



Nuachtlitir na Nollag

Dear Parents,

There aren't too many sleeps left before the Big Day. In our final Nuachtlitir of 2022 we'd like to give you a flavour of some of our festive activities.

Dates for the Diary/Dátaí don féilire

Wednesday 21 December 2022 School closes 12.00 noon for Christmas holidays.

Thursday 5 January 2023 School reopens 8.50 a.m.

Student Council

This year we welcome our first Student Council in St. Colmcille's S.N.S. We have one representative from each of our seven 6th classes. All of the other classes have a class representative who liaises with the student representative from their house. The members of our Student Council are as follows:

Room 21 - Hannah Erdpohl

Room 22 - Tom Kellett

Room 23 - Grace O'Shea

Room 24 - Ciara Rourke

Room 25 - Sophie Hannigan

Room 26 - Cillian Byrne

Room 28 - Oisín Wallace

Thank you to Ms. Connolly, Ms. Madden, Ms. Maher, Ms. Ní Reachtabhra, Ms. O'Brien and Ms. O'Donnell who helped to get our first Council up and running. We're delighted to have a forum for our student voice and we look forward to learning and developing as we go.

Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association were delighted with the turnout at our recent Parents' Association A.G.M. It was wonderful to see so many new faces.

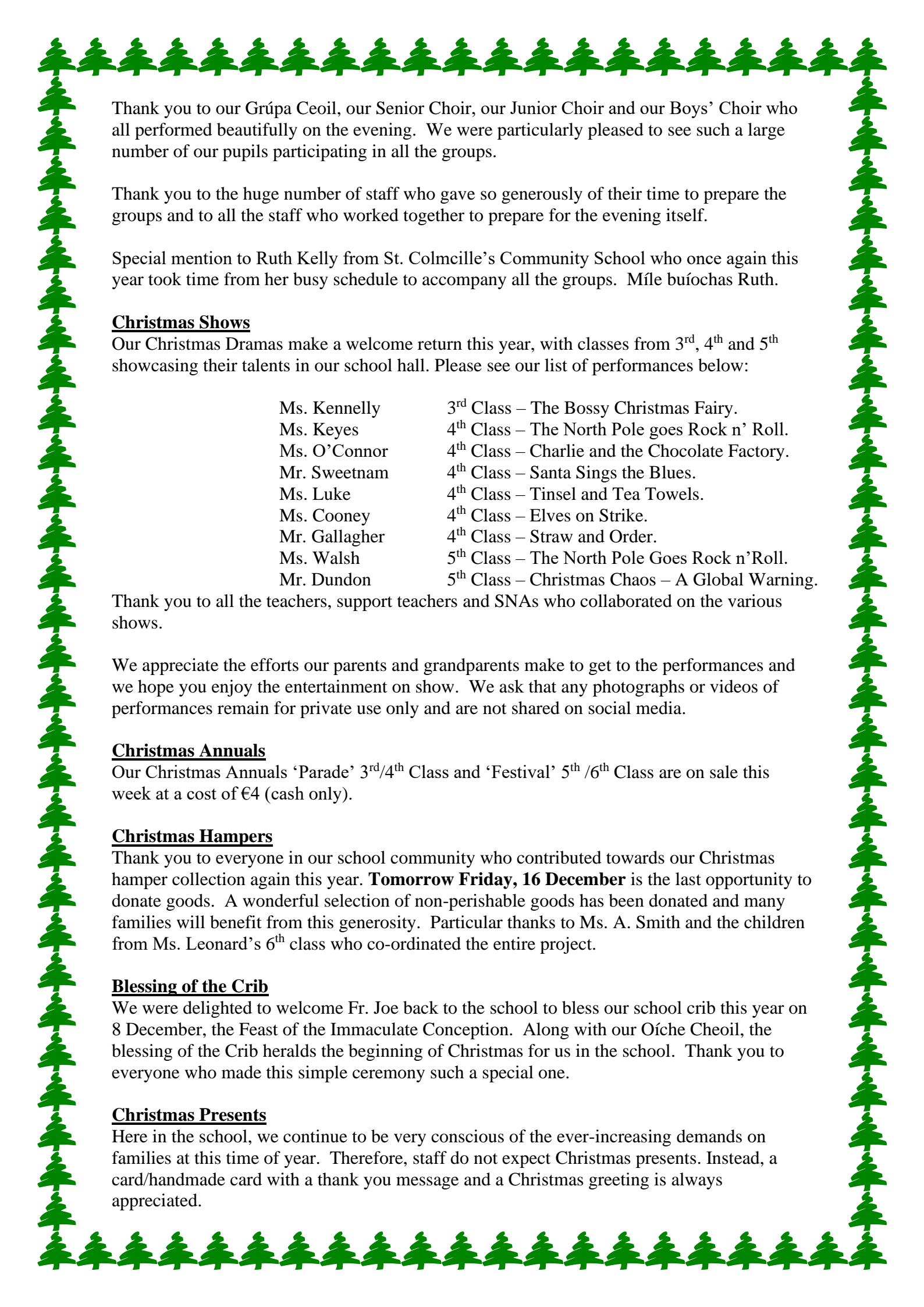
We thank our Parents' Association for organising the painting of our halla windows again this year. It always adds to the festive atmosphere here in the school.

Vigilance on Social Media

We ask all of our parents to please be vigilant if your child is using social media apps such as WhatsApp, Tik Tok, Snapchat and Instagram. We are aware that some of our pupils have been involved in, or have been exposed to, inappropriate content. As parents, we have a responsibility towards our own children and towards others to ensure that what is being posted is appropriate. Thank you to everyone for your support in this area.

Oíche Cheoil

After a break of two years our Oíche Cheoil resumed on Wednesday, 7 December and it proved, once again, to be a very special and joyful occasion.



Thank you to our Grúpa Ceoil, our Senior Choir, our Junior Choir and our Boys' Choir who all performed beautifully on the evening. We were particularly pleased to see such a large number of our pupils participating in all the groups.

Thank you to the huge number of staff who gave so generously of their time to prepare the groups and to all the staff who worked together to prepare for the evening itself.

Special mention to Ruth Kelly from St. Colmcille's Community School who once again this year took time from her busy schedule to accompany all the groups. Míle buíochas Ruth.

Christmas Shows

Our Christmas Dramas make a welcome return this year, with classes from 3rd, 4th and 5th showcasing their talents in our school hall. Please see our list of performances below:

Ms. Kennelly	3 rd Class – The Bossy Christmas Fairy.
Ms. Keyes	4 th Class – The North Pole goes Rock n' Roll.
Ms. O'Connor	4 th Class – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.
Mr. Sweetnam	4 th Class – Santa Sings the Blues.
Ms. Luke	4 th Class – Tinsel and Tea Towels.
Ms. Cooney	4 th Class – Elves on Strike.
Mr. Gallagher	4 th Class – Straw and Order.
Ms. Walsh	5 th Class – The North Pole Goes Rock n' Roll.
Mr. Dundon	5 th Class – Christmas Chaos – A Global Warning.

Thank you to all the teachers, support teachers and SNAs who collaborated on the various shows.

We appreciate the efforts our parents and grandparents make to get to the performances and we hope you enjoy the entertainment on show. We ask that any photographs or videos of performances remain for private use only and are not shared on social media.

Christmas Annuals

Our Christmas Annuals 'Parade' 3rd/4th Class and 'Festival' 5th /6th Class are on sale this week at a cost of €4 (cash only).

Christmas Hampers

Thank you to everyone in our school community who contributed towards our Christmas hamper collection again this year. **Tomorrow Friday, 16 December** is the last opportunity to donate goods. A wonderful selection of non-perishable goods has been donated and many families will benefit from this generosity. Particular thanks to Ms. A. Smith and the children from Ms. Leonard's 6th class who co-ordinated the entire project.

Blessing of the Crib

We were delighted to welcome Fr. Joe back to the school to bless our school crib this year on 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Along with our Oíche Cheoil, the blessing of the Crib heralds the beginning of Christmas for us in the school. Thank you to everyone who made this simple ceremony such a special one.

Christmas Presents

Here in the school, we continue to be very conscious of the ever-increasing demands on families at this time of year. Therefore, staff do not expect Christmas presents. Instead, a card/handmade card with a thank you message and a Christmas greeting is always appreciated.



Christmas Jumper/Hat Day

Following discussions with our newly formed Student Council, we will be having a Christmas Jumper/Hat Day this Friday, 16 December. Proceeds will be divided between LauraLynn and a contribution towards some new yard equipment. The suggested contribution is €2 per pupil.

Christmas Digital Story

Once again this year we are gathering a collection of photographs of a variety of Christmas activities here in the school. These will be compiled into a 'Christmas Digital Story' which will be shared with pupils and parents alike. Thank you to Ms. C. Connolly for co-ordinating this lovely initiative.

Christmas Cribs

Well done to our 6th class pupils who continue the crib making project in the school this year. This long-standing tradition in St. Colmcille's S.N.S. helps us to focus on the real message of Christmas. The effort, imagination, creativity and collaboration involved make it all worthwhile. All cribs will be on display in the school.

Frásaí /Words/Thoughts

Some of our latest words, thoughts and frásaí of 2022 are listed below:

Words of the Week

Rejuvenated

Curiosity

Feedback

Advent

Collaboration

Generosity

Frásaí na Seachtaine

Bíodh lá deas agat! - Have a nice day.

Dochreidte! - Unbelievable!

Is aoibhinn liom ag léamh. - I like reading.

Oíche mhaith agus codladh sámh - Good night and sleep well.

Ag obair le chéile. - Working together.

Fáilte romhat. - Welcome.

Thoughts of the Week

'Change your thoughts and you change the world'. - Norman Vincent Peale

'I have no special talent, I am only passionately curious'. - Albert Einstein

'Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care' - Theodore Roosevelt

'Speak only if it improves upon the silence'. - Gandhi.

'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much' - Helen Keller

'It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving'. - Mother Theresa

Kumon

In the new year Audrey Kelly will be running Kumon classes in St. Colmcille's S.N.S. Classes will take place on Thursdays from 2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. Free assessment available. If you would like to book or have any queries please visit the Kumon website at www.kumon.ie/firhouse or contact Audrey directly on 085 772 5333.

Homework Club

The new term will begin on Monday, 9 January 2023. For all information contact LLeonard@stcolmcilles.org

Finally, I would like to thank all the pupils, staff and parents of our school community who have made our first term in St. Colmcille's S.N.S. another positive and enjoyable experience.

On behalf of all the staff, we would like to wish everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas and we look forward to continuing our journey of discovery and learning together in the New Year.

This Nuachtlitir is also available on our website www.stcolmcilles.org.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi shéan's faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

B. McGowan, Príomhoide

D. McGovern, Leas-Phríomhoide

