



## St. John of God G.N.S. November / December Newsletter 2023



*Picker Pals Ava and Ivy from 2<sup>nd</sup> Class*

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we near the end of term one, I hope this newsletter finds you well. We would like to wish all of our families a happy and peaceful Christmas season. Thank you for your continued support.



### Nativity Play

Our annual performance of the Christmas Nativity will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. The 4<sup>th</sup> class girls will perform in the play; the Junior and Senior Infants will take the parts of angels and shepherds and the rest of the school will sing beautiful Christmas songs.

**To accommodate as many families as possible, we will have two showings.**

**9:30 – Junior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

**11:30 – Senior Infants, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**

We expect the show to last approximately 45 mins. All children will perform in both showings. Please attend your own child's class showing where possible as space in the hall is tight.

### Christmas Flower Arranging with Shane & Vivienne

- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Parents are invited to come in and learn how to make a centrepiece and help set up for Tuesday's classes with the children.
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** Parents are invited in to help the children make their own centrepiece.

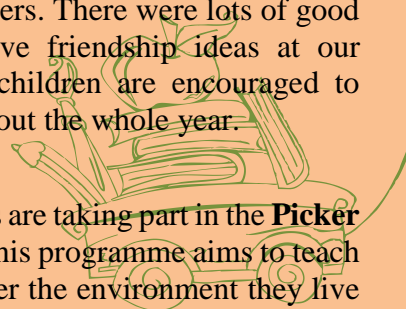
Shane (HSCL) will be in touch soon with exact times, if you would like to join either or both sessions, please let him know on 086 0439773. We would love to see as many parents as possible get involved.

We held our **Parent Teacher meetings** last month. Parent Teacher meetings are a really important chance for you to chat with your child's teacher about her progress at school. If you were unable to make the meeting, please contact the teacher to arrange another time.

The children in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes were enrolled for the sacraments of **Penance, Communion and Confirmation** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. This was a very special event for them in a special year. We will keep them in our prayers as they prepare to receive their sacraments later this year. The next **Family mass** will take place in St John Vianney church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Fr. Michel would like to see you all there, especially the children in the Communion and Confirmation classes.

We held **Friendship Week** on 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November. This week is an opportunity for the children to focus and reflect on how they can be a good friend to others. There were lots of good examples of positive friendship ideas at our assembly and the children are encouraged to show these throughout the whole year.

The girls in 2<sup>nd</sup> class are taking part in the **Picker Pals** Programme. This programme aims to teach children to look after the environment they live in.



## Parents' Association

December is always a busy month for the Parents Association and this year is no different. Below are some of the projects underway. As ever we would really appreciate your support wherever you can offer it.

- ✓ The P.A. is in the process of organising their annual **Christmas Raffle**. This is a big fundraiser for our school so we would really appreciate your support with this. One set of tickets will go home per family on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of December**. The draw will take place in school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of **December**. Please return all tickets (sold and unsold) by Wed 13<sup>th</sup> December. There are some really lovely prizes to be won. The best of luck to all who enter.
- ✓ The girls from **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class** will be **carol singing in Northside Shopping Centre on Fridays 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December from 10a.m.-12p.m.** Rehearsals have begun and they are sounding beautiful already. Be sure to spread the word to friends and family to go and support the girls and help raise some much-needed funds for our school.
- ✓ The annual **Christmas** disco organized by the PA for the girls will be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The children can wear Christmas jumpers or their own clothes on the day of the disco which is also a half day.
- ✓ Final few days for helping our school win the **Blue Token Collection in Tesco!** Don't forget to pop a token in our box when you're shopping.
- ✓ By now you'll all have received any Christmas cards you ordered. We hope they bring joy to those who receive them. As always, we thank you for your support with this fundraiser.



*5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes taking part in Marathon Kids in Morton Stadium, Santry*

## Attendance

Attendance throughout the school has been lower than we would like for the months of September, October and November at around 91%. We are aiming for **95%** attendance throughout the school for the month of December.

As parents, you play a vital role in ensuring children attend school. Whilst it is normal that children will be sick from time to time, resulting in days off school, we ask that, where possible, you ensure that your daughter is in school and on time every other day.

## Christmas Holidays – Half Day

The school will close for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. **Junior and Senior Infants will finish at 11:50am and all other classes will finish at 12.00pm** on the day. We will reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## Dates for your diary

8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. Carol Singing Northside S.C.

18<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Raffle

18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Flower Arranging

20<sup>th</sup> Dec. Nativity Play

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Christmas Disco & Half Day

**Le gach dea-ghuí**

**Sinéad Feery, Acting Principal**

