

# Weekly Update

## 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Our inspector, Peadar Ó Muirí, visited the school this week to evaluate our COVID procedures under the 'Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling' inspectors' programme. While we await the written report of the evaluation, he commended the tremendous work of staff and the evident collaborative spirit in the school.

The Student Council is busy organising their first event of the school year, a fundraiser for the Laura Lynn Foundation. They wrote to the Board of Management which met on 7<sup>th</sup> December seeking permission to run this event. The Board agreed unanimously with the Student Council's recommendation to support the Laura Lynn charity.

2<sup>nd</sup> Class have designed a new advent calendar for their classroom. However, instead of chocolate behind each door, there is an Active Challenge along with a Random Act of Kindness. For example, they might do some jumping jacks in the classroom, take a tour of our Active School Walkway or maybe watch a Go Noodle video. Our Random Act of Kindness might include holding the door for someone, Zooming a relative or helping out at home!

You can see their Advent calendar at

<https://retns.ie/blog/2nd-class-advent-calendar-with-a-difference/>

5<sup>th</sup> class have been working with ceramicist, Chloë Dowds. Their work should arrive home soon. They will turn their hands to making gingerbread houses next week.

6<sup>th</sup> class have been learning about Dogs for the Disabled and listened to a Doc on 1 documentary about Eoghan & Superdog and about the work of Dogs for the Disabled. They contacted Eoghan's Dad, retired army Captain Tom Clonan and RTE/Irish Times Security Analyst who has agreed to catch up with them via Zoom.

*Hi Ronan,*

*We read the 6th class reflections and work on Duke and we were very impressed - really thoughtful and excellent writing.*

*Duke was 10 on 17th March and retired as Eoghan's Assistance Dog. Because of Covid restrictions, he had to continue to work in retirement until his replacement arrived. Leahy (2) arrived in May and is Eoghan's new Assistance Dog. He's the same breeding line as Duke - but he is a much bigger dog. So, now we have two Golden Retrievers and a cat (Duchess!)*

*Tom*

*Dr. Tom Clonan (Captain Retired)*

### **Michelle Stowe Presentation on Restorative Practice**

Thank you to everyone who attended the presentation on Tuesday evening. Your engagement was much appreciated. As promised, I have attached the slides. The audio recording will shortly be available on the school website.

## **End-of-term Performances**

Recent public health guidance for schools is that no singing should take place indoors. Therefore, we have decided that we will not have class performances before the end of this term. We will review the situation in the New Year. All classes will upload material to the school website before the holidays.

## **RETNS Raffle**

Kids' Raffle €2 per ticket. €10 for 6 tickets. Hampers to be won in each class!

Adult Raffle €5 per ticket. €20 for 5 tickets. Be in with a chance to win one of two hampers.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow via Aladdin.

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes for the RETNS Raffle. All proceeds go towards the school.

## **RETNS Craft Fair**

Unfortunately, our Craft Fair cannot take place this year but we hope our crafters will return next year. If you would like to support our previous crafters, I have attached a list with their details.

## **Children's Christmas cards**

By now, the children's cards have been distributed to those who ordered them. This year, we opted for postcards for a change. This may be reviewed again next year. Given that your child's name, class and school is printed on the card, you may prefer to put the card in an envelope or cover these details. Your feedback on this, and indeed any other school issue, is always welcome.

## **School Development and Wellbeing**

Our recent application to participate in the Educate Together Nurture Schools project has been successful. The Nurturing Schools Programme is a whole-school approach that helps schools to embed a nurturing culture to improve the teaching and learning, engagement in school life, and wellbeing of all pupils and staff. The NSP can help schools develop a happier, more resilient and more successful school community.

We are also participating in the 'Autism Friendly Schools' programme. It is a privilege to work in RETNS where we have such a high level of enthusiasm among staff to improve our children's learning opportunities.

Le dea-ghuí

Maeve