

Scoil Ursula Newsletter

- **ALLADIN CONNECT APP FOR PARENTS:** We are appealing to parents who have not yet downloaded the Aladdin Connect App to do so as it saves the school a lot of money on texting. We are also encouraging parents who have the app to activate the Class List facility to allow you to contact other parents in your child's class for Birthday Party Invitations etc.

- **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION:**
 - We hope that everyone is well settled back to school (and looking forward to a nice mid-term break). We particularly welcome junior infants and new pupils who joined other classes in September.
 - Thanks to all the children who submitted their beautiful Christmas card artwork this week. We expect to have the templates back before mid-November and you can place orders then. Each pack of 10 printed cards with envelopes will cost €8 and it's a lovely way to send greetings to friends and family.
 - Our new programme of after-school activities is up and running and we hope this will be the first year of many. With over 440 pupils, we have done our best to timetable so that each class group gets a reasonably equal allocation. As we move forward with more activities both this year (and hopefully in future years), we will prioritise pupils and classes who have had less opportunity. But the activities cannot happen without volunteers and we are struggling to get enough. Volunteering is easy (it is supervision, not coaching!) and you don't have to have a child doing the activity. And a family member can volunteer to as long as they are over 18; perhaps grandparents might like to help out. If you or a family member can give a little over an hour on any Tuesday (2:25pm to 3:40pm) or on any Thursday (1:25pm to 2:40 or 2:25pm to 3:40pm), please email SUPAafterschool@gmail.com and let us know what date you can help. Keep an eye on the PA Facebook page for updates on upcoming activities and registration dates.
 - Issuing birthday invites to school friends is made much easier (and greener!) by sending invites via text. We encourage all parents/guardians to use the Class List feature on the Aladdin app (from the main menu, go to your child's name and then click on Student Menu; Class List is the last item on the menu). You can then opt to participate in the Class List and share text or email address details as you wish. Other parents/guardians in the class will only see your details if they have shared theirs. And why not make it easier on parents and the environment by suggesting a €5 donation instead of a present?
 - Many thanks to the parents/guardians who have agreed to act as PA Class Representative for each class. Their role is to act as an additional link between the class and the PA, to receive minutes of meetings and to help communicate the work of the PA. Remember that any parent is always welcome at our monthly meetings. Of course, you can make an appointment directly with your

child's teacher if there is something you wish to discuss with them. A note is going home with each child this week giving contact details of the PA Class Rep. Please keep this note for the school year and do contact your class rep if needed; the Parents Association works best when we can get your input and ideas!

- We congratulate Stephen Daly and Catherine McGowan on being elected as Parent Nominees to the Board of Management for the four-year term starting in December. Both have been active contributors within the PA and we wish them well in representing the parents/guardians of Scoil Ursula on the Board.

We always welcome more people to help and contribute new ideas – so please think about coming to our next meeting on Wednesday Nov 20th and giving your input. Stay in touch with what we are doing by checking our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Scoil-Ursula-Parents-Association-970193929690511/>) and as always, feel free to email us at scoilursulapa@gmail.com.

- **INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT ON YOUTUBE:** It has come to our notice that some of our pupils have been viewing a highly inappropriate channel on YouTube called Crypt TV. The channel depicts scenes of gross violence and self-harm and we regard it as totally inappropriate for viewing by children of any age. While the school has no jurisdiction over what our pupils view outside school, it is incumbent on us to inform parents when we hear of inappropriate content being accessed. As always, we encourage parents to monitor what their children view in order to keep them safe and happy.
- **ETHOS & MISSION:** Míle buíochas to Fr Victor for celebrating our Beginning of School Year and Mission Mass last week. He made the ceremony very enjoyable and engaging for the children. Also a big THANK YOU to Rhona Kerlin and Rian O' Connor for representing the school at the Parish Mission and giving a very informative presentation on the work Scoil Ursula does to create awareness around environmental issues.
- **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS:** This year's P-T Meetings will take place during the week beginning Monday the 18th of November. Schedules will be sent out to parents in advance.
- **ROAD SAFETY:** As you know, it is very busy in the morning time and in the afternoon with a lot of traffic congestion at the school gates and nearby. Our Garda Liaison Officer has noticed that many parents abandon their cars and walk their children up to and down from the school building. She also noted that some of these children can be as old as 7 or 8 years and would probably be able to make their way up and down on their own. Scoil Ursula, while being very conscious of children with special needs requiring the help of an adult, promotes independence among its pupils and we would recommend that in most cases children from 1st class up could walk up and down on their own. This will serve as good training for them and alleviate some of the congestion at peak times.

- **GREENSCHOOLS & CLIMATE ACTION:**

- Congratulations: Comhghairdeas mór to our Climate Action Committee on organising a spectacularly successful ‘Climate Action Week’. Míle buíochas to Mrs Kernan, Ms Regan & Mrs Ryan and all the staff and pupils who put so much work inside and outside the classroom. Highlights were the ‘Beach Clean Up, in Rosses Point, the Walk on Wednesday (WOW) Event and the hugely impactful Climate Action Protest March (see Sligo Champion for details).
- Lunch Box Pledge: Please sign your children up to our Scoil Ursula Pledge to produce a Zero Waste Lunch to eliminate all single use plastics and other material such as plastic bags, cling film and tinfoil. Thank you for your support!

- **SÚGRADH LE CHÉILE:** The Súgradh le Chéile programme continues this term for pupils and parents of some of our Junior classes. Sligo Sports & Recreational Partnership facilitate sessions of structured play between parents and their children. Thank you to all the parents, pupils and teachers who participated in the workshops and to Mrs Kernan for co-ordinating this very successful and enjoyable event.

- **NATURE WALKS:** We had a very successful nature walk week with Shailagh Healy this week taking a number of our junior classes to explore the autumnal flora and fauna. Thanks again to Mrs Kernan for organising this most worthwhile initiative.

- **STAY SAFE & RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY PROGRAMMES:**

A reminder that both of these programmes are now mandatory to be taught in all Irish Primary Schools and will be taught to all of our pupils unless we receive a specific written request from parents to withdraw their children from these lessons.

- **HALLOWEEN RECYCLING FANCY DRESS DAY:** Once again the Greenschools Committee is organising a fancy dress day tomorrow Friday. There will be a class prize for the most original costumes made from recycled material. Good luck everyone!!

- **SPORT:**

- Athletics: Congratulations to all our participants in the Cross Country event in Sligo IT. Well done to our Senior Girls’ Team and Ava Colreavy, who represented Scoil Ursula with distinction in the Connacht Cross Country Finals in Longford and to parent, Audrey Colreavy on her fantastic Silver Medal in the adult event on her first ever Cross Country event. Míle buíochas to all the parents who helped out with transport and organisation!! Well done to all!!
- Daily Mile: Our teachers are continuing to engage with the Daily Mile initiative over these weeks.

- Hurling: Our hurling team played their Cumann na mBunscol Round Robin Blitz on yesterday last against Strandhill, Carraroe and Gaelscoil. The boys performed well in all their matches but didn't manage to qualify this year.
- GAA Mini-7s: Our Mini 7s teams kick off their campaign in the first round of the competition tomorrow Friday. Míle buíochas to our Cumann na mBunscoil Committee for all the coaching sessions over the past few weeks and good luck to our girls and boys tomorrow!!!!
- **SCHOOL WEBSITE**: Don't forget to keep up with school news, events and policy formation on our school website www.scoilursula.com. You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter and our Junior Infant classes have a very engaging and interactive Instagram page to follow.
- **DATES FOR YOU DIARY**:
 - Mid-Term Break- School closes at normal times (1:30pm & 2:30pm) on Friday, October, 25th and reopens on Monday, November 5th.
 - 1st Confession 2020: Thursday March 19, 7pm, Cathedral
 - Confirmation 2020: Sunday May 24, 12:00, Cathedral
 - 1st Communion 2020: Sunday June 7, 12:00, Cathedral

Le meas,

Tony Gallagher, Principal.