



Newsletter: December 2021

Season's greetings everyone. We hope you and your families are keeping safe and well at this time. We look forward to Christmas; a time for hope and reflection and a chance to relax and recharge. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your understanding, support and patience during what has been and continues to be a busy and ever-changing time. I would also like to give a huge shout out to the wonderful team in St Multose; I am blessed to have such a hard-working and dedicated group of colleagues who give so willingly of their time and approach their work with such energy and enthusiasm. A trojan whole school community effort over the past number of months for which we are all very grateful.

Homework

Breathe a sigh of relief! Formal written homework will take a back seat for the remainder of the month, and instead, the children will carry out daily acts of kindness.

Each day will have a specific theme:

Monday: a family act of kindness

Tuesday is devoted to the environment and our animals

Wednesday: reaching out to the elderly

Thursday: an act of self-care

Each day after completing their act of kindness, the children are then asked to document it on Seesaw by writing/typing/drawing about it.

We ask you to chat about the importance of these acts of kindness with your child/children and applaud them on their act of kindness each day.

"Kindness, it costs nothing but means everything."

Book Fair

Many thanks to all who supported our Annual Book Fair. Thank you for your patience with the online system which proved a little challenging at times. We really appreciate your support. Our school received €490.03 in Scholastic book rewards. Using this money, we purchased a range of books for each classroom spanning across a variety of subjects.

Cork Simon Community Christmas Jumper Day

Each Christmas, St Multose N.S. and its school community, support a charitable organisation. At a time when donations and assistance are needed most, we must remember those who are not as fortunate. On Thursday, the 2nd of December, we held a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of the Cork Simon Community. The school was awash with colours and festive knits. It was a much-needed burst of colour and helped to get everybody in the Christmas spirit (if a little early!). We raised a total of €321.50. Well done to all the boys and girls and the teachers for making such a great effort!

Parents' Association AGM

The PA AGM takes place on Monday 6th December at 6:30 pm via Zoom. All households will be sent a Zoom link on Monday. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm and this meeting will be locked at 6:45 pm. Should you have any difficulties joining the meeting, please contact the school mobile on 086-0370254 or your class rep. Nominations for a female parent nominee to the Board of Management will be sought during this meeting (documentation sent last week). We would love to see as many of you as possible, albeit virtually. The PA is actively looking for new members and would love to have more people on board.

Mini-school production

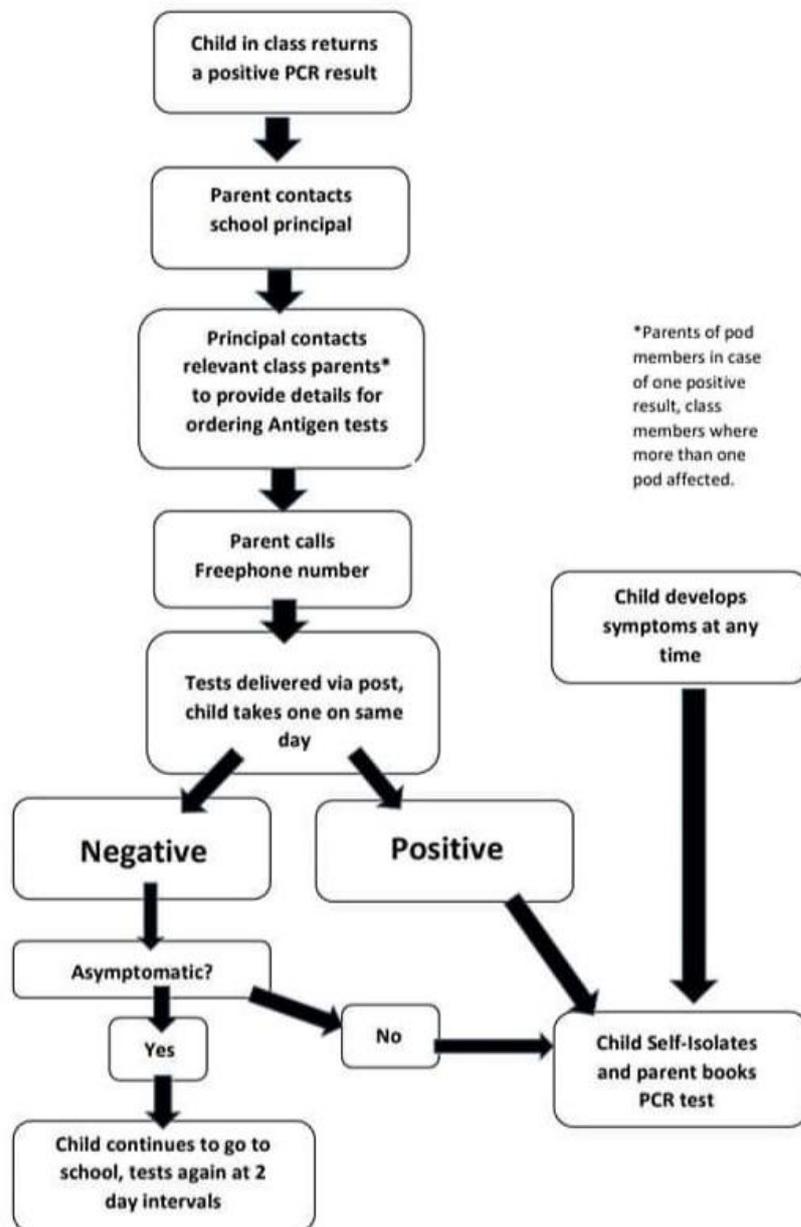
We plan to hold a mini-school production. Again, this will be held remotely. It will be a simple, scaled back, pre-recorded production, however, it will be an opportunity for each class to share something with you all to hopefully brighten your day and get you in the Christmas mood! This will be provisionally held via Zoom on Thursday 16th December at 1 pm. It will be short and sweet! All parents will receive an invitation via email. The Zoom session will begin at 1:00 pm and will be locked at 1:15 pm. As the children will be watching it from their classrooms, Junior and Senior Infants will be staying in school until 2:30 pm on that day.

Antigen testing and masks

As you will be aware, the programme of antigen testing came into effect in primary school settings on Monday 29th November. All details are clearly outlined in the letter from the Department of Education which was forwarded to you last week. Below is a useful diagram that you may also find useful to refer to.

NPHET has recommended the wearing of face masks/coverings by children aged nine years and above on public transport, in retail and other indoor public settings as already required for children aged 13 years and over. They have also recommended that this be introduced for children in 3rd class and above in primary schools. They have advised that this measure is being introduced temporarily and is subject to review in mid-February 2022. Should anyone have any queries in relation to this, please contact the school. We thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

Face masks/coverings should be stored in a designated space, for example, in an **individually labelled container or bag**.



Polytunnel Update

Many thanks to one of our parents, William Tindal, for sharing his expertise and time earlier in November when he came to meet us at the polytunnel and made a very large compost bay with the children from 6th class. He came armed with lots of resources including seaweed, leaves, straw, pumpkins, and paper in huge quantities. The children and teachers learned a huge amount and he facilitated a wonderful lesson. We will look forward to using our compost to grow lots of delicious vegetables in the spring. Here begins our circular economy within the school!

Outdoor classroom

Many thanks to Stephen, Tom, Alex and Peter Harte who kindly gave of their time to do some further work on the wooden stools in our outdoor classroom area. We know these will be put to very good use during terms two and three.

Farmer Time

On Friday 26th November, Ms Helen's class took part in an initiative called Farmer Time in conjunction with Airfield Estate in Dublin. Clive Buttimer of 'Clonakilty Beef' (Mrs Buttimer's husband) is our partnering farmer. The children looked at some of the cover crops on the farm, learned about their benefit to the environment and told Farmer Clive about the green manure they are growing in the polytunnel to do the same job, (but on a smaller scale!). Once every couple of weeks, the children will have an opportunity to have a virtual visit of Clive's farm near Ballinascorthy. The aim is to inspire, engage and educate young people about the journey from farm to fork and about the ever-changing, diverse agricultural industry. Children will be given the opportunity to chat, discuss their ideas, ask questions, share knowledge, and gain a 'real-time' understanding of day-to-day farming. For more information: [Farmer Time - Airfield Estate](#)

Ukulele le Chéile

We have had a marvellous eight weeks with Ms Christine Deady. The children in 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th classes have learned how to play and sing a myriad of songs and have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They have particularly enjoyed taking the ukuleles home for the weekend to experiment and practise. On 9th of December, weather permitting, we are hoping to have a Performance of the Ukulele & Singing by Christine and Deirdre Archbold. This will be performed outdoors for all the classes with hot chocolate to warm us up afterwards! We are very much looking forward to this Christmas treat. After Christmas we will be continuing with other ukulele related activities; watch this space!

Teanga Ó Bhéal

As part of our School Self-Evaluation process, we will be looking at the Irish language and the use of the spoken word. Teachers, parents, and children will be

asked to complete an online survey on our return to school. This will help us ascertain how much Irish is spoken in our school community, what our perceptions are of Irish. We hope to gain an insight into people's thoughts about Irish homework and the teaching and learning of Irish, in our school. We would really appreciate your input.

Science Week

This year, once again, all classes in our school took part in Science Week. There were lots of lovely activities and experiments done in each classroom. All this work contributes to our Discover Primary Science Award. This year we also took part in the Climate and Nature Summit which dove-tailed with COP-26. The knowledge children demonstrated through their discussions with their teachers was astounding. We, as adults, must catch up with our children and make what we do now, count!

MS Readathon

Many of the children in our school have taken the opportunity to develop their reading habits this month. Well done to all, particularly to all those children attending Ms Buttimer and Ms Whitley's classroom, who have done an amazing amount of reading and raised lots of money for people with Multiple Sclerosis. A fantastic achievement.

Active Schools

The children have continued to keep active this November partaking in an Active Break every day with their teachers. In December, we hope to have all the children run the Multose Mile in their Christmas hats and Santa costumes, #SantaDash.

Robotics

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions and Department guidelines, the sixth class were unable to begin the VEX-IQ Robotics Challenge in conjunction with Kinsale Community School before Christmas. We hope that we might be able to engage with it later next year.

Christmas holidays: Wednesday 22nd December at 12pm

School re-opens on Thursday 6th January 2022

You will be required to complete a 'Return to School Declaration Form' in advance of your child's return to school on Thursday 6th January. Please keep an eye on your emails in advance of this date.

We hope you have a safe and relaxing holiday.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas.