

Winterfest

There is great excitement around the school as we prepare for one of the highlights of our school calendar - **Winterfest**. All those who booked online and those who have been placed on a waiting list will be accommodated at the performances. However, as we are at full capacity for both performances it is imperative that you bring your ticket for the correct day as we cannot allow entry without a ticket. Thanks to those who have returned unneeded tickets - these will be much appreciated by others.

All tickets will be entered into a free draw.

Dress rehearsal for **Winterfest 2017** is tomorrow, Friday.

Our school is beautifully decorated for the festive season, and every child and staff member has contributed to the overall festive atmosphere. Around the school and in the hall and classrooms decorations are made from a variety of materials; card, paper and paper plates, all sorts of fabric, dough and clay, branches and twigs, with much use being made of recycled, re-usable and natural materials. Our two trees are decorated with the wonderful recycled tree decorations and in the corridors we have all sorts of winter scenes; snowflakes and snowmen silhouettes, trees and snow globes, wreaths made from paper hands, Daidí na Nollag and winter poems, and not forgetting the amazing Gingerbread House that has transformed the entrance to 1st and 2nd class. Our **Learn Together** board tells the origins of some of our winter festivals and of the main festivals in different parts of the world.

This week classes are working on their 'props' and costumes for Winterfest as well as practicing for their performance, and again the many talents in our school community are shining through. A huge thanks to parents who have been helping out in the classrooms in various ways, to those who decorated the hall and to the entire staff who gave up many extra hours over the last few weeks to prepare costumes, stage sets, backdrop, props, music and everything else necessary for a whole school performance.

Sound System Upgrade

Our sound system has been upgraded thanks to the generosity of the sound company Sound Lease, who have deferred payment until January. The new system, including new speakers and mics, has really enhanced the sound experience for the children. The upgrade has cost €2,600 in total. So far we have raised €800 through online donations on Eventbrite but many parents have

said they prefer to donate in-school, so we appeal to those who can to please give generously at the door to help meet the cost of the sound system upgrade.

PA tea/coffee morning

Members of the PA have kindly offered to host a tea/coffee morning in the Multi-Purpose Room after drop-off on the days of Winterfest performances. Parents and guardians are invited to avail of a cuppa and chat with other parent/guardians as you wait for Winterfest to begin. As you will appreciate, there are a lot of preparations involved in getting ready for a whole school performance therefore our hall doors will remain closed until 9.45 am.

Please do not wait in the school corridor as this impedes the safe passage of children to and from the hall and is in breach of fire safety regulations. Anyone blocking the corridor will be asked to move.

Peter Pan DVD

Thank you to those who expressed an interest in buying our DVD of Winterfest. This will be a professionally produced DVD and we think it will be a lovely memento of Winterfest 2017 for many years to come. Children are currently designing a Winterfest themed picture and, if they wish, entering a competition to design the DVD cover. The entries will be judged by a professional artist and winning entry will become the DVD cover.

If you have pre-ordered a copy of the DVD please make your payment of €10 per DVD to Carol before final orders go in on Thursday, 21st December, as orders cannot be processed without payment.

School calendars

If you have ordered a school calendar please pay and collect your calendar as soon as possible. Some families ordered multiple calendars and we need to pay the printer for those ordered.

School will close at 12.30 pm on Friday, December 22nd, for winter break.

We are all looking forward to seeing family and friends join us for

Winterfest 2017 - Peter Pan.

Mary

