**Annagh Hill N.S. Christmas Newsletter 2017**

It’s hard to believe that it’s this time year again already! We are delighted to say it has been a great first term and the children have done us all proud here in Annagh Hill National School.

**Shoebox Appeal - 10/11/2017:** Well done to our students who took part in Team Hope's Shoebox Appeal. It is such a worthy cause and we were delighted to get involved.

**Tuam Education Maths Quiz - 24/11/2017:** Very well done to Shane, Ryan, Dylan and Morgan who represented our school so well today in a maths quiz organised by Tuam Education Centre. The quiz was held in the Ard Rí House Hotel in Tuam. The quiz was a great challenge and we are very proud of the boys! Thanks to Mr. Greaney for coaching them for this competition.

**The Late Late Toy Show – 01/12/2017:** Congratulations to Katie Watts Renton in 4th class who took part in The Late Late Toy Show on Friday, December 1st. Katie confidently presented a toy and told some jokes on the show.

**Sale of Work 03/12/2017:** A huge thank you to our wonderful parents who year after year put in Trojan work to organise the Sale of Work. Thank you to those who sponsored and donated prizes. Many thanks also, to everyone who came to our Sale of Work. It was a super success and a very enjoyable day for all. The money raised will go towards making necessary improvements to the school, thus enhancing the learning experiences of the children. The support we received from the local community was amazing and we really appreciate it. The total amount raised exceeded €8000 so we are forever indebted to the whole school community for this. Thank you.

**Wedding Bells!:** Congratulations to Ms. Heneghan who got married on Friday December 5th. We wish her and James every happiness in their married life together.

**Science**

**Science week:** Science Week took place from Monday November 13th to Friday 17th during which, two science quizzes were held for all the children. On Wednesday November 15, the children from 3rd to 6th classes had a science quiz in the hall. Congratulations to Jessica Murphy, Sarah Nevin, Caleb Donnellan and Blaine Biggins, all of whom were on the winning team.

On Thursday 16th, the children from Junior Infants to Second Class all took part in a science quiz in Ms. Flynn’s room. There were ten teams and they all worked hard. Particular congratulations to the winning team which comprised of Freya Donnellan, MJ Heneghan, Ayla Johnson and Jack Nally.

**Food Dudes:** Food Dudes is a healthy eating programme which is managed by Bord Bia and introduced to a variety of schools in Ireland and Europe at various stages. It began in our school on Thursday November 16th and this was our third time taking part in the initiative. Thanks to Ms. Flynn for coordinating the Food Dudes programme for the school. Thanks also to the children in 5th and 6th class who helped Ms. Flynn in distributing the food each day. Phase 1 involved the children from Junior Infants to Second class while phase 2 got every child in the school involved.

Portions of fresh fruit and vegetables were delivered to the school early each morning for every child and the children received fantastic rewards for eating the fruit and vegetables. The programme was a huge success in that some children who did not like many of the foods at the beginning, ate and liked everything by the end. On the last day of phase 2, each child was rewarded with a very nice fruit and vegetables lunchbox, in the hope that they will carry on bringing in a portion of fruit and vegetables for lunch each day.

Phase 3 began on Thursday, December 7th and is ongoing. This involves the children bringing in their own fruit and vegetables in an effort to maintain healthy diets and receive certificates for doing so.

**Music**

**Christmas Carol Service:** The Christmas carol service took place on Wednesday December 6th last. It was held in the school hall and was a great success. Congratulations to all the children who thoroughly enjoyed it and thanks to all the teachers for preparing the children.

**Sport**

**Soccer -10/10/2017:** The boys in 3rd and 4th classes travelled to Tuam on Tuesday October 10th last to take part in a soccer blitz. The blitz was organised by the FAI and the boys really enjoyed the matches. They performed very well.

**Mini Olympic Handball - 30/11/2017:** The under 11’s Olympic Handball team played in the first round of the competition in St. Pat’s in Tuam on November 30th last. Congratulations to the girls who won all of their matches and qualified for the quarter finals. This was played in Knocknacarra on December 5th last. The girls played two games but unfortunately narrowly lost them both. We are very proud of them for getting so far in the competition. Thanks to Mrs Hughes for coaching the girls.

**Other Events**

**Brooklodge Nursing Home:** The children from 5th and 6th classes entertained the residents of Brooklodge Nursing Home on Wednesday, December 20th with a mix of carol singing, set dancing, Irish dancing, violin music and gymnastics. It was a lovely occasion and thanks to the staff of Brookldge Nursing Home for their welcome and hospitality.

**Rudolf Saves Christmas:** The children from Junior Infants to 2nd class went to see The Talisman Theatre Company’s ‘Rudolf Saves Christmas’, the musical on Wednesday, December 20th In Leisureland. They were highly amused and entertained throughout the whole show and with the children’s help, we were all delighted to see that Rudolf saved Christmas after all!

**NB: School Closure:** The school will be closed on Friday 16th March, 2018 to facilitate an In-service Day based on the New Primary Planning Curriculum.

**Enrolment Forms:** Enrolment forms will be available in the school from January 8th.

**Cash for Clobber:** The next Cash for Clobber collection will take place on January 11th, 2018.

**Classes in the Hall:**

Karate with Jimmy O’Gorman will resume on Wednesday January 10th.

Drama with Sarah Hession will resume in January.

Unfortunately due to poor attendance, Zumba classes with Alex will not continue in January.

**NB:** A new Beginners Boot camp class will begin on Tuesday 9th January at 8.15. For details please contact Cian on 087 9925177 or email ciangriffin@gmail.com.

Thank you all so much for your continued generosity and support for our school. It is very much appreciated. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas filled with peace and joy and look forward to welcoming all the children back safely on Monday January 8th, 2018.