

Family Note No. 9 – 17th December 2018

Dear Parents,

We have come to the final school week of this term and this year, 2019!! Doesn't time fly! We are continuing to practice for our Carol Concerts today, with final rehearsals tomorrow and Wednesday where each half of the school performs for the other half. The following are a few important notes regarding the Carol Concerts:

1. Starting and Finishing Times:

The concerts start at 7.30 p.m., children should be in their seats by 7.20 p.m. There is no need to be in the Church much earlier than this as the children can be 'spent' and restless by the time the concert starts if they are waiting too long. On the other hand, please try not to arrive late with your child as this can be very upsetting or embarrassing for them. The concert should finish at approximately 8.45 p.m.

2. General Etiquette and Reverence in the Church:

We have had problems in the past with some habits among the audience which has caused upset and frustration among parents, children and staff alike. We ask you to remember that this is a Carol Concert which takes place in a Church in a religious context, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus. With this in mind, we are asking that the audience treat the occasion with reverence for the Church itself which is a place of worship, and with due respect for the children and staff who have put so much work into the preparations by taking note of the following:

- The younger members of the audience are very welcome, **but please keep your children with you at all times.** Do not let toddlers and younger children roam around the Church, there are too many wires and electric cables in the Church, it would be a health and safety risk to allow your child to roam around unattended, apart from the distraction caused to children as they perform.
- **Please refrain from talking during the Carol Concert.**
- Please stay until the end of the concert and listen to all the children rather than taking your child out of their seats after they have performed, it is only one hour and 15 minutes in total.
- **Please do not bring food into the Church or eat during the Carol Concert.** In the past, there has often been a terrible mess left in the Church of food walked into the carpet and papers etc. Eating and distributing food to children during the Carol Concerts has also created noise and distraction which is unfair on the children performing. Again, it is only one hour and 15 minutes long, if the children in the audience eat before they come to the concert, they shouldn't need food during it.
- Please refrain from standing up in your seats or coming out into the aisles to take photographs or video footage. This often blocks the people behind you from seeing and can distract the children on the altar when performing. It also takes from the reverence of the occasion and the spiritual context of the Church.
- Some senior pupils will be reading in between each class performance as the next class is coming onto the altar. These readings are words of inspiration and Christmas messages to help us take a break, for a little while, from the busyness and material nature of Christmas and to think about the deeper meaning and the Christian message. **Please, out of respect and courtesy to these children who are also performing, listen to the messages and do not talk while they are reading.**
- If the toddlers in the audience need to go to the bathroom, please go around the outside of the building and come into the 'Crying Room' on the right side of the Church to access the bathrooms.
- **Please turn your mobile phones off during the concert.**

3. Junior and Senior Infants:

The children from the Infant Classes can be collected from the 'Crying room' from the outside of the Church after their performance and come back into the Church to sit with their families if they are staying for the remainder of the Concert.

Looking forward to this very special occasion. Please get practicing and warm up the voices to join in with us for our medley at the end of the concerts, this really puts us all in festive mood!

Karen O'Sullivan (Principal)