**School News Update 17 1 22**

**Inspection and Covid**

As you know the school had an inspection before Christmas in relation to Covid measures and was found fully compliant in all areas. The inspection report has now been verified and has been sent to the Board of Management, the Patron and the Parents Association. Next it will be published on the Department of Education web site and we will also publish it on the school web site. Thanks to everyone for their support with the Covid measures taken by the school.

**Regarding Covid, Antigen testing and isolation** – Changes for primary school children announced last week mean that antigen tests only are required and not PCR tests. We are awaiting updated guidance from the Department, however, If your child has symptoms and tests positive on an antigen test please let us know and we will inform parents of children in that pod that a child is positive, (names are not used). We have posted links to the new HSE advice on the top right hand corner of the school web site at knockconanns.weebly.com)**.**

Some parents have been regularly testing children with antigen tests as a precautionary measure and we really appreciate this.

**School Facemasks.**

We have given children from 3rd – 6th school facemasks with the school name and logo printed on them. These masks can be washed when they go home and hung up to dry for the next day (we don’t advise tumbledrying). Please note that if a child forgets their mask we have spare surgical masks in the school.

**PDST Visit**

We had our second day with our PDST advisor on the New Primary Language Curriculum last week. Class teachers were relieved by SET teachers in twos during the day to go through planning for the updated curriculum in the school.

**Active Schools**

Mr. White is organizing our activities for our next application for an Active Schools Flag. Activities will include athletics, soccer, volleyball, gymnastics and other sports with an Active Schools Week to be arranged towards the end of the school year. Activities will start with soccer on Wednesday for the next 4 weeks for **all classes** – so **children will need PE gear on Wednesdays**

**Creative Schools / BLAST**

The school was successful in its application for “BLAST” arts funding. We have been notified that the artist we will be working with for this project is Ria O Connor who works with ceramics and clay. We will be linking this arts project to our Science work on water and rivers.

The aim of this scheme is to give pupils in schools all over the country the opportunity to work with a professional artist on unique projects, to be originated and planned between the artist, the teacher and the school.

**The Little Ripples Project**

Work has continued on our new wildlife garden and pond with trees, shrubs and flowers including lots of bulbs planted. Our information panels have been erected (one each in English & Gaeilge). The panels have lots of information about our local river, the Blackwater, and the wildlife that live around it. More bulbs have been planted at the front of the school (behind the flagpoles) – so we hope to have lots of colour this spring.

Fieldtrips for this project, which involves Mr Buckleys room, have been delayed by Covid but will hopefully happen later in the spring.

**AUP**

We have been working with our PDST advisor on our Digital School Plan and we have with her help updated our Acceptable Use Policy. This policy relates to the use of digital technologies and the internet in the school. The new draft policy is now ready and is available on the school web site for feedback. It will be put forward at the next meeting of the Board of Management for ratification. As with all policies we welcome your views.