

Scoil Ursula Newsletter

- **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS:** We hope that you are all enjoying the magic and fun of the Christmas season. As always, we are busy at this time of year and we would love to get more people involved to help and contribute new ideas – so please think about coming to our next meeting 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
 - Thanks to everyone who donated to our Bags to School collection on Tuesday 11th December. We received a bumper lot of bags this time which not only raises funds for the parents association but also enables Bags2School to donate to the Laura Lynn Foundation. Many thanks to our volunteers.
 - Thanks for the incredible response to the Christmas collection for Vincent de Paul on Wednesday 12th December! There was a huge amount of lovely toys that will make many needy families very happy in this season of giving and there was also great generosity in cash donations. The staff from Vincent de Paul were thrilled with the response and asked us to pass on their thanks. And of course, thanks to our volunteers who made it all possible.
 - We expect to receive the Christmas cards back on Thursday 13th of December and they will be sent home with pupils that day. Again we had a great response, with 334 packets of cards ordered so 3,340 beautifully designed cards will go to friends and family this Christmas. Well done to everyone involved and thanks to the teaching staff and Mary for their assistance.
 - There is still no PA class rep for Mrs Ryan's/Mrs Kilgallen's 3rd class. The PA class rep communicates any issues to the PA and gets minutes of all meetings – it does not take much time but is an important role. If you have a child in that class and could assist, please contact scoilursulapa@gmail.com or talk to Pamela at 087-9023031 to get further details.
 - Our next meeting is in the school at 8:15pm on Thursday 17th January. Please come along to give your input and ideas.
- **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:** The school will close for the Christmas Holidays on **Friday, the 21st of December at 12:00 noon** and **reopen on Monday, January 7th.** We wish all our parents and pupils a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year!
- **ALADDIN CONNECT APP:** A big thank you to those of you who have downloaded and set up the Aladdin Connect App. 80% of our families are now linked to the school using this app. We are asking those of you who haven't had an opportunity to download it yet to do so as soon as possible. Our plan is to migrate fully from text messages to App notifications by the end of the year. From the New Year communications from the school will be via Connect App notifications.

- **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:
 - **Thursday 13th, 11:45am: 6th Class Christmas Fair (Mrs White & Mr Phelan)**
 - **Tuesday 18th, 10:50am: Senior Infants (Ms Hoey, Mrs Kernan)**
 - **Tuesday 18th, 1:10pm: 1st Class (Ms Maguire, Mrs Keating & Ms Mitchell)**
 - **Wednesday 19th, 10:50: Junior Infants (Mrs Leahy & Ms O' Hara)**
 - **Wednesday 19th, 1:10pm: 2nd Class (Ms Regan & Ms O' Connor)**

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.

- **UPDATED DATA PROTECTION POLICY:** We have drafted an updated version of our Data Protection Policy to comply with new European GDPR regulations and invite submissions from interested parties. The draft policy can be viewed on the publications page of our website (<http://www.scoilursula.com/draft-policies.html>) and we are open to submissions by email to scoilursula.ias@eircom.net until January 9th.
- **CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARD WINNER, 2018** Scoil Ursula has been selected as a winner in Sligo County Council's Cathaoirleach's Awards 2018 in the Schools category. The Awards were devised to honour individuals or groups who have made a special contribution to their community. The selection committee was hugely impressed with the school's enormous contribution to our community, and a delegation of pupils and teachers from the school will receive the award at a ceremony to be held on Thursday 13th December in Council Chamber, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo. Míle comhghairdeas to Mrs Ryan, Mrs Kernan and their dedicated team of workers, who have brought this honour to the school. It is just recognition of the enormous contribution they make to life in Scoil Ursula and some compensation for the recent disappointment of the vandalism. We also pay tribute to our many benefactors, who generously made donations to help us restore our Outdoor Classroom, especially Andy Donaghy of Coach Lane, who kindly offered to replace our polytunnel and Gary Kilcullen, who installed a security sensor light free of charge!! Míle buíochas, gach duine!!!
- **PROCEDURE FOR PARENTAL CONCERNS:** A reminder to parents that, if you feel you have an issue or a grievance concerning your child, your first step is to make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher. Most issues can be addressed and resolved to everyone's satisfaction through this process. **Please note that it is never appropriate for parents to approach a teacher unannounced especially if they are in an agitated state. The procedures are there for everybody's protection!**
- **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 tomorrow's (Thursday) Art & Craft Fair. It takes place in the Halla from 1pm. Proceeds go to the restoration of our Outdoor Classroom!
- **HOURLY OF CODE:** Last 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 21st 12:00, Reopening Mon. January 7th
 - 1st Confession 2019: Thursday March 21, 7pm, Cathedral
 - Confirmation 2019: Sunday May 19, 12:00, Cathedral
 - 1st Communion 2019: Sunday June 9, 12:00, Cathedral

Le meas,

Tony Gallagher, Principal.