

Family note No. 8 – 13th December 2018

Dear Parents,

Hope you are all well and enjoying the run up to Christmas and looking forward to the wind down when it comes to it! Below are a few notes and reminders:

1. Message from the Parents & Friends Association (PFA)

'Our Christmas party will take place on Saturday 15th December at 8.00pm in The White Horse in Ballincollig. The cost is €9 per person for the finger food. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to come along, please put your money in an envelope addressed to PFA and drop it in to Eileen, school secretary.

Hope you can make what always proves to be a very enjoyable event. Frances Hannigan, Secretary'

2. Recent events:

Our School Choir sang beautifully at 'The Three Tenors' Concert last Friday week. Well done to them, to their teachers who prepared them and their parents who brought them. There was a little mix up at the door regarding entry cost for parents who weren't staying for the full concert. If you were at the receiving end of this, please let me know and I will arrange for you to be reimbursed.

We had a momentous visit from our past pupil Samantha Barry where the children got to ask some great questions about the secret of her success. She had some interesting answers, some of which were: *'Surround yourself with positive people', 'Work hard and never give up even when you have been rejected/turned down in any way', and 'Block anything and everybody on your social media that is negative....surround yourself in the positive only'!!*

3. Sporting Matters:

Our Ladies' Football Team were nominated for an award by the County Lord Mayor at a recent Awards Ceremony, they had a great night and did us proud in their presentation of themselves and their speeches!

Our school have registered with Basketball Ireland for its Junior NBA Programme. We were recently presented with a new set of Basketball gear by Andre Nation, Ballincollig's National League Team's American Professional Player and Ciaran O'Sullivan, Basketball Officer and Co-Ordinator for the Cork Region. (Andre and Ciarán's Ballincollig National League Team have a 16 game success this season, unbeaten so far in the National League, doing Ballincollig very proud indeed). To add to our external coaching of GAA, Tag Rugby and Spike Ball, we will have some basketball coaching in the next term with Andre.

Some of the funds raised by you the parents and children for our Nature trek this year have been used to buy two new sets of Football Gear for the Boys' and the Girls' school teams. The children look great in the new gear.

Our School Sports Quiz team comprising of 5th and 6th Class pupils had a great success this week against a huge number of other Cork teams, well done to them and their teachers who coached and accompanied them.

4. Set Down Area/Parking and other concerns:

The PFA, some parents and teachers have raised a number of concerns regarding safety and courtesy in the Car Park in the mornings and at Home Time.

There are some parents (particularly those of Infant Classes) who are leaving their cars in the Set-Down area to bring their child into the school itself. This defeats the purpose of the Set-Down Area as it is there for 'set down' only. In this way, there can be a constant flow of cars that can avail of the set-down facility whereby you can pull in, let your child out and move on to let others avail of same. If you want to get out and bring your child into school, you need to park in any other area of the Car Park **other** than the Set- Down Area.

The PFA is concerned about the narrow space that children have to walk in when people park their cars on both sides of the car park area outside of the side entrances of the church. By double parking here, it leaves little space for the cars that are driving around the church and pedestrian children at the same time. The PFA have asked that people refrain from double parking in these areas for the safety of all the children.

Some people are using the yellow lined area just outside the main gate into the school as a set down area. This is one small box that has been cordoned off in yellow lines denoting that cars are not to come into it. It is the main walkway for children to enter the school and is highly dangerous when a car pulls into it.

The above issues concern the safety of all your children. It is only by co-operating and thinking of others that your child will remain safe and uninjured in the very busy car park in the mornings and 'Home Time'.

Finally, we are busily preparing for our two Carol Concerts next Tuesday and Wednesday nights, 18th and 19th December. Hopefully, you have been hearing strains of Christmas melodies wafting through your households!! Looking forward to seeing you all there next week.

Yours sincerely, Karen O'Sullivan (Principal)

