



## Guardian Angels' NS

### January 2023 newsletter

#### Happy new year

Welcome to the new school term and we wish you all a happy and healthy 2023. After a much-deserved break, it's great to see everyone return to school so rested and refreshed. We have lots of great events and activities coming up and are really looking forward to a busy term of fun and learning ahead.

#### School extension

After years of planning and Covid-induced delays, we have now finished and moved into our new extension. The dust has been cleaned, final snagging is complete, and we are delighted to have one extra mainstream classroom, four special education rooms and some much-needed extra storage space. Despite the best efforts and commitment of the construction team to keep disruption to a minimum, we had some challenging days during the build so we must especially commend our fantastic girls and boys who always respected the boundaries of the building site and continued to concentrate and participate in class every day, despite the disruption. We are delighted with the extension and know the extra space and facilities will be an invaluable resource to our whole school community.

#### Carpark and safety concerns

We appreciate that we raise this frequently, but once again we must remind all users of the car park to please take extra care when entering, leaving or driving through the car park. There are some very small pedestrians walking through the car park every day, so please drive slowly - and at all times, please be respectful of all car park users. Unfortunately, as we receive regular complaints about issues in the car park, we must once again remind users that the car park is not the school's car park, it belongs to the church. We would also ask that drivers please observe the designated disabled access spaces. Unless you have and display a disabled parking permit, please don't ever take these spaces, regardless of how quick you intend to be.

We have also recently noticed an increase in the number of pupils, many unsupervised, gathering outside the school gates before they open at 8.35am. We remind all parents and guardians that until the school gates open at 8.35, there is no supervision provided by the school. We very much appreciate

pupils arriving on time for school but from a safety perspective, it's best to arrive between 8:35 and 8:50. The official school opening time is 8:50.

### 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 [gov.ie/besafeonline](http://gov.ie/besafeonline) useful.

### Inter Schools Maths Quiz

A team of four represented Guardian Angels in the annual Inter Schools Maths Quiz for Sixth Class pupils last month. Sixteen schools from the South Dublin region took part and we are so proud of Dáire, Saoirse, Shane and Tommy who represented GANS so brilliantly. The whole school supported them and together they showed fantastic maths knowledge, and skills – as well as superb teamwork - to solve very challenging questions and puzzles. It was the first time GANS took part in the quiz, and we hope to make it an annual event.

### Upcoming school closures

Finally, a reminder that the school is closed for St Brigid's Day on Monday 6th February. Our mid-term break is Monday 13th to Friday 17th February (inclusive). We will be closed on Friday 10th March for an in-service training day on the Primary Language Curriculum.

## Latest news from the PTA

### Fundraising update

We would like to thank all the great bakers who helped us raise €2097.28 at our recent bake sale. Well done to all of the children who took part in creating their own t shirts in December. This raised €450, half of which (€225) will be donated to the Laura Lynn Foundation. Thanks again for your generous donations.

### Corporate sponsorship

We are currently on a mission to buy new whiteboards for each of the classrooms through our fundraising activities and this takes time. Whiteboards are a key learning technology for our children, so we would welcome sponsorship to help in the purchase of these. Please email us at [ptaguardianangels@gmail.com](mailto:ptaguardianangels@gmail.com) to find out more.

### Upcoming PTA fundraising event - table quiz

Keep your diary free on the 23rd February, 8pm for the Table Quiz, which is taking place in The Wishing Well on Newtown Park Avenue. A table costs €50 and there will be some spot prizes on the night, so please join us for what promises to be a fun and competitive night!