



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02
Charity Number: 20201057
Phone: 01-8350594

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023



Music Generation Workshop

Ms Crowley's 4th class went to Gaelscoil Na Cille earlier in the month to take part in a workshop facilitated by Music Generation. Gaelscoil Na Rithe from Dunshaughlin were also there. Our school played the violin, Gaelscoil Na Cille played the bodhrán and Gaelscoil Na Rithe played the ukulele. They sang a few songs to warm up first. Ms Crowley's class performed The Peeler's Jig on the violin. Gaelscoil Na Cille performed Tell Me Ma on the bodhrán and Gaelscoil Na Rithe performed Last Christmas on the ukulele. Then the three schools got a chance to try out the different instruments.



Thank you to Aoife O' Connell and Margaret Hoban from Music Generation for organising the event and to Aoife McEvoy our violin tutor for leading the event along with her colleagues Niall and Stephen. The children really enjoyed it.

<https://youtu.be/KA93UIWgOQ0?si=tENMxl37A4syoVnb>

Fitmas Challenge

Over the past 4 weeks all classes have been taking part in an Fitmas challenge by taking regular active breaks daily. This is in conjunction with Active Schools and as part of renewing our Active Flag. It was a huge success and the children loved it. Thank you to Mr Lydon for coordinating the event with the Active School's Committee.

Room 28 Care Packages

Well done to Ms Leggett's Junior Infants who brought in items to make up hampers for care packages for the residents of CareChoice on the Malahide Road. Ms Leggett delivered them last week. It was a very kind gesture from the children and a big thank you to Ms Leggett for coordinating the event and spreading some festive cheer. No doubt they will be well received.





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Christmas Performances 2023

We are very proud of all the children who took part in their Christmas performances last week. A huge amount of effort and preparation went into creating these shows. Well done to all the staff involved in the concerts. Their patience and commitment and sense of fun are commendable. Thank you to all who attended. We hope you were entertained. With 655 pupils on our roll it is a big achievement to have them all performing on stage. A big thank you to Mr Mc Keown for coordinating the concerts. It was a great success. Click on the link to see a selection of clips from the concerts.
<https://youtu.be/ZwKlyJPUmX8>

Fifth Class Fashion Show as Gaeilge

Our three 5th classes put on a fashion show last Friday as Gaeilge (in Irish) for the 3rd, 4th, and 6th classes to watch. Tommy was very busy erecting our very own cat walk (after the Christmas Concerts) It was a brilliant event. The costumes were excellent, the modelling superb and the commentary in Irish was go h-iontach. What a great way to learn Irish in such a fun and enjoyable way. Check out some clips from the Seó Faisean here.

<https://youtu.be/M3B40rtBnQA>

Donation to Local Garden City & Crestwood Residents' Association

As you will know, our school is located in a beautiful estate that is cared for so well by the local Residents' Association. The Board of Management recently decided to make a donation to the Residents' Association to show its appreciation for all the work they do with the children in the local community garden. On International Volunteer Day (Tuesday 5th December), local Garden City residents and Residents' Association volunteers, Mick McGroarty and Gerry Cremin, came into the school to meet with Mr. Kearins, Mrs. Mary Prior (BOM Treasurer) and the Student Council. Mr. Kearins talked to the Student Council about the voluntary work these people do in maintaining the upkeep of the estate and in creating beautiful spaces around the estate such as the fairy tree, sundial, An Tígín and the vegetable garden. Indeed the Residents' Association have received several awards such as Pride of Place for their good work. Gerry and Mick spoke about the work they do and what it means to them to be a volunteer. Mrs. Prior also spoke to the children about volunteering and how it is very important for people to give back to their community. We really appreciate our volunteers and all they do to keep Garden City looking so well. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.





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Parents' Association

Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising a raffle for the four Christmas shows. They put a huge amount of work into creating the hampers and selling raffle tickets. We had a huge response from parents to the hamper donation and some



fantastic hampers were won by parents. Well done to everyone involved selling tickets at the shows. The total amount raised from the raffle was **€1990**

A big thank you to our Parent's Association for the cheeseboard they sent in as a token of gratitude for our staff last Friday. It was a lovely gesture and very well received.

Santa Claus

We had a very special visitor fly in from the North Pole on Wednesday afternoon. Santa visited all the children in St. Declan's as they have all been so good in the run up to Christmas. He said he will try his very best to deliver all the presents the children are asking for. Each teacher got a message from Santa to say that all the classes in St. Declan's were on the nice list. The children were treated to some lovely Christmas tunes from our 5th class choir. Thank you to Mr Keown for coordinating the entertainment on the day.

5th Class Choir

Our 5th class choir has been very busy for the month of December. On Monday the 18th of December they went to Kilbrew Nursing Home in Curragha and sang for the residents. The children wrote cards for all the residents and we brought them a hamper of scones and mince pies. The residents were delighted and we all had a lovely afternoon. On Tuesday the 19th of December they sang in the High Street Ashbourne outside Insomnia/Tesco. They put on a great performance and put all the Christmas shoppers in the festive spirit. A very special thank you to the staff from Insomnia who provided hot chocolate for all the children and coffee for the teachers. On Wednesday the 20th of December they sang outside before school to help collect money for St. Vincent de Paul.

St Vincent De Paul

Thank you to everyone who brought in donations and wore their Christmas jumpers for St Vincent De Paul on Wednesday. We will have an update on the money collected after Christmas. The money collected will be used to purchase food vouchers which will be distributed in the Ashbourne Parish in the run up to



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Christmas. Thanks to all who contributed to this very worthy cause. Thank you to Fiona Hickey who addressed our 5th and 6th class assembly yesterday to explain to the children about the work of St. Vincent De Paul.

Junior Infants September 2024 Applications

We will be accepting applications for Junior Infants due to start in September 2024 between the 1st January and 22nd January 2024 at 12 noon. Parents can apply online via the school website at www.decsash.ie/enrolments. Children starting in Junior Infants September 2024 must be 4 years of age on or before the 31st March 2024.

First Aid Review

If your child informs us that they've bumped their head, we routinely inform parents of this via phone call. Going forward, we will send an Aladdin notice to you to inform you, unless we feel that the nature of the injury needs to be explained in a phone call or requires more urgent attention. We hope that this change will be more convenient for parents while also ensuring effective communication between home and school.

Christmas Holidays

We close tomorrow at 12 o'clock for Junior/Senior Infants and their siblings. Siblings will be sent to the relevant Infant classrooms for collection at exterior Infants' doors. All other classes will be going home at 12:15pm. On behalf of all the school staff we would like to wish everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday the 8th of January 2024.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir
Happy Christmas to all

