



16th December 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We're nearly there!!! Only one more week to go until we go on Christmas holidays. On behalf of all the staff in the Good Shepherd National School 'go raibh mile maith agaibh' for all your help and support during this very challenging term.

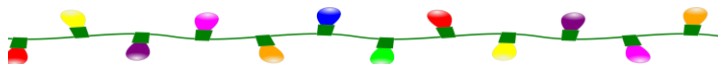
I am delighted that our school has remained COVID free to date. Thank you all for following our COVID plan, observing social distancing while on school premises and also outside the gates, following the one way around the building drop-off and collection routine. All our pupils have been fantastic- keeping in their class bubbles and are very aware of hand washing etiquette. We encourage you to remind the children of this again before they return to school in January. Please remember to complete the declaration form which will be sent by your child's teacher to you in the New Year.

As 2020 draws to a close it is time to reflect on all the wonderful work and achievements here in the school. Well done to each and every one of our pupils who have worked so hard. It is a pleasure, every morning, to see their smiling happy faces enter Good Shepherd. We are so proud of each and every one of you. You have worked so hard, played and had fun in school this term. Thank you also to all our staff who have gone the extra mile this year. Your terrific efforts are really appreciated. Well done everyone!

Finally I wish you all a very happy, safe Christmas. We look forward to your continued support in 2021. Nollaig shona daoibh go leir.

Ms. Órlaith Veale
Principal

Mr. Brian Swan
Chairperson BOM



Staffing News

A big Good Shepherd welcome to new staff

- Ms. Descamps (SNA infants and 5th class)
- Ms Lucey (SNA Ms. Donnelly's class)

Best of luck to Ms. O'Brien as she begins her maternity leave in January. Welcome to Ms. O'Donoghue who will be teaching 3rd. Welcome back to Mrs. Jackson after injury. We also look forward to welcoming back Mr. Noel Cray, our caretaker, in January. A big thank you to Josh Rylatt for helping us out in the mornings since November.



Calendar 2020/21

Thursday 17th December **All Classes**

"Christmas jumper day"

Festive fun and maybe a special guest??

Christmas Holidays

Tues, 22nd Dec. Non uniform day.

School Closes **-at 12.00pm sharp.**

School Re-opens Wed. 6th Jan. at 8.50am 2020.

Mid-term break- School closed

Thurs 18th & Fri 19th February 2021

School Re-opens Mon. 21st Feb. at 8.50am

St Patrick's Day

Wed 17th March – **School Closed**

Easter Holidays

Fri March 26th – **School Closes at 12.00noon**

School Re-opens Mon. 12th April. at 8.50am

May Mid-Term Break – School Closed

3rd May – Reopens Mon 10th May at 8.50am

Bank Holiday

Mon 7th & Tues 8th June – **School Closed**

Summer Holidays

Wed 30th June **School Closes 12.00noon**

JUNIOR INFANTS 2021

Please note our **Junior Infant** class 2021 is currently **full**. We are operating a strict waiting list as per the new Department of Education guidelines. Please contact the office if you have any queries.



Postponed Communion and Confirmation dates:

Fr Brian has been in contact with the school. The parish intend to hold our Sacraments from last year in Spring 2021. The Parish will be in touch with families in the New Year.



Christmas Art Gallery

If you are dropping or collecting your child from school please take a moment to stop and admire some of their wonderful Christmas art which we have displayed in our windows for all to see. What wonderful artists we have here in Good Shepherd!!!



Parents' Christmas Art Competition

Well done to everyone who took part in our Parents' Art Competition to mark our Christmas in Covid times. What gifted artists we have in Churchtown. We know now where our pupils get their wonderful talents from!!
Congratulation to the following for their winning entries:

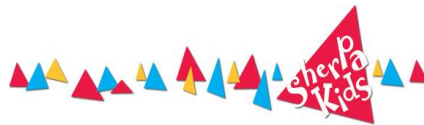
- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Darren Murphy | Anna Kurpanik | Ana Sheldreck |
| • Aoife Twomey | Doreen Finn | Ayesha Sidduque |
| • Veronika Sire | Alexandrea Pruska | |

All the entries are on display in the school windows adjacent to the exit gate. Thanks to all Tracey's SuperValu Churchtown and their customers for continuously supporting Churchtown's primary school.



Asthma Society fundraiser:

Thank you all for your generous contributions for the Asthma Society. We were delighted to present them a cheque for €1166.00 which you all raised in memory of Ross Edwards.



Reminder Sherpa will be open until 6.00pm Tues 22nd December. Children must be booked in advance.
Sherpa will re-open Wed 6th January 2020

Have you bought your ticket yet?



GSNS 50/50 Draw
Takes place on Friday 18th December
500 tickets only (over 300 sold so far!!!)
1st Prize- minimum of €1000