



Guardian Angels' NS Newsletter – January 2020

Happy New Year

On behalf of everyone at Guardian Angels we wish you all a very happy new year. After the break, we welcomed our pupils back refreshed and ready for a new term of learning. As always at GANS, we have a busy term ahead and we'd like to thank you for your ongoing and invaluable support.



T-shirt competition

Our first ever Christmas T-shirt competition proved a huge success. Thank you to all the pupils who took part and to their parents and guardians for their support. We saw the most amazing and creative designs featuring baubles, tinsel, crackers, 3D Santas and even flashing lights! Such an incredibly high standard made judging a winner in each class a really tough challenge for the teachers. All proceeds raised go towards our new resource rooms and we are so proud of our pupils for getting involved and contributing to this vital school resource.

Credit Union Schools Quiz

Our pupils are very busy preparing to take part in the annual Credit Union Schools Quiz. Each year around 25,000 school children from all over Ireland take part. The first stage of the competition takes place at the end of January and we are delighted to have GANS represented again this year. We wish our team every success and know that whatever the result, they'll make us proud.



Retreat for Confirmation

The annual retreat for pupils making their confirmation will take place on Friday 7th February at the Emmaus Centre, Swords. A letter with full details will be emailed in advance.

Chess

Well done to the Guardian Angels' chess team who recently won second place in Division 2 of the Leinster Schools Chess League. We offer chess as an after-school activity and are delighted to see so many of our pupils keen to learn the game. The Guardian Angels' team is now preparing to take on other teams from South Dublin in the Shield Tournament later this term.

New interactive whiteboards

We have installed two state-of-the-art digital whiteboard panels in the school. The Promethean ActivPanels offer teachers and students a fully interactive teaching and learning experience. They can be used both as projectors and whiteboards, are touch sensitive and unlike projectors, require little maintenance. The panels offer the very latest in classroom software and can support teaching and learning apps. A huge thanks to our hard-working PTA who financed the equipment. We're committed to providing our teachers and pupils with the best resources available to us and hope to introduce more across the school in time.



Tag rugby

We were delighted to start our new year by welcoming back Leinster Rugby coach Jonathan Sharkey to Guardian Angels. Jonathan will coach our 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes in tag rugby over four weeks. Tag rugby is a fantastic way to keep fit in a fun and energetic way. The pupils were really keen to get started and we're sure they'll enjoy the coaching sessions as much this year as they have in previous years.



Smartphones and devices

Following Christmas, it's timely to bring up the issue of smart phones and other internet-capable devices. While these are useful tools that can provide hours of fun and learning, there are very real dangers associated with them. We'd like to remind you that our pupils are not permitted to have a mobile phone switched on while on the school premises and grounds. Please speak to your child about internet safety and their use of social media at home. The computers in the school have a blocking system which blocks all social media websites, to limit access to opportunities to engage in any inappropriate activity online. The consistent advice around social media sites is that they are not suitable for anyone under the age of 13. Our anti-cyber-bullying policy can be viewed on the GANS website and for practical advice on staying safe online you might find www.esafety.ie useful.



Online maths challenges

One very positive aspect of the internet is its use in helping children to learn. To put their devices to good use, we strongly encourage children to challenge themselves, especially with maths. We highly recommend the websites mathplayground.com and ixl.com to help pass these cold, dark January days.

Waiting in the foyer

We kindly ask that parents/minders don't wait with children in the school foyer between 13.30 and 14.30. The couch and bench in the foyer are for people who have an appointment or children who are reading with an SNA. There is a lovely coffee dock in the Pastoral Centre where you can pass the hour while waiting to collect an older child.

Cycle safety training

Our fifth classes have just completed a course of lessons given by the Cycling Safety School where they were taught the vital skill needed to cycle safely on the road. To fully equip them to cycle safely on the roads, the course included a theory section on road safety, rules of the road, traffic awareness, understanding road signage and bicycle maintenance.



Junior Infant parent/teacher meetings

Mrs Collins is holding Junior Infant parent/teacher meetings every morning from Friday 17th to Friday 24th January. She looks forward to welcoming parents to the school, and we are sure you'll hear lots of good news stories about your child's progress.

Party invitations

Finally, a gentle reminder to please be discreet when handing out party invitations to avoid upsetting any children who are not invited.