



## Guardian Angels' NS Newsletter – December 2020

### Christmas concert – date for your diary

We are so disappointed that due to Covid restrictions, we are unable to hold our usual in-school Christmas events and nativity. Instead, we are holding our first ever virtual Christmas concert. The halls of Guardian Angels have been filled with Christmas cheer in recent weeks as every class from Junior Infants to Sixth prepares. Each class will have their performance filmed by a teacher and all performances will be compiled into a special Christmas concert. A link to view the concert on YouTube will go live for families to view together at home, with all details provided in advance. Show time is 7.30pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December. The private link will be available to view for just one hour, before being removed. While not quite the same as our usual live performances, we really hope you enjoy the concert just as much as the children have enjoyed putting it together.



### T-shirt competition

After the success of last year's inaugural Christmas T-shirt competition, we are holding it again this year. This is a way of including all our pupils in doing something positive and fun, with the proceeds going towards our new resource rooms. Pupils are encouraged to be as creative as they like, using any materials they choose or have at home. The only rule is that the T-shirt must have a Christmas theme. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative design in each class. As we are lucky to have such creative talent at GANS, we are sure the competition will be a fantastic and festive way to kick-start our Christmas holidays.



### 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book

Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book has arrived and what a trip down memory lane it is. For anyone stuck for a last-minute present, it would make a beautiful keepsake for current and past pupils as well as all our friends and neighbours in the community. Available for €20 from Spar, Newtownpark Avenue or contact the school for more options.

### Christmas card competition winners

Congratulations to Iniya (Junior Infants), Emma (Senior Infants), Arwen (First), James (Second), Sarah (Third), Thomas (Fourth), Hannah (Fifth) and Abbie-Rose (Sixth) who won the Christmas card design competition. All received selection boxes, kindly donated by our PTA.

### Christmas gifts

There is a long-standing tradition of gift buying for teachers in the school. While such generosity and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated, we would just like to remind everyone that teachers do not expect gifts at any stage in the year. Your support of our various fundraising activities and 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, has been hugely helpful to the school. Unless your child would like to give a drawing or homemade gift, please do not feel that teachers expect anything.

### Mrs Collins retires

It will be a particularly sad day for us all on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December when we say goodbye to Mrs Collins after 40 years with Guardian Angels. She is so fondly remembered by all the pupils she taught over the years, particularly for her kindness, patience and the incredible sense of fun and caring that she brought to her classroom – and the whole school. Mrs Collins spent her entire teaching career at Guardian Angels, has welcomed generations of children to Junior Infants and gave them such a wonderful start to school life. Her story-telling skills, Christmas panto trips, teddy bear picnics and infamous high heels are now the stuff of GANS legend – and every time we see an ice-cream van we'll think of her! Mrs Collins's unfailing support, guidance, encouragement and friendship were invaluable to all of us in the GANS family. We can't quite believe she's really leaving us, but we're sure you'll join us in wishing her every happiness in her much-deserved retirement.

### Christmas holidays

The school will close next Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December (12.10 for the Red Group and 12.30 for the Blue Group) and will re-open on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. It has been a first term like no other, but thanks to the support of parents, guardians, the PTA and our Board of Management we have managed, we hope, to make it as normal as possible for all the children. After such a busy term, the children are ready for a well-earned rest. On behalf of all the teachers and staff, we thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

