were like. The day is our way of acknowledging how amazing grandparents are and the huge contribution they make to the lives of the children. It is always a really special day for grandparents and grandchildren to share.

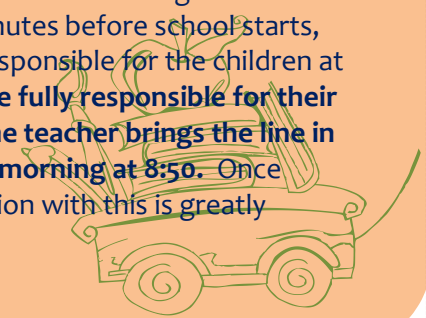
This month's Family Mass will take place on Sunday 19th January at 11:30a.m. in St. John Vianney Church, Ardlea. All are welcome.

Drop off and Collection Arrangements:

A big thank you to all the parents who have been so supportive of our efforts to keep the school grounds safe by **not driving into the school at any time**. We are really appreciative of this. We would ask for your continued cooperation with this as it is for the safety of all the children in our care. This applies equally on wet days.

Please also be careful not to block our neighbours' driveways at drop off or collection times as the residents need to be able to go about their daily lives as unaffected as possible by the school community.

A reminder that there is no formal supervision in the school yard before school starts at 8:50. Even though SNAs will be circulating for approximately 10 minutes before school starts, they are in no way responsible for the children at this time. **Parents are fully responsible for their own children until the teacher brings the line in from the yard in the morning at 8:50.** Once again, your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.



SPORT

- 40 children from 4th/5th/6th class will be taking part in a **tag rugby blitz** in Clontarf Rugby Club on **Thursday 30th January**. The girls thoroughly enjoy taking part in blitzes and testing the skills they have learned competitively.
- Colm McDonald, G.A.A. development officer will continue to take the **all classes** for their **football** sessions fortnightly.
- **All classes** will be learning **mindfulness practices and yoga** with Maura Broaders every Friday this term. Hopefully the girls will transfer these practices into their daily lives long after the sessions finish.
- Our Croke Park Final winning **football panel** are being honoured with a **reception** in the **Mansion House on Monday 27th/1st**. Aodhán O Riordan has once again organised this for our girls as an acknowledgment of their wonderful achievement in the CnmB League 2019.

We will be hosting our first ever **Inter-Cultural Day on Friday 17th January from 9:30a.m.** The children are all working on projects about the various countries that are represented in the school and parents are asked to send in any traditional clothes/food/items that typify their culture. We are excited to see how the celebration of cultures present in our school unfolds. Please **contact Nessa if you are available to help on 0860439773.**

The Parents' Association have their next meeting on Thursday 23rd January. New members are always welcome so feel free to come along to the meeting, even if it's your first time😊.

HSCL:

Parents of children in **Junior Infants** will be invited in to help with **Maths for Fun** starting Monday 20th January for 4 weeks.

3rd/4th class parents will be invited to play **Board Games** with their children from Monday 21st January for 4 weeks.

The parents of **Senior Infants** are invited in for the children's graduation from the **Mighty Mouth** Programme on Wednesday 29th/1st @ 9a.m.



Junior Infants & their beautiful Christmas Wreaths

- ❖ **14 lucky girls in 2nd class** will be given the wonderful opportunity of free after school **ukulele** lessons starting **Thursday 23rd January**. May they discover the joy of playing music😊
- ❖ Every year the school teams up with the **Artane Band** and a tutor comes in to teach recorder to the girls in 3rd class for 10 weeks. This culminates in a lovely showcase performance in March accompanied by the Artane Band.
- ❖ Free after school **Cooking classes** continue for the girls in 5th/6th class. The children are learning to cook 10 delicious and nutritious meals from scratch. We firmly believe that we are equipping the girls with an invaluable life skill by providing the classes and all are enjoying learning all about food.

We continue to work with our **play therapist** Nuala Grant who comes in and works with some children individually on a weekly basis. If you feel this is something your daughter could benefit from, please talk to me and we will do our best to accommodate her.

Happy New Year everyone and wishing you all a great 2020.

**Le Meas,
Aoife McNicholas, Principal**

