



## DIGNITY PACKS

April 2021

According to data published in a report by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on Gov.ie in February 2021, there were 5,974 adults homeless in Ireland. This figure only represents adults accessing emergency accommodation. This number does not include 'hidden homelessness' which refers to people who are living in squats or 'sofa surfing' with friends, or sleeping rough on our streets. The data also does not include the number of children in our country affected by homelessness.

The Student Council of St. Patrick's Loreto Primary School, in collaboration with the Parent Association, wish to continue the good work and build on the success of the previous two years with Dignity Packs. We plan to run a Dignity Packs production line in May, to make 250 Dignity Packs. These Dignity Packs will be distributed to homeless people in the Dublin and Wicklow areas. We are trying to create a sense of social responsibility and encourage a sense of gratitude in our pupils.

### What are Dignity Packs?

In 2015, a student from Loreto Bray, Molly Comish, came up with the novel idea of 'Dignity Packs'. She felt compelled to do something when she was struck by the number of homeless people on the streets of Dublin city on Christmas Eve.

St. Patrick's Student Council was inspired by Molly's actions and committed to fundraising in order to buy stock to fill the Dignity Packs with basic items that a person who is homeless may need on a daily basis. This is supported and encouraged by the staff, Board of Management and Parent Association.

**Thanks to your generosity, €1024 was raised on Christmas Colours Day.** This money will be used to purchase stock for the Dignity Packs. However, we still need your help!

Many aspects of life as we know it have changed due to the pandemic. We acknowledge that many families are experiencing difficult and challenging times. If you are in a position to help, we are suggesting that each class group bring in specific items. Please see below. A box will be placed in or outside your child's classroom. The children will place the items in the box and the items will be left to quarantine. The production line will be somewhat different this year, taking place over a number of days, in compliance with Covid procedures.

Class	Item
Junior Infants	Baby Wipes
Senior Infants	Toothbrushes – single or twin packs.
1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Cereal bars
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Sponges
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Toothpaste
4 <sup>th</sup> Class	Sun cream – small or travel size
5 <sup>th</sup> Class	Hand cream – small size
6 <sup>th</sup> Class	Roll-on Deodorant

**Any donations of facemasks would be very welcome.**

**FINAL DATE FOR DONATIONS IS THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**Your support and generosity are much appreciated!**

Please contact [stpatricksbraypa@gmail.com](mailto:stpatricksbraypa@gmail.com) or St. Patrick's Bray Parents' Association on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/stpatricksbraypa) for further information.



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