



# Shanballymore National School

## NUACHTLITIR NOLLAIG 2021

### Covid-19

As you are aware, some new guidelines have come into effect with regard to protecting the spread of Covid-19 in schools.

### Antigen Testing

We ask you to please inform us if your child tests positive on a PCR test. We will then contact the parents of children in the same pod, then the whole class will be eligible to apply for the free antigen tests. If your child is not displaying symptoms and has a negative antigen test, they can continue to attend school. If your child develops any symptoms or receives a positive result on an antigen test you must book a PCR test as soon as possible and they will need to isolate.

### Face Masks

Last week, the Department of Education announced new temporary requirements in relation to mask wearing in schools for pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class. This rule may not apply to certain pupils with special needs and medical conditions, and exemptions can be sought on these grounds. Please contact the school principal if you wish to further discuss a possible exemption. Children will still play outdoors without their masks. We are acutely aware of the difficulties that some of these new requirements and guidelines may cause for pupils and parents. However, they are being implemented in order to protect our entire school community and indeed the wider community. Your continued cooperation and support is greatly appreciated.

### Access to school

Access to school is restricted to appointment only. Parents and visitors are not allowed into the school without an appointment. This is in an effort to keep social contacts to a minimum as per Department of Education guidelines. Thank you for your continued support.

### Food Dudes

Well done to all children who recently participated in tasting a range of fruit and vegetables as part of the Food Dudes Programme.

### Parents Association

Well done to the Parents Association for organising the recent clothes collection and for organising a wonderful surprise for the children at Christmas.

### Gymnastics

All the children have completed a six-week programme of gymnastics. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children.

### Student Council

The school now has an elected school council with representatives from every class. The council has been very busy over the past few months. They run a school shop that sells school supplies every Monday and Friday. The council has a weekly riddle competition, the winner of the riddle receives a prize. The council also organised the recent Christmas jumper day to raise funds for the Irish Society for Autism which raised €150. Well done to all in the Student Council.

### Christmas concerts

Well done to all the children for taking part in this years Christmas Concert. The concert was recorded around the school and in the hall. Unfortunately, we could not have an audience this year but hopefully the hall will be full again soon.

The school will close for Christmas Holidays on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 12pm and we will reopen on Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup>. It has been a strange and challenging year for everyone in our community. We wish to thank you for your cooperation and continued support throughout, and we look forward to brighter and more positive times ahead. As the Christmas season draws closer, we take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, parents and families all the blessings and joys of the festive season.

Nollaig Shona Dhaoibh go léir

John Walsh

Principal

