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Dear parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of Spring.

To date, 2019 has already proven to be a very busy time, with enrolments for our new Junior Infants taking place over the month of January. We have made our first round offers for the school year 2019 to 2020. Anyone who has not been offered a place will be placed on a waiting list and notified in due course if any further places arise.

**Visitors to the School**

We were delighted to accommodate, in conjunction with the Senior School, the visit of a group of teachers and principals from Russia on Tuesday 5th February. The focus of their visit was to look at how the use of ICT in our schools supports teaching, learning and assessment. A very special thanks to all teachers involved, including Ms White, Ms Cahill, Ms Reilly, Ms McCartney, Mr Nolan, Ms Rochford and Ms O’Brien. We also had the help of our amazing 2nd class student council during the visit, who were able to explain to the delegation how ICT was being used in each of the rooms that were visited.

It was very interesting to hear from the visitors the comparisons between school here and schools in Russia. We were delighted to hear the representatives comment on how happy the children looked in their classrooms while they were learning, which, as a school, is our primary concern.

**Internet Safety Week**

Internet safety week took place this week. The children took part in a number of activities which promoted the safe use of the internet. Thanks to Ms White and Ms O’Brien for its organization.

**School Garden Project**

The children have been very busy in the school grounds lately learning about biodiversity and planting a willow fence. We have great plans to develop a biodiversity trail around our school grounds, starting with our own Native Woodland.

To do this properly we really need the support of our whole school community. If you are interested in helping out please contact our parent volunteers below - no experience is required! Many hands make light work 😊

Susan Morgan: susankavanaghirish@gmail.com

Claire Kelly: clairekelly30@gmail.com

**Grandparent’s Day**

Grandparent’s day took place on Thursday 7th February. This is always a highlight for the children in 2nd class. We had a huge turnout with over 120 grandparents in attendance. The children were delighted to welcome their grandparents and interview them in regard to school life when they were young. They enjoyed comparing their grandparents’ personal histories to that of their own. We are extremely grateful to Fr George who finished the day by leading the children and their grandparents in a prayer service. A special thanks also to the members of the Parents’ Association who served refreshments to our special guests and, of course, to our 2nd class teachers for organising the activities of the day.

**Aldi Promotion**

Aldi currently have an ongoing promotion which gives schools a chance to win €50,000 to put towards developing their sports playing facilities. If **(and only if)** you already shop in Aldi, we would be grateful if you could collect the stickers for the promotion and send them with your children into school. Many thanks for your help.

Kind regards,

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Órfhlaith Clarke (principal)