

**Rosenallis NS,
Rosenallis,
Co.Laois**

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057-8628663**

Christmas Newsletter 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone in our school community for all of their patience, commitment and hard work as we near the end of an extraordinary calendar year in the school. Everyone has played their part in ensuring that the school has remained open since we have returned from the summer holidays. It is a testament to the culture in Rosenallis N.S. that everyone looked out for each other and followed the guidelines and protocols that are in place.

We can hope that after the Christmas holidays a return to normal is on the horizon and that we will be able to continue with some of the school activities that we have had to forego in recent months. We will need to remain extremely vigilant on our return and continue to follow the guidelines outlined by the Department but there is hope that better, more normal school days are ahead in the coming months.

Considering all the changes we have had to make in the school since our return, we have had a very busy and action packed first term. The children have really enjoyed being in school and learning with their peers. Our new Junior Infants have settled into school life really well and all of our pupils have made great progress considering the time they missed over the past year and a half due to school closures.

In this newsletter, we will outline our news, activities and some future events. We have also included pictures of art and other activities the pupils have been working on in recent weeks.

On behalf of all the staff and Board of Management, I would like to wish everyone in the school community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Rory Walsh

Principal

Parent's Association Christmas Draw

I would like to thank everyone in the school community who supported our Christmas Draw in recent weeks. The draw was a huge success again this year. Congratulations to all our winners. The money raised from the draw will be used to fund projects that will enhance our yard areas for the students. Thanks again for your kindness and generosity.

Christmas Concert

The pupils and teachers put together a short video of some songs, music and performances this Christmas for you all to enjoy. The links to view the recordings can be found on our school website. We would have loved to have welcomed parents in to see the children performing their songs but it wasn't to be this year. We hope that you enjoy it. I would like to thank Ms. Karen McCormack for her work in helping to preparing the tin whistle element of the performances. Well done to all of the teachers and pupils.

Enrolment 2022/2023

We will be accepting enrolments for the next school year from January 13th. Please contact the office for application forms.

In-School Activities

We have resumed tin whistle lessons for 2nd – 6th Class as part of our music programme. We encourage all of our students to participate in these lessons as they are a great foundation for learning other instruments and are a fun activity for the classes to take part in together.

Mr. Walsh and Ms. Kinnarney's classes piloted the use of Minecraft Education, which is a series of lessons rolled out by Microsoft and RTÉ. The aim of the project was to increase students' exposure to and engagement with STEM subjects (**S**cience, **M**athematics, **E**ngineering and **T**echnology). The students really enjoyed the project.

Ms. Purcell and Ms. Haverty's class have been engaging with the Aistear Early Learning Curriculum and are really enjoying it. They also put a huge effort into their Christmas Nativity which was excellent. Well done boys and girls!

Members of Ms. Doyle's class received certificates for their participation in the Poetry Town Competition. They also completed excellent entries for the Children's Book Festival Essay

Competition and they did a workshop on Enterprise Awareness with Laois Partnership. Well done to all who participated.

Absences

A reminder to please email your child's teacher or send them a note if your child is absent, as we are required to keep a written record relating to all absences.

Ventilation

Schools have been advised to continue to maintain good ventilation in classrooms to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. As a result, we will be keeping windows and doors open as continue through the cooler winter months. We will heat the school and the classrooms as usual but with open doors and windows the classrooms will be cooler than normal. We ask that pupils dress appropriately for the weather. Please wear layers and bring coats, hats and scarves to school when the weather is cold. Pupils will be allowed to wear their coats inside if they need to.

We are awaiting more detailed guidance from the Department of Education regarding HEPA filtration units, etc. and we will follow any updated advice on this when we receive it.

Healthy Eating

We encourage children to bring healthy lunches and snacks to school. We encourage families to only send a treat in on a Friday.

Christmas Activities

The pupils in all our classes have been taking part in lots of different Christmas activities as we come close to the holidays. Take a look at the pictures below to see some of the things we have been up to.





The pupils will be allowed to dress in something festive this year on Wednesday 22nd December. We look forward to seeing all of the children getting into the Christmas spirit.

The school will close at 12pm on Friday 22nd December for the Christmas break. We will re-open again on Thursday 6th January. I have included some activities below for any children who need to be entertained on a rainy day over the break. We hope that everyone has a very enjoyable Christmas holidays.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

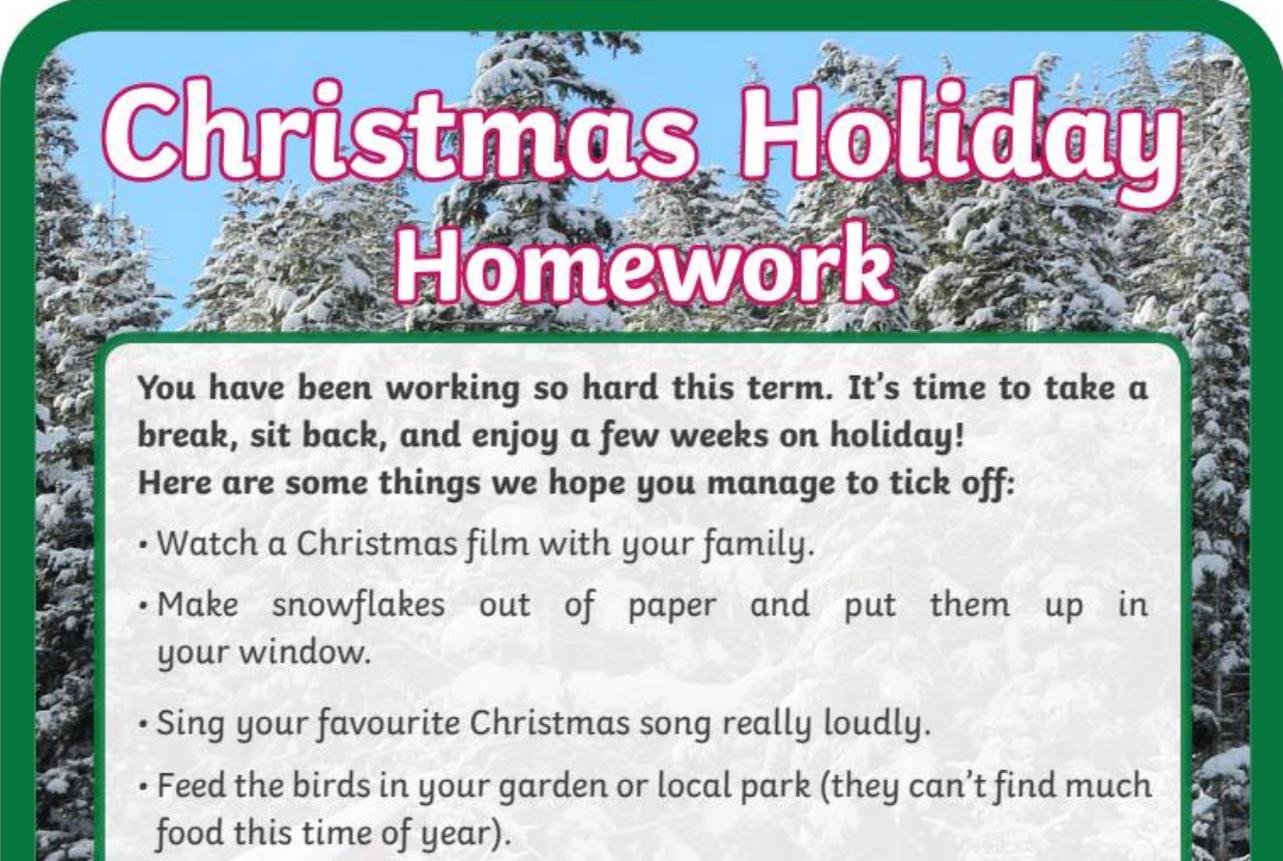
Stay safe and have a lovely Christmas.

Kind regards,

Rory Walsh

Principal

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Christmas Holiday Homework

You have been working so hard this term. It's time to take a break, sit back, and enjoy a few weeks on holiday!

Here are some things we hope you manage to tick off:

- Watch a Christmas film with your family.
- Make snowflakes out of paper and put them up in your window.
- Sing your favourite Christmas song really loudly.
- Feed the birds in your garden or local park (they can't find much food this time of year).

- Wear your pyjamas all day!
- Make something (like a monster or an ocean) out of discarded wrapping paper.
- Help your family to cook a delicious meal.
- Make a den out of duvets and blankets.
- Stay up late telling spooky stories or silly jokes.
- Make a paper chain with a friend or your family.
- Go on a hunt around your local area to find the best Christmas lights or decorations.
- Have a warming hot chocolate or put on cosy socks when you come in from the cold.
- Make a New Year's resolution on New Year's Eve.