

# News and Updates from the Principal

Jan. 23, 2020



Dear parents/guardians,

I wish to encourage all parents to take advantage of two opportunities coming up: a practical talk on Internet Safety for children and an information session on the MindUp programme, which promotes emotional resilience and helps students become focused and mindful learners.

## 1) Internet Safety Talk for Parents: Keeping Your Child Safe Online

Monday, Jan. 27 at 7 pm

Jeremy Pagden from the Galway IT company Lurtel will offer practical advice such as:

- Putting restrictions on phones/devices
- Checking a browser history
- Blocking advertisements
- YouTube safety

## 2) MindUp Workshop for Parents

Tuesday, Feb. 4th just after morning school drop-off

Parents are also invited to this workshop explaining our school's MindUp programme, which is used in all classes. You may have heard your child mention taking "brain breaks" at school; brain breaks are one of the mindfulness techniques in the MindUP programme.

MindUp contributes to each child's overall wellbeing and is a component of the many measures we use at the school to promote wellbeing.

I also wish to bring to your attention our recently reviewed and updated policies:

- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Antibullying Policy

These policies are attached and can also be viewed on the school web site.

**Noreen Healy, Principal**

## Dates for Your Diary

### • Tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 24th— Early closing

Primary Language Curriculum training for staff:

- Junior and Senior Infants go home at 11:45 am
- First to Sixth Classes go home at 12 noon

### • **Saturday, Jan. 25th at 8 pm at the** **NUIG Kingfisher Club:** **Peace Proms Concert for Sixth Class**

### • **Monday, Jan. 27th at 7 pm in the** **school hall:** **Internet Safety talk for parents**

### • **Friday, Jan. 31st at 11:30 am—** **Grandparents' Day Prayer Service**

### • **Tuesday, Feb. 4th—just after** **dropoff—MindUp workshop for** **parents**

## Congratulations to our prize-winning artists!

Emma and Aoibhín,  
prize-winners in the  
Galway City Litter  
Awareness Poster  
Competition



Cormac, Aryan,  
Kaiya, Amira and  
Súsanna, Galway  
Advertiser  
Christmas Art  
Competition  
winners



## Grandparents' Day—Friday, Jan. 31st

The event begins with a simple prayer service at 11:30 am, followed by tea/coffee and refreshments in the school hall. Parents/guardians and grandparents are most welcome. Grandparents are extended a special invitation to visit their grandchildren's classrooms afterwards.

\*Please note: This is a full school day. Children will be allowed home early, only if requested.

### **Baked goods and volunteers needed please**

**From KNS PA:** The Parents Association is once again delighted to support the school on Grandparents' Day, 31st January, 11:30am. The PA has sent a link to parents via email to volunteer to help serve tea/coffee and baked goods or to help as a parking attendant (from 11am to around 1pm).

As in the past, we would also ask our parent community to contribute baked goods for the event, if you are able. Please feel free to drop baked goods at the school anytime before 11am.

**This is a special day for our school community, and it is a joy to have such special visitors. Thank you in advance for helping out!**

## Children's Activities

**Olympic Handball:** Best of luck to our Olympic Handball team at their tournament at Cappagh Community Centre on Monday, Jan. 27th at 10 am.

**Bilingual Storyteller:** The school are funding a visit from storyteller and singer MacDara Ó Conaola, who will visit Junior Infants to Third Class on Wednesday, Jan. 29th. He will share stories in Irish and English about Mící Moncaí and of growing up on Inis Oírr.

**Credit Union Quiz:** Best of luck also to our quiz teams from Third to Sixth Class who will compete in the St. Anthony's and Claddagh Credit Union Primary Schools Quiz on Sunday, Feb. 2nd.

## For Your Information

While these activities are not school related, we are passing along, for your information, the following notices:

- Galway Solemn Novena
  - New Galway Cycle bus route\*\*\*
- Families are encouraged to participate

## Looking Ahead

- **Valentine's Day, Friday, Feb. 14th—** Non-Uniform Day charity fundraiser in support of **Make-A-Wish Ireland**.

Children can wear their own clothes in "red, pink, white or bright" and a donation of €2 per family is suggested.

- **Feb. 17th to 21st—Midterm break**

- **Feb. 24th to 28th—Junior Infants Parent-Teacher Meetings.** Teachers will issue your appointment times.

- **March 2nd to 6th—Engineering Week** Engineer parents are invited to share their love of engineering with the students! Please contact the school if you can help out.

- **Friday, May 8th—Celebration of Cultures Day**

Our Parents Association and staff members are organising a celebration of cultures in the school hall. More details to follow. Please note the date and let us know if you can help out.

- **May 11th to 15th:** Standardised Testing for First to Sixth Class. If students miss their tests for any reason other than illness, there will not be an opportunity for re-testing.

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*First Communion preparation dates:*

- **Sunday, Jan. 26th at 5:30 pm—**  
**Do this in Memory of Me mass**

- **Wednesday, Feb. 12th at 5 pm—**  
**First Confession at the church**

- **Sunday, Feb. 16th at 5:30 pm—**  
**Do This in Memory of Me mass**

*Confirmation preparation dates:*

- **You Shall Be My Witnesses sessions—**  
**Tuesdays at 7 pm—parents join children at 7:45 pm. Dates are:**

- **Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**
- **Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**
- **Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>**
- **Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**

- **Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:30 pm—**  
**Service of Light**