

Newsletter

February 2024

Chinese New Year

We are celebrating Chinese New Year on Thursday 8th February. To welcome the Year of the Dragon, all pupils are invited to wear red to school that day. There are some great New Year Lunar events happening that might be of interest. UCD is hosting a celebration that is free, family-friendly and includes a lantern and fire show. For more information, [click here](#) – or visit [Dublin Lunar New Year 2024 | Celebrating Year of the Dragon 2024](#) to find more events happening around Dublin.



School photography

Memory Lane Photography will visit the school on Friday 9th February. They will take individual photos of all Junior Infants on the day as well as photos of them with any older siblings. A group photo of each class, from Junior Infants to Sixth will also be taken. Pupils should arrive that day wearing their full school uniform (not tracksuit) and looking as neat and tidy as always. Photo proofs will be distributed about two weeks later and orders can be placed directly with Memory Lane.

Lost property

Our lost property pile is growing daily. Can you please ensure that your child's belongings – especially jumpers, hoodies and coats – are clearly labelled with their name. A separate lost property has been created for Junior & Senior Infants in the infant corridor with lots of hats and gloves (pictured below). Anyone missing any items is welcome to take a look.



First Class become Picker Pals

Our First Class pupils are thrilled to become Picker Pals, by joining the fastest growing primary schools programme ever. The Picker Pals programme encourages children to be aware of and take responsibility for their local environment, hopefully into their adulthood. First Class have received their Picker Pal packs with lots of fun and engaging activities. We know our First Class will be star Picker Pals – so keep an eye out in the local neighbourhood in coming months to see their litter picking in action.



Board of Management

Please join us in welcoming Vincent Hargaden as the new chairperson of our Board of Management. Vincent is joined by Billy Galavan as Treasurer; Kathrin Riordan, Parents' Nominee; Ruth Ludgate, Parents' Nominee and Recording Secretary and Anne-Louise McDermott, Community Nominee. Ann-Hilary Whelehan remains for another term as our Teachers' Nominee, Roy Kelly as Parents' Nominee and Pádraig Ó Néill, our principal and Secretary to the Board. We sincerely thank all our new and returning Board members for volunteering their time and look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

We also want to say a very special thank you to Mr Jim McNally who served as Chairperson of our Board of Management for the past 11 years. Jim gave so freely of his time and under his steady guidance and unwavering support, Guardian Angels thrived. We also wish to thank Sinéad Lane who served two terms as Treasurer. We are indebted to Sinéad for the invaluable expertise and level of professionalism that she brought to the role. Finally, our thanks also to Nicola O'Farrell, Parents' Nominee and Regis Twomey, Community Nominee for their dedicated support to our school over the past four years.

Staff news

It is with a heavy heart that we prepare to say goodbye to our Special Education Co-ordinator, Susan O'Callaghan. After over 40 years with Guardian Angels, Susan is retiring on 23rd February. Any pupil, past or present who had the privilege to be taught by Susan will know just how very special it was to be in her classroom. Susan championed all children and her unwavering dedication to teaching saw countless GANS girls and boys grow and shine. She will be so missed by the entire school community and most especially her teaching colleagues. Susan has always felt that Guardian Angels is a very special school and is grateful for the many years she spent here, the friendships she made and the many parents, guardians and pupils she has

had the honour of knowing. Susan can finally now relax and enjoy her much-deserved retirement. We hope she knows that thanks to her years of devotion, the future of the school she helped to shape and build, remains bright.

In other staff retirement news, Cathy Gallagher, our school secretary of 28 years is retiring on Friday 9th February. Cathy has been an absolute cornerstone of our school community over the years and has seen generations of GANS pupils from arrival in Junior Infants through graduation. We cannot thank Cathy enough for her service and dedication to our school over so many years and know just how much she will be missed by staff, pupils, parents and guardians alike. Cathy is very much looking forward to having more time for her beloved pastimes – particularly hill-walking, gardening, painting, knitting, playing her tin whistle and enjoying more time with friends and family. We send Cathy every good wish for her retirement and are sure she will enjoy every single minute.

Upcoming school closures

We are closed on Monday 5th February for St Brigid's Day.

Mid-term break is from 12th-16th February (inclusive).

The school will be closed on Friday 8th March as it will be used as a polling station in the upcoming referendum.

Latest news from the PTA

Sixth Class hoodies

We know Sixth Class is really looking forward to receiving their hoodies and we're delighted to share that they are in progress and should be with us very soon.

Upcoming events

8th February – Chinese New Year. We're celebrating in the school by inviting pupils to wear red that day (if they want to). It can be anything red – top, bottoms, socks or hat!

22nd February – Table Quiz. Get your thinking caps on and your teams ready for the annual GANS table quiz in the Wishing Well. There will also be a raffle on the night. If anyone who would like to donate a prize, please contact ptaguardianangels@gmail.com or your class rep.

March – Readathon. This will run between March and April, with prizes and a dress-up day. More details to follow.



Table Quiz!

**On Thursday 22nd February
at the Wishing Well pub.
Starting at 8pm!**

Table of 4 = €40
Raffle with prizes on the night!



Hosted by Guardian Angels PTA