



Guardian Angels' NS

December 2021 Newsletter

Covid updates

As our first term draws to a close, we'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone in our school community – our parents, guardians, staff, the PTA and our Board of Management – for helping to keep Covid cases at a minimum, and our school open.

According to the latest guidelines issued by the HSE, if a parent or guardian receives a positive PCR test for Covid for their child, they are asked to contact the school immediately. The principal will then contact the parents/guardians of the other children in that child's pod to let them know how to order free antigen tests for their children. Please know that no names or personal information will be shared by the principal. If there is more than one pod with a positive PCR test in a class, the parents/guardians of all children in the class will be contacted.

We are sending textbooks home with the children this week. Please don't think this is because we don't expect the school to re-open on 6th January. We are simply being cautious. The HSE continues to stress how vital it is to please keep children at home and away from school if they are feeling unwell. On our side, we will continue to carefully follow the guidelines issued by the HSE and will ensure thorough sanitisation of the school, mask wearing where required, ventilation and good hand-washing etiquette. We can all hope that life will start to return a little more to normal in the months ahead, but until then, by working together we're sure we can continue to keep Covid at bay and the school environment as safe and normal as possible for all.

Staff news

Mr Peter Lawless joined us recently as our new caretaker and we also welcomed Mr Darragh O'Neill (who works on the Blackrock Supply Panel) to our teaching staff. We extend a warm welcome to them both and hope they will both be very happy here at GANS.

T-shirt competition

Over the past few years, the annual T-shirt competition has become one of the highlights of our festive season. 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. Spare a thought for the poor judges who have to choose just one design in each class for a prize. Each year the level of creativity (and ambition!) increases, and we can't wait to see the results of this year's competition, when everyone wears their design to school on Wednesday.

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 ongoing support of our various fundraising activities is so appreciated and hugely helpful to the school. Unless your child would like to give a drawing or homemade gift, please don't feel that teachers expect anything.

Christmas card competition winners

Congratulations to Arthur and Viola (Junior Infants), Aoibhe and Darcy (Senior Infants), Kobi and Caoimhe (First), Carly and Amelia B (Second), Samuel and Amanda (Third), Satsuki and Maebh (Fourth), Roman and Charlie (Fifth) and Yi Yi and Kenny (Sixth) who won the Christmas card design competition. Well done to all who participated on their truly beautiful card designs. All our winners received sketch pads and pencils, kindly donated by our PTA.

Finally...

The school will close early on Wednesday 22nd December. All children (including the infant classes) in the Red Group will finish at 12.10 and all children in the Blue Group will finish at 12.15. We re-open on Thursday 6th January and after such a busy term, we know how ready the children are for a well-earned rest. We're also delighted to share that we received a special message from the North Pole to let us know that every single GANS pupil is on Santa's nice list (as expected) – so we hope it is a very special celebration this year, in all your homes. On behalf of all the teachers and staff, we wish you a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

