Allen National School Newsletter

2024/2025 Issue 10 January 17th 2025

Unfortunately, the newsletter didn't issue when Ms. Mc Donagh was on leave and what a busy time it was…….
This is a special edition to catch you up on our activities in November and December

Whole School Evaluation - Management, Leadership and Learning (WSEMLL)

On the week of November 18th we had our WSE. Inspectors from the Department of Education came to visit our school and evaluate our practices. This type of inspection reports on the quality of teaching and learning and on the quality of management and leadership. It affirms good practice and makes recommendations to aid the further development of teaching and learning in schools. The inspectors engaged with representatives of the Board of Management, the Principal and other members of the In-School Management Team, the teaching staff, the pupils in all classes, the student council, representatives of the Parent Teacher Association and, in addition, all parents and pupils were given an opportunity to participate in surveys.

It was a very positive and affirming experience. The Inspectors were very complimentary about our school the Board, Staff and Pupils. In particular, it was noted how happy the children were and how much they enjoyed being in school and engaging with learning. The Inspectors will provide a written report which will be available online. More on this in upcoming editions.

Bubble in a Bubble

On November 22nd 6th Class pupils engaged their science knowledge and skills to explore the properties of bubbles. Have a look at what they achieved!

TEAM HOPE
Helping vulnerable children overseas

Annual Shoebox Appeal

On November 25th we had our Annual Shoebox Appeal. Thanks to all parents for their generosity in filling the shoeboxes. This is a very important initiative at this time of year. It focuses our minds on those less fortunate than ourselves and the importance of sharing and giving. It is not the type or size of a present that matters but, the thought and care that went into sourcing it and,thinking of someone else.

Breakfast at school

The Annual "Breakfast in School" for 6th class pupils took place on November 25th. The aroma of the "Full Irish" filled the corridors! Looks like they all had a very tasty time!!

Christmas Jumper Day

The school was awash with colour on December 6th when it seemed all Santa's helpers arrived! All the girls and boys wore their Christmas Jumpers and really kicked off the Christmas festivities and Christmas cheer.

Visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus

Word of the Christmas Jumper Day in Allen School spread far and wide and reached the North Pole! Then on December 11th we had a very special visit from Santa and Mrs Claus!! Garda Sarah from Naas Garda station drove Santa and Mrs Claus out to Allen. Santa brought a selection box for every pupil in Allen NS much to the delight of all the children. Santa said all the pupils were on the good list for Christmas this year and he loved when the whole school sang Jingle Bells especially for him and Mrs. Claus.
Thanks Santa and Mrs. Claus for coming to our school and also to Garda Sarah for providing the lift!

Beauty and the Beast - Christmas Panto

Huge thanks to Colette and Mr. Mc Nally who took over the organisation of the Christmas Panto from Ms. Mc Donagh and Ms. Brett who were unexpectedly on leave. They ensured the pupils and staff all got the opportunity to go to the Panto. The whole school travelled to the National Stadium on December 13th where they enjoyed the performance of Beauty and the Beast with professional actors including Alan Hughes from Virgin Media 1!

PTA delivers a very special Christmas surprise!

Chairperson of the PTA, Sinead Thorpe worked with Mr. Mc Nally to ensure the funds raised to purchase a new set of ipads for the school was wisely used and the ipads were purchased as a very special Christmas present for all the pupils. There was great excitement and delight among pupils and staff and we all look forward to using the ipads in the New Year. The PTA, Board and Staff extend many thanks to parents and members of the local community who supported the various fundraising activities over the past number of years to raise funds for the ipads.

Carols and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Many thanks to Ms. Fullam who attended the Carols and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Ms. Mcdonagh's behalf and to the members of the PTA who organised the Christmas Tree and once again delivered delicious Hot Chocolate and Marshmallow treats. Ms. Ni Chaoimh and the school choir entertained the crowd with a range of festive Christmas Carols. Many thanks to one and all. A lovely festive night was had by all culminating in Fr. Willie officially switching on the lights. Well done Fr. Willie!!

Annual 6th Class Craft Fair

6th Class Craft Fair took place this year on Wednesday 18th of December here in the Halla of Allen National School. Yet again it was a huge success and all funds raised go directly to our school. Well done 6th class on running a hugely successful fair. We would like to thank the Ladies Knitting Club for their beautiful donations of beautiful knitted/crochet items that sold out very quickly. Also, thank you to Seamus Hanafin for helping Ms. Brennan with the wreath making and also for the PTA for helping to decorate the school in preparation of the fair.