



December Newsletter

Dear Parents: Here is a flavour of some of the activities going on in the school at the moment.

Pre-school : Aine's Class

- We have been learning our snowflake song to perform for our mummies and Daddies

Junior Infants: Louise's Class

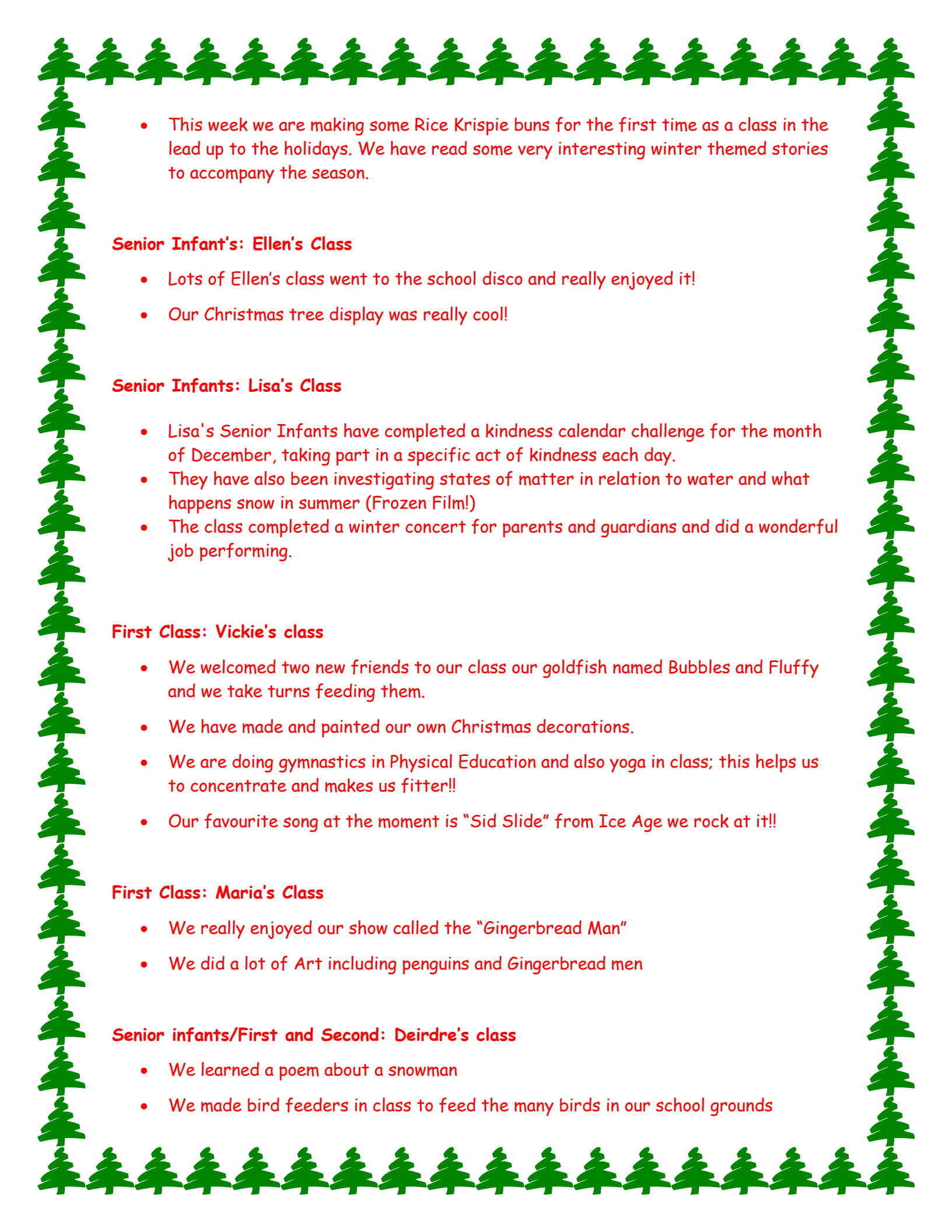
- The children have been busy learning about Winter in class and have made a lovely Winter Art display.
- We have learned about the Robin bird and made beautiful robins in Art class.

Junior Infants: Rachel's class

- Junior Infants have been very busy this term learning our sounds and tricky words. Everybody should be extremely proud of themselves and huge thanks to the parents for helping them practice..
- During the month of November, our Aistear theme was The Post Office. We learnt how to write and post a letter. Our Post Lady Trish visited the school and took us out to have a sneak peek into the back of her van to see all the parcels and letters she was about to deliver. We walked down to Mungret Post Office and we were lucky enough to see firsthand how the post office is run. Everybody had a wonderful time and the Postmaster generously gave everyone a treat!
- This month we made Woolly Hats to keep us warm during the Winter months. We also made snowflakes to hang on our Christmas Tree. Every snowflake was different and unique, just like us!

Junior Infants: Bernie's Class

- Bernie's Junior Infants have been very busy at work learning lots of sounds and trying to learn some tricky words as well practicing their letter writing. They should be very proud of all they have achieved since September.
- Junior Infants have designed some fabulous matching hat and scarves for their snowmen and some equally festive mittens.

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- This week we are making some Rice Krispie buns for the first time as a class in the lead up to the holidays. We have read some very interesting winter themed stories to accompany the season.

Senior Infant's: Ellen's Class

- Lots of Ellen's class went to the school disco and really enjoyed it!
- Our Christmas tree display was really cool!

Senior Infants: Lisa's Class

- Lisa's Senior Infants have completed a kindness calendar challenge for the month of December, taking part in a specific act of kindness each day.
- They have also been investigating states of matter in relation to water and what happens snow in summer (Frozen Film!)
- The class completed a winter concert for parents and guardians and did a wonderful job performing.

First Class: Vickie's class

- We welcomed two new friends to our class our goldfish named Bubbles and Fluffy and we take turns feeding them.
- We have made and painted our own Christmas decorations.
- We are doing gymnastics in Physical Education and also yoga in class; this helps us to concentrate and makes us fitter!!
- Our favourite song at the moment is "Sid Slide" from Ice Age we rock at it!!

First Class: Maria's Class

- We really enjoyed our show called the "Gingerbread Man"
- We did a lot of Art including penguins and Gingerbread men

Senior infants/First and Second: Deirdre's class

- We learned a poem about a snowman
- We made bird feeders in class to feed the many birds in our school grounds

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- We made our own sock snowmen that we brought home

Second Class: Anne-Marie's Class

- We did our Christmas play called "Cinderella's Grumpy Turkey"
- We produced lovely Christmas trees and Penguins in Art
- Well done to Jael who is our writer of the month for November
- Well done to Abdullah who is our writer of the month for December

Second/Third Class: Fiona's Class

- Our Christmas show was called " Brian the Christmas Tree"
- Congratulations to Saoirse on winning second prize in the Trinity College Book of Kells Creative Writing Competition.
- We have been busy in art class this month making reindeer, polar bears and snowflakes.

Third Class: Claire's Class

- We enjoyed our show called " Eddie The Penguin"
- We took part in a project with An Taisce called the " Leaf Programme" we learned all about trees and forests.

Fourth Class: Siobhan's Class

- Some of third and fourth class went to the factory to play in a soccer competition
- Well done to Danny and Gerard for completing a lovely project on the Titanic.

Fifth Class: Brian's class

- Gabriel Fitzmaurice from poetry Ireland carried out a superb workshop with our class. He entertained the class by reading some of his own published work as well as singing songs. The children produced their own poems based on the theme of immigration.
- Isabelle and Shannon continue to do well with their horse riding lessons and have won medals and rosettes in recent competitions.



Sixth Class: Pamela's class

- We welcome back Sophia McSweeney back to our school
- Sixth class have a you tube channel called LETS do Maths 6th. We are in the process of recording videos to upload
- Sarah got a blue belt in Aikido and Mantas got an orange tag.
- We are taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur programme again this year.
- We had a great fieldtrip to Currachase with Geoff Hunt we bere bird and squirrel watching, we were even lucky enough to spot some native red squirrels!

Policy Development

- We recently updated our Code of Behaviour and Child Protection Policy for the school. Thanks to staff, Board of Management and parents who helped with this.
- We publish all of our policies on our website.
- We will be updating our Assessment and Anti-Bullying Policies in the New Year, please let the Parents Association Know if you are interested in the review process.

Attendance

- Our attendance across the school is excellent and is 94%, please remember to inform us if your child is absent and the reason for this absence, we have to record this and return to the Department.

Curriculum

- All teaching Staff have attended a seminar on the Revised Languages Curriculum
- We are beginning to implement this curriculum across the junior level in the school

First Aid

- All our non-teaching staff have attended training in First Aid

Green School

- We are working towards our Green School Flag for Water
- All classes are taking turns to decorate a Green School noticeboard on the topic of water
- We would be interested in having a parent who works in this field to contact us with a view to doing some work with a class.



General extracurricular activities

- Two teams from Third and Fourth took part in a FAI organized soccer blitz
- Second to Sixth classes attended the pool in the University of Limerick for water based strand of the Aquatics curriculum
- Limerick Fire Service worked on a fire safety project with Fiona's and Claire's class
- Fifth and sixth took part in a poetry workshop facilitated by poetry Ireland.
- The Book Club was a huge success and profit made will be spent on books for the children.
- Our choir sung beautifully in the Crescent shopping centre, thanks to everybody who came along to help and support.
- Fourth to sixth classes attended science shows in LIT as part of science week.
- Afterschool Activities: Here are some of the classes that are happening after school at the moment:
 - Irish Dancing
 - Drama
 - Board Games
 - Choir

Parents Association

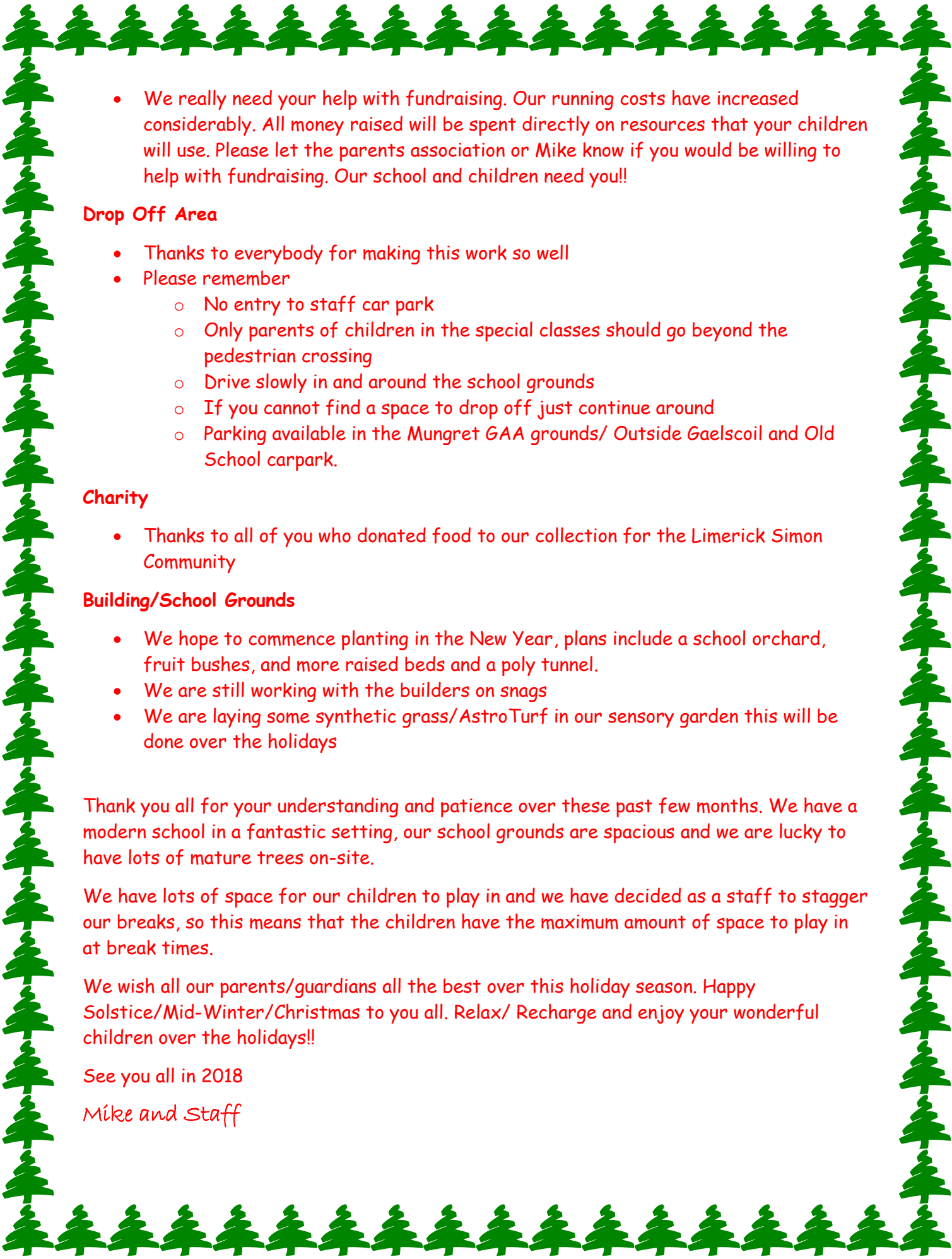
- Our next meeting will be held in the school on Thursday 18th January at 7:00 p.m.
- We will have a coffee morning in the school hall on Thursday 11th Jan at 8:40 come along for a cuppa!!

Congratulations

- To Brian, our Fifth class teacher, who is getting married over the holidays
- To Grainne. Our senior infant teacher, who had a baby boy recently
- To all our students who won prizes in the Dooradoyle Art Competition
 - Niko
 - Zach
 - Doroiti
 - Fatima
 - Barrinwth.

Fundraising

- Cash for Clobber: we raised € 1000 from this thanks to all who helped make this such a success
- School Disco: We raised €800 from this and all the children had a great time. Thanks to everybody who helped sell tickets, collect spot prizes and helped on the night.
- All money raised this year will be spent on our new school library.

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- We really need your help with fundraising. Our running costs have increased considerably. All money raised will be spent directly on resources that your children will use. Please let the parents association or Mike know if you would be willing to help with fundraising. Our school and children need you!!

Drop Off Area

- Thanks to everybody for making this work so well
- Please remember
 - No entry to staff car park
 - Only parents of children in the special classes should go beyond the pedestrian crossing
 - Drive slowly in and around the school grounds
 - If you cannot find a space to drop off just continue around
 - Parking available in the Mungret GAA grounds/ Outside Gaelscoil and Old School carpark.

Charity

- Thanks to all of you who donated food to our collection for the Limerick Simon Community

Building/School Grounds

- We hope to commence planting in the New Year, plans include a school orchard, fruit bushes, and more raised beds and a poly tunnel.
- We are still working with the builders on snags
- We are laying some synthetic grass/AstroTurf in our sensory garden this will be done over the holidays

Thank you all for your understanding and patience over these past few months. We have a modern school in a fantastic setting, our school grounds are spacious and we are lucky to have lots of mature trees on-site.

We have lots of space for our children to play in and we have decided as a staff to stagger our breaks, so this means that the children have the maximum amount of space to play in at break times.

We wish all our parents/guardians all the best over this holiday season. Happy Solstice/Mid-Winter/Christmas to you all. Relax/ Recharge and enjoy your wonderful children over the holidays!!

See you all in 2018

Mike and Staff

