

Newsletter

January 2025

Happy New Year

Welcome to the new school term and we wish you all a very happy and healthy 2025. After a much-deserved break, it's great to see everyone return to school so rested, refreshed and ready for a busy new term.

Upcoming school closures

A reminder that the school is closed for St Brigid's Day on **Monday 3rd February**. Our mid-term break is from **Monday 17th to Friday 21st February** (inclusive) and we are closed for St Patrick's Day on **Monday 17th March**. On **Friday 4th April** we are closed for an in-service training day on the new maths curriculum.

St Vincent de Paul collection

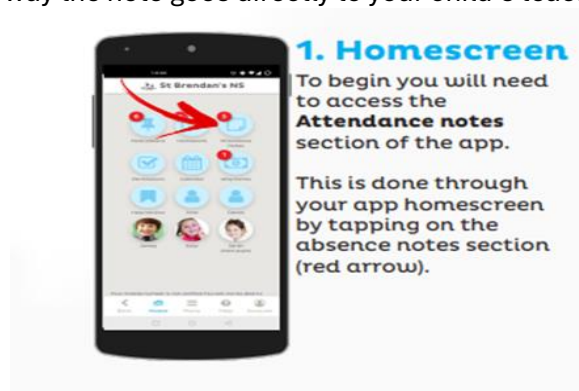
The Society of St Vincent de Paul has asked us to thank you for the very generous contribution of €1,150 raised by GANS families through our Christmas Jumper Day. The whole event was organised by our Student Council and they did a brilliant job raising funds for such a worthy cause.

Illnesses

The HSE has asked us to remind all parents/guardians that children are being particularly affected by Flu this season. The number of cases in the community is rising with higher numbers of children being hospitalised than normal. To help prevent the spread of Flu – or any illness – please keep your child at home if they are unwell. If your child is vomiting, they must stay at home for **48 hours** after symptoms end. We appreciate it is often difficult to arrange childcare for a sick child however, no unwell child should be at school – for their own wellbeing – and for that of their classmates.

Absences/late arrivals/early collections

If you need to let us know of an absence, late arrival or early collection, please use the 'attendance notes' section of the Aladdin app. This way the note goes directly to your child's teacher.



Smartphones and devices

Following Christmas, it's timely to bring up the issue of smart phones, smart watches and other devices. We remind everyone that phones and smart watches **are not allowed to be switched on while on school 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 useful.

Ceremony of Light

Sixth Class will celebrate the Ceremony of Light on Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm in the Church of the Guardian Angels.

STEM grant science kits

Thanks to the STEM science grant received last year, we have stocked up on lots of really interesting science learning kits that the whole school has been enjoying. We have built robots, created electricity and are learning about magnets, forces and motion. We're planning another Science Fair this term and will keep you posted on details once confirmed.



School photos

A date for your diaries - Memory Lane will visit the school on **Friday 7th February**. On the day they'll take individual photos of our Junior Infants, our Junior Infants with older siblings and class photos of Senior Infants to Sixth Class. More details will follow closer to the day.

Healthy eating

Thanks to GANS parent Nichola Flood, attached to this month's newsletter is an article offering tips to help children adopt healthy eating habits. Nichola is a nutritional therapist and health coach and we very much appreciate her sharing her knowledge and expertise.

Grandparents' Day

We will hold our first ever Grandparents' Day on Friday 14th February. Grandparents of our Junior & Senior Infants are invited to visit the school and view some of the excellent work and art that has kept our juniors so busy since September. We would love to hear any stories - or see photos - from grandparents, if any would like to tell us about their own school days.



Update from GANS PTA



Dates for the diary

- Thursday 13th February - Table Quiz, 8pm at The Wishing Well. Gather your friends and family for a fun night with raffle and prizes. Teams of 4 people - €40 per team.
- March/April (dates to be confirmed) - 📖 World Book Day and Readathon

Other items to note

The final figure raised for the cake sale is €4,627.05 and the Christmas cards raised a further €863.20. Thank you again to the school community for the continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the Table Quiz in February.

The 6th class hoodies have been distributed to the children and they are delighted.

Thank you on behalf of GANS PTA <https://www.guardianangels.ie/pta/>