



20th December, 2022.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Incidental Inspection: Sinéad Guinnane, School District Inspector carried out an inspection on “Teaching and Learning” in early November. She visited a respective selection of classrooms and had a meeting with the Principal on school matters.

Internet Safety Talks: We invited Helen Butler to visit the school again this year to give a talk to the pupils in 5th and 6th classes. We hope that she will visit 3rd and 4th classes early in 2023. Helen’s workshops focused on internet safety and cyber bullying.

Fyffes Fit Squad: P.E. workshops were held for the pupils of 5th & 6th classes during the first term. Fyffes trainers facilitated the workshops and provided refreshments and fun Frisbees following the activities.

Food Dudes: We took part in the Phase 3 of the Food Dudes Project from 5th to 9th December. Fresh fruit and vegetables were delivered for 4 days. There was a very positive response from the children.

Student Council: The Student Council played an active role in getting pupil opinions during the review of our Anti-Bullying Policy and organised the Christmas Shoe box appeal.

Christmas Shoe Boxes: A total of 161 shoeboxes were filled, decorated and donated by pupils and their families. Well done to all involved in this worthy project.

Green School’s Committee: The Green School’s Committee are working towards the theme of Travel. Pupils in 5th class will participate in a cycling course which will run for four weeks. More information to follow.

Visits to Infant Classes:

- Malvina Barrett, the School Traffic Warden visited the Junior and Senior Infant classes explaining her role and advising the pupils on how to be safe.
- Community Garda Michelle Sands visited the Junior and Senior Infant classes and had a lively interaction with the pupils.

Annual Review of the Anti-Bullying Policy: This review was carried out during the Board of Management Meeting held on the 15th December, 2022.

Practical Maths Workshops: In November Maths Workshops for Junior and Senior Infant classes were held in the 6th class classrooms. Pupils received opportunities to use a variety of maths equipment in a fun environment.

Practical Science Workshops: The 6th class pupils presented interactive experiments for the children from Infants to 5th Class. These practical experiments were based on the topics of materials, light, magnetism, heat and forces.

Carol Service for 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils: Pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th classes in co-operation with

St. Brendan's Boys' N.S. took part in a most enjoyable Carol Service in St. Brendan's Cathedral on last Sunday evening. The girls participation in the singing, prayers and readings was excellent. Despite the school closure there was a great turnout of pupils for the practices in the Cathedral.

Junior Infant Christmas Medley: Pupils in Junior Infant classes entertained parents with a variety of performances that included Christmas songs and poems on Tuesday, 20th December.

Senior Infant Nativity Play: Pupils in Senior Infants classes entertained parents with acting out scenes from the Nativity Play, Christmas carols, songs and greetings.

First, Second & Third Class Concert: 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes entertained parents with a concert including Christmas songs, poems and tin whistle playing on Tuesday, 20th December.

Christmas Artwork: Well done to all of the pupils whose beautiful artwork is displayed in classrooms and corridors throughout the school. Thank you to all of the school staff who collaborated in displaying the artwork, in decorating the school and in creating the wonderful festive atmosphere inside and outside the school.

Public Consultation regarding the Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs E.P.S.E.N 2004 Act:

Please see the attached letter from the Department of Education.

Amended School Admissions Policy: At the recent Board of Management Meeting held on 15th December, 2022, the Board of Management amended the School Admissions Policy in line with the Education (Provision in respect of Children with Special Educational Needs) Act 2022. The amended Admissions Policy will be published on the school website and available in the school by 31st January, 2023.

Frozen Pipes: The Board of Management wants to apologise to parents on account of the inconvenience caused by the three day school closure. The closure was caused by frozen pipes and the consequent lack of water throughout the school.

Dates for your Diary:

- School Closure due to teacher in-service day – Friday, 20th January 2023.
- First Holy Communion – Sunday, 7th May 2023.
- Confirmation – Saturday, 20th May 2023.

Christmas Holidays: The school will close on Wednesday, 21st at 11.30 a.m. and will re-open on Monday, 9th January 2023.

On behalf of all of the Staff of St. Ita's N.S. I want to wish you all a Safe, Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. P. Coyle, Principal.