



## Christmas Newsletter 2020 Issue 2

Cullen NS, Mullaghroe, Cullen, Mallow Co.Cork



**"MERRY CHRISTMAS from Everyone at Cullen NS !"**

Dear Parents, Cullen NS will close for the Christmas Holidays on Tuesday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 12noon.

We will return to school @ 9:20am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

As we face into the Christmas Holidays, I wish to thank everyone – our pupils, staff and parents for all their hard work and patience over the past few months. I wish to especially, thank Patricia O’Leary and Urszula O’Connor for **cleaning, sanitising and sterilising** our school meticulously and thoroughly, on a **daily** basis, thus helping us, to stay healthy, safe and covid free.

These are strange and difficult times but, by working hard together, we continue to navigate our way through and keep each other safe.

We hope you enjoyed our **Advent and Christmas drama performances and beautiful artwork pre-recorded videos** and photos sent to you from each class. This is just a flavour of the wonderful work in all of our classes.

**Art Fundraiser:** Each of our talented pupils designed their own Christmas Cards, which were then commercially printed by [www.christmascardsforschools.ie](http://www.christmascardsforschools.ie) /Listowel Printing Works, raising **€430** for our **Parents Association**.

### **Christmas Kindness:**

(1) **Millstreet Community Hospital and Araglen House Nursing Home, Boherbue** are in for a treat when they receive all the fabulous Christmas decorated letters from our Senior pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes.

(2) **“Be who you are and say how you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind!” Dr.Seuss.**

As per **Department of Education and Skills** guidelines for **“Well-Being in Primary Schools: Guidelines for Mental Health Promotion”** our chosen charity/fundraiser this Christmas is **Pieta House**. This is the final step for Cullen NS in **obtaining our Amber Flag** which aims to equip our pupils in **developing happiness, promoting positive mindsets, good mental health, and well being. This enables our pupils to lead more fulfilling lives.** Home and family are recognised as the primary source of nurturing and support for children. However, mental health and well-being are recognised as everyone’s concern and involve the whole school community. We are asking children to bring a **€2** donation for this worthy charity on either of our Christmas Jumper Days Monday or Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> December!

“Some kids are SMARTER than you

Some kids have COOLER CLOTHES than you

Some kids are BETTER AT SPORTS than you

IT DOESN'T MATTER

You have YOUR thing too

Be the kid who can GET ALONG

Be the kid who is GENEROUS

Be the kid who is HAPPY for other people

Be the kid who does the RIGHT THING

Be the NICE kid!”

(3) **Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal:** Kindly, support this worthy cause, knowing that you will bring **hope, joy and love** to children worldwide this Christmas. You can support this appeal by building and donating shoeboxes online until December 23rd. <https://www.teamhope.ie>

(4) **Multiple Sclerosis Ireland Readathon** Cullen NS's Literacy levels soared during the month of November across all reading genres with all pupils reading more books, daily, on a whole school basis. While many pupils logged on and donated privately online at home, our school **raised €400** for this very worthy charity.

(5) I wish to thank Maura and Denis Quinn for giving **Cadbury's Selection Boxes** to every pupil and I wish to thank Fiona and Seán Kelleher for giving refreshments and Taytos to every pupil on the day of the holidays this Christmas.

Our **Fundraising Clothes Collection** is ongoing throughout the year. We raised a whopping **€529** at Halloween, which partly financed the purchase of new PE Equipment. Catherine O'Sullivan ordered **beanbags, skipping ropes, balls, hula hoops, hurdles, packs of Gaelic footballs of different sizes, tennis balls, basketballs, sports bibs, agility ladder, game kits and cones**. These will bring such enjoyment and will be of great benefit to all of our pupils. Kindly, bring any sacks of unwanted clothes and bed linen (sheets, pillowcases, duvet covers) from your own houses/your relations houses and drop them off to the school any morning or evening when dropping/collecting your child or at anytime. Clothes will be stored warm and dry inside the building.

**IRD Duhallow Public Speaking:** Heartiest Congratulations to Humphrey Moynihan and Moira Cronin, both in Rang 6, who represented Cullen NS at a series of IRD Public Speaking workshops which, this year, took place remotely via zoom over the last 5 weeks. Both Humphrey and Moira wrote speeches and spoke so impressively at the Public Speaking Finale on Saturday 12/12/20. Humphrey spoke on “Animation and Art” while Moira's chosen topic was “Agriculture in Ireland”. This is a very worthwhile competition to partake in: building confidence, public speaking skills, improving language and vocabulary, use of body language, tone & expression. Also, pupils who take part in this are preparing themselves outstandingly well for 2<sup>nd</sup> level, with 40% of all marks now allocated to the oral parts of all language exams.

**SPHE: Social, Personal and Health Education:** On Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, all classes in Cullen NS took part in a one hour live **Road Safety** webinar organised by the **Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána** and **Cork County Council**, aiming to educate and increase awareness of these life long skills.

I wish to thank our **SNA's** Angela Moynihan and Michelle Twomey for all the compassion, care, attention and expertise which they so lovingly impart to all of our pupils on a daily basis. Both very much enrich school life for everyone.

I thank our **school secretary** Eileen O'Connor for her professionalism, military efficiency, precision, dedication and expertise in our front office.

Elaine Cronin's room prepared a most impressive **science project** on **Louis Pasteur** and **Pastuerisation** and **different types of milk**. This is one of many projects, which will be included in our annual **Discover Primary Science and Maths 2021 Award** which Nóra Moynihan has enrolled Cullen NS in.

**4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes** enjoyed **Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen"** from the **Everyman Theatre** and a **comprehensive follow up literacy pack** over 8 sessions, covering SPHE, SESE, Drama and Literacy.

Nóra Moynihan has registered Cullen NS up for our next **GREEN FLAG, flag number 7!!** which focuses on **Global Citizenship and Energy**...This is a 2 year process of work. Nóra also coordinated **Science Week 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November 2020** for the entire school, with each class enjoying **Scavenger Hunts, Nature Walks, Bug Hunts, Historical trials, Flower Dyeing, Light and it's properties and effects on different materials with torches, tulip bulb planting, polydron activities – building bridges, designing, engineering and constructing 3D mathematical shapes.**

**VM Ware/Maria & Donald Philpott Education Fund**: To date, this money has funded art and craft materials, science and engineering equipment which will build science, technology, maths, teamwork, design, construction and language skills on a whole school basis, Polydrons, The Snow Queen from the Everyman Theatre, Christmas Annuals for every pupil, extra sports equipment and Cycle Right Programme. We are most grateful for this money which greatly enriches school experiences and memories for all.

**Health and Safety**: Our **half termly Fire Drill** took place on Thursday 10th December, organised by Catherine O'Sullivan.

**Child Protection**: The annual review of the **Child Protection Safeguarding Statement** and **Risk Assessment** has been completed and ratified by the Board of Management on Thursday 3/12/20. It has been emailed to all parents. Hard copies are available from the front office.

**Information Technology**: Each classroom in Cullen NS is now equipped with new, state of the art **interactive flat screens** and **new IT equipment**. Our school has now installed **fast fibre broadband**. These are extremely progressive steps for the education of all of our pupils. We are in the process of revamping and updating our school website with **extra storage**, which will allow us to display much more photos, videos and documents. We thank Fianna Fáil T.D. Mr. Michael Moynihan for helping our school to become fast fibre enabled.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, for 5 weeks, our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils will take part in a **Cycle Right Ireland** initiative in association with **Cork Sports Partnership** aiming to increase fitness and social skills, whilst simultaneously, raising awareness about safety and cycling on public roads. Sanitised bicycles and helmets will be provided, if necessary. 2 instructors from Cycling Ireland and a teacher will accompany pupils, at all times, while on public roads.

**I will leave you with this heavenly Christmas Blessing by Joyce Rupp.**

**We wish you a happy and holy Christmas. You certainly deserve a good rest.**

**Wishing everyone every blessing this Christmas Season and a happy new year to you all !**

*Eileen O'Mahony*

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## *A Christmas Blessing*

*May you give and receive love generously.*

*May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.*

*May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ.*

*May the honour given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.*

*May the hope of the sacred season settle in your soul.*

*May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.*

*May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you.*

*May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you easily take for granted.*

*May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.*

*May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.*

*May the coming year ahead be one of good health for you.*

*May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.*

*May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.*

*May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace.*

*May you bring this peace into our world.*

*Joyce RUPP*

