



School of the Divine Child

Plans for School Return September 2021

Questions for us as a staff.

- How would pupils react to masks?
- ► Each class became a pod. Two classrooms/pods became a bubble
- Limit interactions to bubbles
- Ventilation need to identify outdoor spaces for each classroom
- How would we deal with pupils questions with regard to Covid?
- How could we turn this threat into an opportunity for learning about managing situations that arise in life.

How can we capture the student voice?

- Adventures
- Projects
- Student advisory group consisting of representative pupils from all classes
- Partnerships Music Mash Up
 - MTU School of Music
 - Creative Schools
 - online partnerships

Developing a vision and aims for School of the Divine Child Creative School Plan Notes from meeting staff, speaking with Mary and the Student Advisory Group

Students are part of the planning, decision making, project development and evaluation. A Student **Advisory Council is** group where students' are primarily listened to. They are invited to share their opinions on things

Incorporating artistic engagements into the everyday life of a class. Repeating and experimenting with props, songs, games, etc.

Sensory play

Creativity and creative activities really support connection. Children want to connect with children and staff. Who

Children have choice. Children make choices. Choices are made by the student. An activity takes on a life of its own by the student's decision.

Age appropriate activities

Build local and national connection with excellent artists and creative practitioners who develop work with and for children and young people with profound and complex needs. **Connections such as**

Concrete experiences. Students make decisions in their activities. Create the environment for this to happen

Connection means: feeling included, seeing others, hearing my name been called? Feeling that I am part of this experience. I'm with people who want to be with me in fun ways.

Covid 19

restrictions and impact **Artists and creative** facilitators need time to get to know the children, young people and staff at the beginning of a project.

How can children be part of the decision making?

Whole school activities support a sense of belonging

Develop outdoor spaces in the school environment















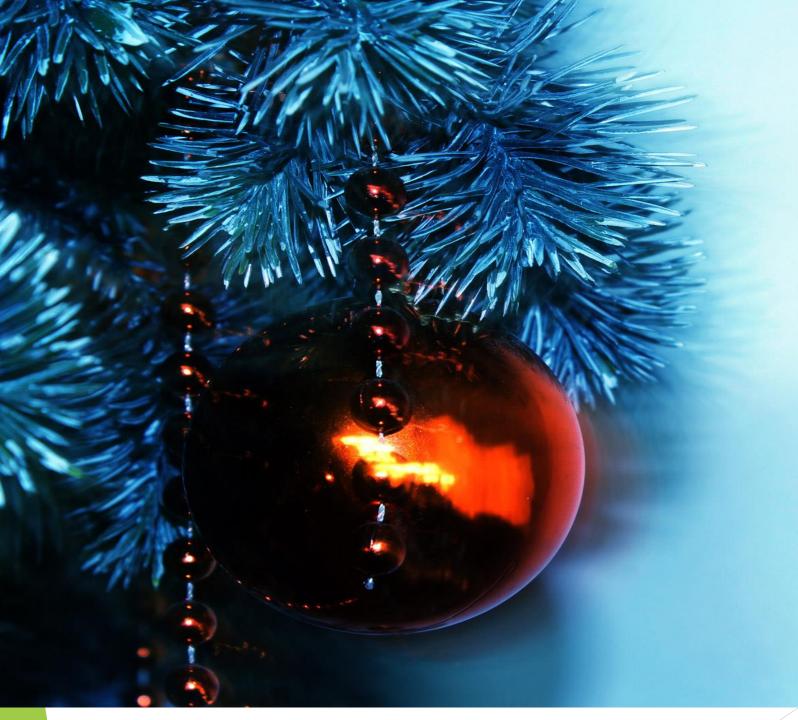


"Our Winter Song" - Winter Jam Cork City 2020
Click the link

"Our Winter Song" is the result of a collaboration between students of School of the Divine Child (SDC/Lavanagh Centre). Ballintemple, Cork.

Community Music degree students of CIT Cork School of Music as part of "Winter Jam Cork City 2020" It was devised by Edel Sullivan (CITCSM) in association with Clodagh Kearney (Music Mash Up/Music Generation

www.youtube.com



Window Visiting

Each class invited the other classes to visit.

Windows were decorated and personalised with names of visiting classes

Christmas themed jokes, treasure hunts, and guess the Christmas song/movie.

Windows were open with pupils inside greeting the visiting class and singing Christmas songs with them.



Flash Mob Dance

The whole school "came together" [observing covid protocols/distancing] in different rooms, corridor and hall doing a dance routine for Jingle Bells and singing Christmas carols.

All pupils were visible to each other as these areas had windows that all opened onto a central courtyard. Pupils enjoyed waving at and greeting each other.

In January we were asked to stay at home. We held school zooms every second day. Teachers and SNAs worked in teams organising joke sessions, baking, science experiments, magic, joke sessions, quizzes and disco dancing.

- The pupils greatly enjoyed seeing a familiar face greeting them by name, singing a song and taking part in a movement activity.

 The familiarity of Lámh signs in these meetings was very meaningful.

 It eased the sense of isolation and fostered connectivity at an unusual time.
- Advisory Group meetings take place on zoom per fortnight. It is wonderful hear our pupils' voices verbally and by eye gaze.
- The delight in the pupils faces at seeing each other on zoom is heart warming. The pupils express their delight at seeing each other and express their sadness at missing seeing their friends. [At present they are only seeing pupils in their own pod and bubble].
 - They chat about their favourite creative activities and proudly show and discuss some of the work they have been doing in class.
- Their most urgent desire is to see more of each other and their friends from other classes.



Music chimes installed and presented to the School by Garry Jones.

www.theharmonicaforge.com

March 2021

We had our annual St Patrick's Parade. This year was a parade with a difference. We got all the students to dress up in green. We made a video of all the outfits and took to zoom again for our virtual parade. We had great fun and thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations. We ended up with three St Patrick's



The Great Outdoors

- This year we have availed of the wonderful resources around Páirc Ui Chaoimh and the Atlantic Pond. (however, we do experience difficulties getting around as the footpaths are two narrow for our power wheelchairs).
- We have watched developments in the new Marina Park with wonder and look forward to going there each week next year.
- ▶ We have a range of sea shanties recorded so that next year we can sing on the bank of the River Lee on the Marina.
- We also did a lot of gardening, planted some vegetables and bulbs.

<u>Incredible Edibles</u>





Enjoying life outdoors

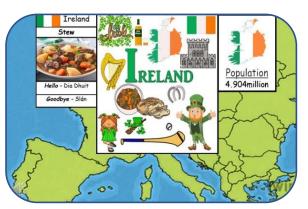






We explored the European Union. We learned about the history, culture language, food and institutions of the E.U.















► Pupil voice

"Movement and mime with my class outdoors always makes me happy" "I never knew so many people could be on Zoom" "I love music and home economics"

"I miss my friends"

"I love seeing my classmates and I love seeing pupils from other classes"

"I love drawing and colouring"

"I love action songs and movement to music" "I would like to see my

other classes"

friends in

"I am very

people and

finding out

about them"

interested in

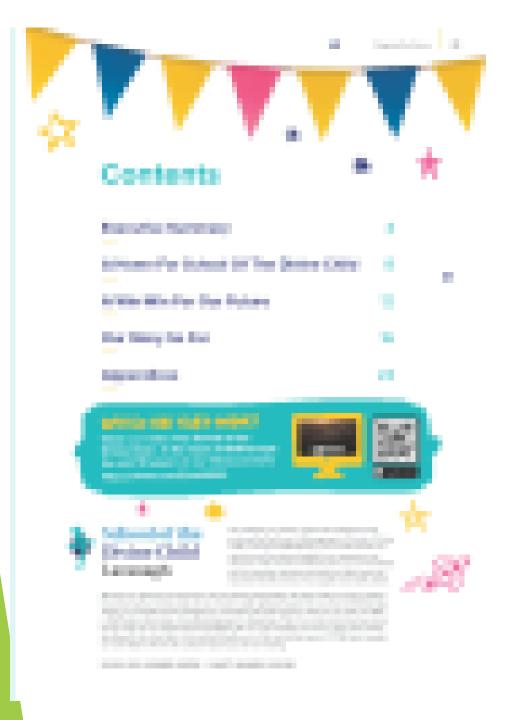


The Board of Management

At Board of Management level discussion took place on the work being undertaken within the school. It was agreed to invest in a video and publish a brochure.

Making the video was challenging as Covid protocols had to be adhered to at all times.

Click on the centre of graphic in next slide to see our video



Click this link to watch video

https://vimeo.com/531446990

THE END