

Scoil Ursula Newsletter

• **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS:**

- Our Christmas disco will be held on Thursday 19th December. Children should wear their PE uniform that day and can swap the sweatshirt/polo for a Christmas jumper if they wish; Santa hats also welcome! Disco for junior infants to 1st class will be from 11:30 to 12:30 and the disco for 2nd to 6th class will be from 1pm-2pm. We are asking for a donation of €2 per child with a maximum of €5 per family (eldest child to bring in family contribution). We need a few volunteers to help supervise the disco from 11:30 to 12:30; if you can help, please email scoilursulapa@gmail.com
- Congratulations to all the children who produced such wonderful Christmas cards. 310 packs were ordered and will delight friends and family!
- We would like to thank children and parents for their generosity in responding to our Vincent de Paul Christmas Giving appeal. There was a fantastic response and the many wonderful toys, lovely hamper treats, and cash donations will bring a lot of happiness and comfort to those in need in our community this Christmas.
- We have 3 new after school activities starting as soon as we return in January (Dance Disco Fun for junior & senior infants Thurs 1:30-2:30pm, Boxing for 3rd to 6th class Tues 2:30-3:30pm, Archery for 3rd to 6th class Thurs 2:30-3:30pm). We need people to sign up now in order to confirm all place allocations before the Christmas break. So far all 4 activities have been fully subscribed and we sincerely thank the volunteers and teachers whose supervision has made this possible. The activities can only continue with the help of 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 too 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.
- We are considering funding internet safety sessions for children in 3rd to 6th class and their parents. Internet safety for younger classes is covered in school but many pupils in older classes have significantly more access to smartphones, tablets and laptops outside of school hours. We will send out a survey link to parents of 3rd class and up by 16th December. Please respond quickly so that we can book a speaker and ensure that the date works for most parents.
- At this time of year, parents are often clearing out books. If you have books that your children are finished with but that are still in good condition, the school would be delighted to receive donations for the class libraries. Books for all ages are welcome but particularly for the 9-12 age group. Please leave books to

Mary's office before the end of term or indeed at any time during the school year.

- Issuing birthday invites to school friends is made much easier (and greener!) by sending invites via text. We strongly encourage all parents/guardians to share contact details using the Class List feature on the Aladdin app. From the main Aladdin 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 mobile number 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?
- Last but not least, we are delighted to have been nominated for the Sligo County Council Cathaoirleach's award which recognises outstanding achievement in contribution to the community. We did not win on this occasion but it is a great honour to have been nominated.

We always welcome more people to help and contribute new ideas – so please think about coming to our next meeting on **Thursday Jan 16th** 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.

- **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:** The school will close for the Christmas Holidays on **Friday, the 20th of December at 12:00 noon** and **reopen on Monday, January 6th**. We wish all our parents and pupils a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year!
- **SHOW TIME:** A number of classes will perform Seasonal productions in the Halla in the run-up to the Christmas holidays. The timetable for families is as follows:
 - **Friday 13th, 11:45am: 6th Class Christmas Craft Fair (Ms White & Ms Barrett)**
 - **Tuesday 17th, 11:15am: Senior Infants (Ms Hoey, Mrs Kernan)**
 - **Wednesday 18th, 9:30am: 1st Class (Ms Mitchell & Mr Phelan)**
 - **Wednesday 18th, 11:15am: Junior Infants (Ms O' Hara & Ms Regan)**
 - **Wednesday 18th, 1:15pm: 2nd Class (Ms Munnely & Ms Dwyer)**

All parents, grandparents, friends & relations are very welcome to come along and enjoy these productions. There will be a collection of voluntary contributions to raise funds for Sligo Cancer Services and Sligo Social Services at each show. Your support is greatly appreciated.

- **NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:** The incoming Board of Management is now fully constituted and will take charge of the governance of Scoil Ursula until 2023. We are indebted to the outgoing members, Deirdre Dwyer, Sharon Carleton, Ultan Smith & Gerard Mullaney for their outstanding contribution on a voluntary basis over the last four years. We look forward to working with our new members to maintain and

improve our school over the coming years. The eight member BOM for 2019-2023 is as follows:

NAME	CONSTITUENCY
Marian Moore	Patron's Nominee
Victor Samugana	Patron's Nominee
Catherine McGowan	Parents' Nominee
Stephen Daly	Parents' Nominee
Tony Gallagher	Teachers' Nominee
Aisleen Colleary	Teachers' Nominee
Beatrice Flavin	Community Nominee
Pat Conway	Community Nominee

- **STAFF CAR PARK:** There are still a small number of parents who bring their children through the car park. A reminder to please use the side paths for entering and exiting the school grounds. It is also safer to use the nearest gate to you to enter or exit the school grounds to prevent having to cross over the car park entrance regardless of which side of the school your child is in i.e. if your child is in the Junior Block and uses the pedestrian crossing, it is safer to use the left-hand entrance and cross over at the back of the school than to cross over the main gate where cars are going in and coming out. **Teach your children safe habits for the day you are not with them.**
- **6th CLASS ART & CRAFT FAIR:** Our two creative 6th classes have been beavering away over the past few weeks in preparation for today's (Friday) Art & Craft Fair. It takes place in the Halla from 11.15am. Proceeds go to World Missions Ireland.
- **HOURLY OF CODE:** This week Scoil Ursula partook in a worldwide coding event. Children had the opportunity to use the Computer Room or work on the school i-Pads to learn how to code. Visit <https://hourofcode.com/ie> to learn more and children can engage further with various coding strategies on this site. Well done to all and to Ms Mc Hugh for coordinating!!
- **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.
- **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**
 - Christmas Holidays: Closing Fri. Dec 20th 12:00, Reopening Mon. January 6th
 - 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.