



**Scoil Náisiúnta An Dea Aoire**  
**The Good Shepherd National School**  
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Happy New Year from all the Good Shepherd team. We hope that 2015 will be a good year for everybody and we look forward to another very successful term working with your children.

**CAROL SINGING AT NUTGROVE SHOPPING CENTRE, DECEMBER 15th**

Thanks to those of you who came to the centre to support us on the day. This initiative raised €529.27. Due to insurance and other restrictions from N.S.C. we could only have a small number from our choir singing at any one time. However, the praise from the public was amazing and the children looked great in their new choir robes - well done everybody! Thanks also to the management team of N.S.C. for including our school in their December carol singing programme.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CLASS NEWS - TRIP TO SMURFIT KAPPA**

On Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, as part of the 'Time to Read Programme' 2<sup>nd</sup> class went on a trip to Smurfit Kappa, Clonskeagh. The children were greeted by their tutors and had their photo taken by the HUGE Christmas tree. Then they had a lovely lunch part in the canteen with ice-cream and Christmas crackers! Following this the children were brought to the board room and learned all about how boxes were made. Each child then got a cardboard airplane to make and decorate. There followed a Skype phonecall with Santa - it was so exciting!! Luckily all the children were on the good list! After this the children went to see the office where their tutor works every day. The children sat in the big chairs and pretended to be hard at work in the office. After all the fun and excitement it was time to leave - but there was one more surprise - each child received the gift of a beautiful edition of the book 'Twas the night before Christmas! It was a fantastic day, enjoyed by all. Thank you Smurfit Kappa! The next trip, as part of the programme, will be a trip for children and parents to Dundrum Library in the Spring. We can't wait!

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

- Thanks to everybody who supported this fundraising initiative - and to your children for the beautiful art work on their individual cards. We raised €643.29.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> class card was made into a class card and courtesy of the Ethiopian Ambassador this card was sent to all Embassies and Consulates in Dublin - we are famous!!

**KOREAN STUDENTS STUDY VISIT**

Our new pupils from Korea have settled in very well to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. While improving their English they are learning about school and life in Ireland. We are also learning some new facts about their lives in Korea.

## **GOOD BEHAVIOUR AT BREAKTIMES "NO HOMEWORK PASS"**

These blue stickers were in your child's diary yesterday, 14<sup>th</sup> January (for the period 3rd November - 19th December 2014). If your child did not receive one please talk to him/her about good behaviour on the yard or contact the class teacher or myself for more information. Junior classes who don't have a diary will get a blue certificate and a little treat on Friday.

## **MON. JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> - FRI. JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

## **MON. FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> - FRI. FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> HEALTHY LIVING WEEK**

These will be two extra busy weeks in Good Shepherd N.S. There will be activities organised for both Catholic Schools Week and Healthy Living Week - your children will keep you informed at the time.

## **SEASHORE/MARINE EXPLORER PROJECT**

We are just one of 12 schools chosen to take part in the above project in conjunction with Blackrock Education Centre and The National Sea Life Centre in Bray. The aquarium from Bray will be installed this week and the 'occupants' will be arriving next week! Watch this space.

## **REMINDERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER**

- **UNWANTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS & BASKETS:** We will be delighted to receive these for our Easter Raffle - thanks to those who have already sent in some items. You may also drop them into the school Mon-Fri, 9am - 4pm or ring 2989475 for collection.
- **USED POSTAGE STAMPS:** We welcome your used postage stamps. They are given to missionary societies who raise funds by selling them to stamp collectors. Please leave stamp attached to paper - roughly 1 cm all around - because if the perforations are damaged the stamp is worthless.
- **VIOLIN PROJECT:** We wrote in our last newsletter "*In order for this project to prosper over the coming years we really need sponsorship so here's your chance! If you know of any companies or business people who would like to sponsor a wonderful local initiative please contact us at the school*".

*We are still looking for company sponsorship.*

*We also wrote "Alternatively, anyone can sponsor a violin for €60.00 and your name will appear on future newsletters, promotions and programmes. I am delighted to say that to date we have got sponsorship for two violins - both sponsors wish to remain anonymous.*

- [ **IRISH DANCING:** As many of you know Andrea Redmond holds Irish Dancing Classes here in the school on Thursdays from 6pm - 7pm. Some parents have asked about the possibility of an earlier class. If there were enough participants Andrea could be here to take a class at 5pm - if you are interested please ring her on 086 8770087.

## **REMINDERS**

We send out a list of reminders twice in the school year, September and January. These are mostly Health & Safety issues many of which have insurance implications also. We may add new items from time to time. You will get this sheet next week - please read and keep in a safe place because, believe it or not, people do forget!

***Here's hoping that 2015 is a happy and successful year in the Good Shepherd N.S.  
Athbhliain faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir ó fhoireann Scoil Náisiúnta an Dea Aoire.***

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Sheila FitzGerald - Principal