

Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey outlines her plans for 2021

Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey has today set out some of her key priorities for the New Year including progressing the development of Casement Park

Minister determined to unlock care home visiting

Health Minister Robin Swann today underlined his determination to see visits for care home residents facilitated across Northern Ireland over Christmas and into the New Year.

Under Department of Health visiting guidance issued in September, all care homes should facilitate a range of methods that provide for safely managed and meaningful contact between residents and their loved ones. That guidance has not been adopted uniformly throughout Northern Ireland's care home sector. Many families have reported that they have only had limited and impersonal contact with a relative since March.

Ancrum Road Primary pupils connect across the miles this Christmas!

With thanks to Mary McGowne, a great update about Ancrum Road Primary School pupils!

The Overgate Centre is keeping the Christmas spirit alive this year with a heartwarming initiative to connect local children with new friends in twin city Alexandria in the USA.

Overgate Air Mail has seen 76 pupils aged between six and twelve years old from Ancrum Road Primary School in Dundee write a letter of festive cheer to new pen pals at Charles Barrett Elementary School in Alexandria, Virginia. The campaign is part of Overgate's DUNDEE'S 7 CITIES initiative which aims to strengthen ties between Dundee and its twin cities across the world.

The pupils from Ancrum Road Primary, guided by teacher Kayleigh Anderson, have been busy writing their letters and documenting their experiences of the last twelve months to share with their new American pen pals, along with how each plan to celebrate Christmas this year.

The recurring themes throughout many of the letters demonstrate that no matter if in Scotland or the USA, children share the same dreams for Christmas (mainly presents from Santa!) and have been faced with similar challenges throughout lockdown (annoying siblings, the Scottish cold weather and remembering to socially distance) but remain optimistic for a brighter 2021.

The letters have been collected by Overgate's Christmas elves who, by the magic of Overgate Air Mail, are ensuring safe delivery to Charles Barret School in Alexandria. Once the pupils in Alexandria return their own letters to their new Dundee pen pals, a display of the letters that is sure to bring much festive cheer will be created in Overgate for all to enjoy. To complete the campaign, three local winners from Ancrum Road Primary will be selected at random to each win a £30 Overgate gift card.

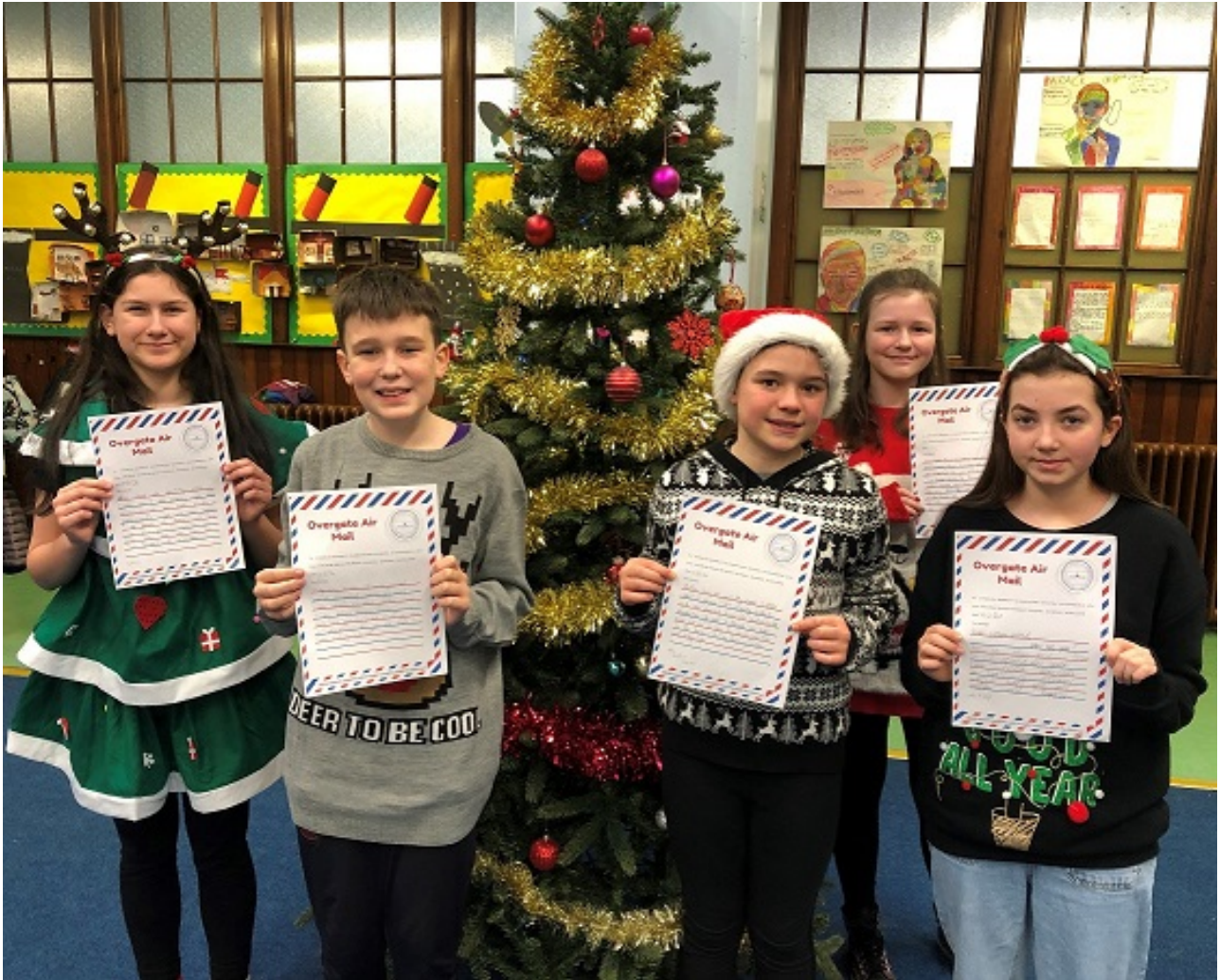
Picture 1 (two boys standing in red)

Jack Campbell, Joshua Lee, Ailey Mathieson, Gracie Gollan and Chloe Doig.

Picture 2

Hannah McInnes, Lucas Sword, Millie Garrick-Orr, Emily Mitchell and Halle McKenzie.





Independent Review of Education

Education Minister Peter Weir has today announced his intention to establish an Independent Review of Education.

Labour market statistics

The labour market statistics were published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.