



## Guardian Angels' NS

### September 2020 Newsletter

#### A very warm welcome back

We were so delighted to re-open our doors on 27<sup>th</sup> August. Although in some ways this new school term is unlike any other, we were overjoyed to see our girls and boys so happy to return to school. We welcome our new Junior Infant classes and pupils who have joined our older classes. We know that you'll settle-in at Guardian Angels in no time.

As you are aware, we introduced a range of new initiatives to accommodate Covid-19 restrictions including staggered start and finish times, designated pods, class bubbles and extensive cleaning and sanitising of the school. Full details of our reopening plan are available to view on the website. Also included is guidance on what to do if your child may have been diagnosed with or exposed to Covid-19 – or if they are generally unwell. We extend a huge thank you to all our parents and guardians for their ongoing support of the new initiatives. We appreciate that some of the measures may be inconvenient – but with your support, we are confident that we can provide as safe an environment as possible for our pupils.

Finally, we wish all our staff and pupils a happy and successful year ahead. While these are challenging times for many, the ethos at Guardian Angels remains the same – to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment for our pupils. As we all get used to the new normal, we are sure that by working together, we can continue to provide a safe and healthy environment that allows and encourages all our pupils to thrive.

Welcome  
Back to  
School!

### After school activities

For now, there will be no after school activities or swimming lessons. For their safety, children from different bubbles cannot mix. The staggered finish times also make it difficult to schedule. However, the situation will be regularly reviewed in line with guidance from the Department of Education and the HSE.

### Walking, Cycling and Scooting to school

We are delighted to see so many of our Guardian Angels' boys and girls walking, cycling and scooting to school this term. We encourage all our pupils to be as active as possible and the fantastic new cycle lane on Newtownpark Avenue certainly makes it a lot safer. We would just like to remind everyone to take a little extra care in the carpark as it can get very busy.



### Chess Win

Congratulations to Anton, Raul, Seosamh, Urvaksh and Sammy who won bronze medals in the All-Ireland Online School Chess Championships.

### Pupil behaviour

As we start each new school year, we remind all parents, guardians and pupils that Guardian Angels' pupils are expected to show courtesy and respect to all teachers, special needs assistants, staff, fellow pupils and visitors to the school. **Bullying of any kind is not tolerated here.** All reported cases of bullying are fully investigated and acted on. Please see our anti-bullying policy on the school website. Pupils are not allowed to have a mobile phone switched on while on school grounds and please pay special attention to your child's use of the internet and social media. For practical advice on staying safe online you might find [www.esafety.ie](http://www.esafety.ie) useful.

### Book rental, fees and charges

Thank you to everyone who has paid through Aladdin to date. If you have not yet had a chance to pay, we would very much appreciate it if you could do so before 30<sup>th</sup> September. Any requests for payments during the school year will be made through Aladdin. Using Aladdin to pay online is quick, easy and helps protect teaching time. If you need any help in setting up Aladdin, please contact the school and should there ever be any difficulty in making a payment, do please speak to us in full confidence.



### Annual General Meeting

The PTA is holding its first AGM of the new school year on 1<sup>st</sup> October via Zoom. We encourage at least one member of each family to attend. To view the AGM, please contact the PTA on [ptaguardianangels@gmail.com](mailto:ptaguardianangels@gmail.com) for link and sign-in details.

### Staff news

It is with great sadness that we recently announced the upcoming retirement of Mrs Collins. After forty years with Guardian Angels, we wish her every joy in her next adventure – and a well-deserved rest! Mrs Collins completed her teacher training in Guardian Angels in 1980 and has remained a dedicated and invaluable member of our staff ever since. Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December will be Mrs Collins's last day and more details will follow on ways to bid her farewell, closer to the time.

In other staff news, we hope you'll join us in welcoming the return of Ms Campbell (Senior Infants), Ms Holst (Senior Infants), Ms Hurley (Second Class) Ms Rafferty (SET) and Ms McNeice (Third Class) for the new school year.

We celebrated five new arrivals to the Guardian Angels' family in recent months. We congratulate Ms Burke on the arrival of Mathis in January, Ms O'Malley on the arrival of Aaron in February, our former Special Education Teacher Ms Tully had a baby girl, Thea in February; Ms Keogh's baby Matthew arrived in May and Ms Troy welcomed Culainn in June.

