

Memo No. 5 to Parents 14th December 2020

Dear Parents,

It seems a long time ago since August when we were so worried about opening up our schools again. Now, here we are, almost four months later very pleased that all the discussions and hard work paid off. We now head into the Christmas Holidays with a sense of relief and joy that we managed to keep our school open safely. The Board of Management and staff would like to acknowledge the very important part played by you the parents in getting to this point. ***Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir*** (Thank you all very much).

As we launch into the 'last lap' this week, please note the following:

1. Christmas 'No Uniform' and 'Fun Day' for Pupils:

This Friday, 18th December, we will have a fund-raising '**No Uniform Day**' for a special cause. If each pupil brings in a donation of €2, they can wear their own clothes to school. All proceeds will be given to the Children's Ward, St. Anne's, of the Mercy Hospital, and will go particularly towards **The Mercy Kids and Teens Appeal** for children with leukaemia.

Meanwhile, a group of staff are planning a great **Day of Fun** for the children on Friday. There will be Bingo, Quizzes, Scavenger hunts, Visual arts activities, Hot chocolate and a Movie, to mention but a few. The Board of Management is happy to cover costs by way of acknowledging how great the children have been in adapting to the *New Normal* in school.

2. Set Down Area:

I have had a request from some parents to remind all parents that the Set down Area between Gate 1 and Gate 2 is for set down only. Parents should not leave their cars there unattended or sit in the car for an extended period of time as it defeats the purpose of set down and the flow of cars that should be able to drive in, drop off, drive out and let the next car in.

3. Drivers at Gate 3 and Safety Issues:

Gates No. 3 are the large gates that lead into the school yard. The entrance to these gates is wide and has no kerb. It has come to our attention that some parents, letting their child out of the car, are pulling in very close to the pupils who are standing there waiting in the mornings. Some pupils have informed us that they have gotten a fright at how close some cars have driven right up behind them unawares. Please refrain from pulling up too close to children outside this particular gate.

4. Travel over Christmas:

No doubt, there will be some families travelling abroad to see family and friends in their country of origin over the Christmas Holidays. There will be some lovely reunions. Can I remind such travellers to adhere to safety quarantine directives before sending pupils back to school. We will only manage to keep our schools open if everyone plays their part and takes individual responsibility where all Government Covid Safety Directives are concerned.

Meanwhile, enjoy the next week and half and the countdown to Christmas!



Karen O'Sullivan (Principal)