

## MONASTERY NATIONAL SCHOOL

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### **Cinnlínte 174 - Christmas at Monastery NS December 2021**

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Christmas is almost upon us with about three weeks of school remaining for our pupils and the excitement is building! We have lots of exciting news for you and plans for Christmas at Monastery NS as follows;

#### **Christmas Crib**

There is one great Ardee Christmas tradition that will continue this year. Monastery NS staff under the direction of Gerard Woods and his able assistant Joseph Whyte will put up our Christmas Crib at the front of the school on Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup> (*weather permitting*). Each day 5,000 commuters pass by our school and are reminded of the story of Christmas when they see our beautiful Crib. Please put a Crib up in your own home and remind your son and family of the real story of Christmas.

#### **Christmas Art Competitions**

We are also hosting special Christmas Art Competitions as follows;

- 👉 All Infant classes have a Christmas colouring competition. 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes in each class.
- 👉 1st to 6th class have an Art Competition. 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes in each class.

#### **A virtual Christmas Class Greeting from your son's class**

At Monastery NS we want to give a very special Christmas gift to our school community. We would like to give you the gift of happiness and joy and invite you to virtually join our pupils in their classes for a very special *Christmas Class Greeting*. Pupils will broadcast a live Christmas Greeting from their classroom via **MNS Google Meets** to your computer / phone / device on Monday and Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Pupils can also wear their Christmas Jumper to school on the allocated day (more information will follow).

#### **Santa is coming to Monastery NS!**

Santa has cancelled his Christmas visits to many venues this year. However, he contacted Master McGee to see if the boys had been good and he has promised that he will definitely make a flying visit in his sleigh to Monastery NS. He usually lands on the roof of our school and rings a bell. All of our infant boys will safely visit Santa in his special grotto in our infant yard on Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>! **Parents will also be invited to visit this special event at the following staggered times; Ms McCreanor's Junior Infants @ 12.30pm; Ms McCabe's Junior Infants @ 1pm and Ms Maguire's Senior Infants @ 1.30pm. Parents are reminded to wear a mask / face covering and to take their son home afterwards so that he can play with his gift!**

### Christmas Jumper Day for Focus Ireland and the homeless

Christmas Jumper Day is in aid of **Focus Ireland and the homeless** and takes place on **Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>**. A charge of €2.05 will be sent to all parents via the **Eolas App** or parents can pay **€2** to their son's class teacher. You can of course buy a Christmas jumper for your son or you can use an old jumper decorated with recycled Christmas decorations! Christmas Jumpers can also be worn on your son's Class Christmas Greeting Day.

### Christmas Assembly

Christmas Assembly is one of pupils' favourite events of the year. It takes place at 9.35am on Friday December 17<sup>th</sup> via Google Meets to all classrooms. There will be lots of awards including pupil of the year monthly nominations, Christmas Competition prizes, lunchtime soccer league medals and lots of fun!

### New School Website

**Our new school website will be launched on Monday December 6<sup>th</sup>** and has been designed with Coeducation in mind. It features a new school crest that includes a boy and girl and overall the new website is much more user friendly. The website can also be read in any language and features individual class pages where you can check out what is happening in your child's class. The web address will remain at [www.monasterynsardee.ie](http://www.monasterynsardee.ie) and the site will be viewable on all types of internet enabled devices. We look forward to your feedback!

### New Parents' Association News

Our new Parents' Association Committee meets via Zoom on Monday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Our newly elected officers are Lucy Kerin – Chairperson; Sineád Magee – Secretary and Lisa Coyle – Treasurer. Our Committee members include Monika Tryczynska, Ruth Corbally, Pamela McCabe, Deirdre Commings, Joyce Cunningham, Susan McKeever, Lisa O'Brien, Kellie Bargh and Elaine O'Neill. They are already organising a Christmas Raffle for a Christmas Hamper etc and a Church Gate Collection in January 2022.

### Resources for Families during Advent

Journey through the **SEASON OF ADVENT** and prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas with your family at home. Download a booklet specifically designed with families in mind at [www.northernpastoral.network](http://www.northernpastoral.network)

### Coeducation Enrolment Update

Thank you to all the parents who have applied to enrol their sons and daughters in Junior Infants 2022. Please note that enrolment is open until **February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022** and that places are limited. Shortly after this date enrolment places in our new Junior Infants classes will be offered to parents and must be accepted or declined within a set time period. An Open Evening on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 will also take place for all interested parents.

### Stay Safe and Healthy

We are all looking forward to Christmas but **let's make sure we protect our families at this time by acting sensibly in accordance with Government advice**. We want to make sure that we can safely open our school in January 2022.

*Ní neart go cur le chéile - There is no strength without unity*

### Christmas Holidays

Monastery NS has a **staggered closing** from 12pm to 12.30pm for Christmas Holidays on **Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>** as follows;

1. **Junior and Senior Infants – 12.15pm.**
2. **1<sup>st</sup> class – 12.20pm.**
3. **2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> classes – 12.25pm.**
4. **4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes – 12.30pm.**

**Please ensure you collect your son at the designated time.** School reopens on Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2022.

**Happy Christmas – Nollaig Shona Daoibh - Wesolych Świąt - Linksmų Kalėdų  
Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus - Бєчєлє Кєлєдє - Sretan Božić - Craciun fericit - Christmas-ka Wacan**