



Pobalscoil Lios Na Coille Old Bawn Community School

Monday 21st December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach our countdown to Christmas, we get an opportunity to reflect on the year and in particular our journey since our return to school. I would like to thank all of you, our parents/guardians, for your co-operation with all our new systems and protocols. I would like to congratulate you on your son/daughter's behaviour, cooperation and assistance. The students have worked in cold and breezy conditions and have sanitised and worn their masks every day since 27th August. They are to be commended. Their actions have helped keep the school community safe.

Alongside all the events that have been readjusted, students and teachers upskilled in their use of Microsoft Teams. Teaching and Learning has continued despite students having to move to Learning Spaces. MS Teams has helped our students keep in touch with their teachers, Year Heads and each other. Our students have learned how to cope without lockers, morning break and have settled into a new phenomenon called Mask Break.

The first term has seen staff and students adapt to so many changes. The Old Bawn Community School spirit is alive and well as students and teachers worked within our restrictions and found new ways of doing things. The layout of our classrooms, Learning Spaces, the new sanitising routines, the movement outside the school to classes, were amongst the new changes that the students have embraced. You, the parents, attended our online Year Head meetings, our parent teacher meetings on ZOOM and supported us in our need to keep our school safe by not coming to the school without an appointment.

The LGBTQ+ week had many different events organised and mention must go to the amazing zebra crossing painted in the colours of the Pride flag.

Throughout November students have experienced Science Week and College Awareness Week. All these full programmes of events, guest speakers, student organised activities, online tours and virtual events have added greatly to student experiences of the curriculum and are designed to benefit student learning beyond the classroom.

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Our students have been particularly busy despite many of our extracurricular programmes being cancelled. Our TYs have been involved in community involvement around the school, looking after the Oreo run on a Friday, planting the new woodland at the side of the school and many more activities.

Our Christmas door decorating was a roaring success this year with the results being announced in the New Year. We also had a great 1st year movie/fun day run by the TYs which brought great fun and joy to our first years.

Our Drive Through Carol Service was a very moving experience and we entertained the local community from their doorsteps as well as the large audience who came to support us in their cars. December culminated in the Hamper Appeal with Old Bawn Community School helping our community more than we ever have. We would like to thank all the parents who supported us with food and cash donations.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the entire school community every good wish for the Christmas season. I hope that 2021 is a lot better for us all.

I wish you and your families good health, and I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Ursula McCabe

Principal