



**Scoil Mhuire na nGael  
Bay Estate  
Dundalk**

Dear Parents,

Christmas fever has gripped the school – Christmas shows, our food appeal for needy families, beautiful seasonal art work on display in our classrooms, the countdown to Santa’s arrival has begun, carol singing in St Olivers & in Dundalk Credit Union..... a time for us all to treasure our children, a time for families, a time for fun and a time to think of others.

***Christmas Holidays***

The school will **close at 12 noon on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. Please make the necessary collection arrangements for your child. The school will reopen on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

***Mrs Uí Ghallachóir’s Retirement***

Mrs Uí Ghallachóir will retire from her teaching duties in Scoil Mhuire na nGael on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019. She has been an outstanding teacher in our school over the past 36 years. I thank Mrs Uí Ghallachóir for her commitment and dedication and for the enormous contribution she has made to our school community. I wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

***Food Appeal***

We were overwhelmed with the response to our food appeal. Your generosity and kindness were much appreciated. Your food donations were delivered to Dundalk Soup Kitchen, Dundalk Lions Club & to Women’s Aid who will redistribute the food to needy families in our locality.

***Intergenerational Project***

Santa joined us on our visit to St Olivers this morning and we distributed over eighty presents to our older friends. A special thank you to Ms Sloane and her 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils who performed Christmas carols and brought festive cheer to staff and residents in the hospital. The children have visited the hospital every three weeks over the past term and have brought much happiness to the residents and day care visitors. Thank you also to the parent volunteers who have joined us on each visit helping with supervision and organisation of the activities.

***Christmas Shows***

Our Christmas shows are always very special events. We had eight fantastic shows last week and it was lovely to see the children perform for their families and friends. We look forward to two additional shows this week.

***Carol Singing at Dundalk Credit Union***

Ms Sloane’s 5<sup>th</sup> class has been invited to perform Christmas carols at Dundalk Credit Union on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December (12noon – 2pm). Drop in and say hello if you are in town!! This is not a fundraising activity – it is great to see the children partaking in community events.

### **Peace Proms Choir Perform in the R.D.S.**

Our school choir is looking forward to performing with choirs from other primary schools in the RDS on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. They have been busy rehearsing their songs and the accompanying actions over the past few months. Thank you to Ms Sloane, Ms Mc Kenna & Ms Brennan for working with the choir over lunch times and for giving them the opportunity to perform at this musical extravaganza with the Cross Border Orchestra.

### **Art Success**

- (a) ESB Stay Safe Stay Clear Poster competition** – Congratulations to Caragh Treanor who was highly commended at national level for her art entry in this competition. Caragh won a €50 One4all gift card for herself and her winning poster is featured in the ESB 2019 calendar. Super job Caragh!
- (b) Amnesty International Poster Competition** – The Dundalk branch of Amnesty International recently organised a poster competition on the theme of “fairness”. Congratulations to Sineida Lambergá who was the overall winner of the poster with the best slogan and Sineida also submitted the best school entry from Muire na nGael. Sineida collected €80 prizemoney for her efforts. Well done also to Katie O’Shaughnessy Larkin and Ella Taylor whose entries were highly commended. Keep up the great work girls!
- (c) Credit Union Poster Competition** - We had further success in this competition with three of our pupils winning prizes at Chapter level ( Louth/Monaghan & Cavan region). Congratulations to Eoghan Wehrly, Rachel Kenny & Nathan Donnelly who impressed the judges once again at regional level. As Nathan was a 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner on this occasion his poster now goes forward to represent Cúchullain Credit Union at national level. Best of luck Nathan!

### **Young Ireland’s Success**

What a great achievement for the local Young Ireland’s GAA team to become Leinster junior champions last week. We were honoured to have a visit from the team last Monday morning when our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes gave them a wonderful reception. Best of luck to Adrian O’Donoghue, his management team and to all the players as they prepare for the All Ireland semi-final.

### **Enrolment for Junior Infants 2019**

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for a place in junior infants and the submission of the necessary paperwork is **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. No late applications will be accepted.**

### **Christmas Wishes**

Wishing all our pupils, their families, the staff of Muire na nGael, the Parents’ Association and the Board of Management a very happy and peaceful Christmas and good health and happiness in 2019.

Kind Regards,  
Martina Rafferty

**Nollaig Shona      WESOLYCH SWIAT BOZEGO NARODZENIA      Joyeux Noel**  
**Geseënde Kersfees      Gëzuar Krishtlindjet      Boldog Karácsonyt**  
**Cracium Fericit      Veselé Vianoce      Sretan Bozic      Fröhliche Weihnachten**  
**Saint Dan Fai Lok      Haid joule ja head uut aastat      Feliz Navidad**  
**Prieci’gus Ziemsve’tkus un Laimi’gu Jauno Gadu      LINKSMU KALEDU**



Christmas is forever, not for  
just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving, are  
not to put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel,  
in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others is  
good you do yourself...  
~Norman Wesley Brooks

