



# Hollybush Primary and Nursery School

## November/December 2025 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Guardian

This newsletter is intended to give you an overview of things that are happening here at the school in the run up to Christmas, and to highlight important events and activities that are planned for the near future. Please keep an eye on our app and Facebook page for other day-to-day events/information.

### Online Safety:

The PSNI have kindly agreed to hold internet safety talks for pupils and parents. These will be held just after the Christmas break – details to follow.

### Elf Parade and Christmas Lights Switch On:



As most of you will know, the Christmas excitement begins in Culmore with the Elf Parade and the switch on of the lights at the Culmore Hub. Our choir was fantastic, performing on-stage just before the big switch on. Many thanks to the staff who attended, and to the staff of the Hub for a well-organised, highly enjoyable event.

### Safeguarding:

Anyone with a safeguarding concern should contact our safeguarding lead, Mr O' Connor, or the deputy designated teacher, Mrs Mc Gurren. Our Safeguarding policy is available on the website, and a summary copy is made available on the app each year.



### Outdoor Play Area/Inaugural Golf Classic:

As you know, we are well on our way with regard to fundraising for the new outdoor play area, which will be sited on the grass field at the rear of the school. So far, as a result of the highly successful Golf Classic in September, we have raised a whopping £33,000, with £6856 of this being the proceeds of our prize draw. The response of the whole school community to this event was overwhelming!

**"Bonum Videre Optimum Educere"**

### Open Day:



Open Day this year takes place on Tuesday, December 2nd from 9.30a.m. to 11.30 a.m. More details later, but lots of exciting things happening on that day! Please feel free to share the flyer we posted on our Facebook page.

### Christmas Shows:



This year's Christmas Shows take place on Tuesday, December 16 (P1 – 10.00 a.m. and P3 – 11.00 a.m.); and Wednesday, December 17 (P2 – 10.00 a.m. and P4 – 11.00 a.m.).

The Nursery dates are to be confirmed.

### P5-7 Carol Service:



This year's Carol Service takes place on Wednesday, December 17 at 1.45 p.m.

### Christmas Outings:

Pantomime for P1 and 2, Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>; Panto P3 and 4, Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. P5,6,7, Cinema, Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Information to follow.



### Closure:



Reminder - The school will be closed to all pupils on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper Day:

Christmas Dinner will take place on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Christmas jumpers can be worn on this day.



**"Bonum Videre Optimum Educere"**

### **Christmas Jumper Swap shop:**

On Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, the School Council will host a Christmas jumper swap shop in the school hall for all pupils from P1-P7. Details will be posted on the school app and social media pages.

### **Flu Vaccinations:**

These take place on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Netball:**



Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> will be the final day of netball for the P6 girls. They have made some great progress. Many thanks to Mr Mc Nulty, Ms Kelly and Mrs Lynch for their work with the club.

### **Mass for Our Deceased:**



The school Mass at which we remember and pray for our deceased friends, relations and members of the wider school community takes place on Wednesday, November 26 at 1.45 p.m. in the school. Due to space restrictions, we can only accommodate pupils and staff at this Mass. If you would like to have any deceased relative or friend prayed for, please write names on a sheet of paper, send in with your child, and these will be placed in our intentions box for inclusion at the Mass.

### **First Communion Programme:**

Our thanks to our Chaplain, Fr Mc Geehan, and our Parish Schools' Coordinator, Stephen Deighan, who have arranged a programme of preparation for our P4 pupils who will be making their First Holy Communion this year. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to assist with the Masses.

### **Cross Country:**

The Flahavans' Cross Country League is off to a flying start. In the Thornhill race, our runners picked up four medals; the boys' team is top of the league, and the girls' team is in third place. Well done to all our athletes!



**"Bonum Videre Optimum Educere"**

### Swimming Gala:



This year's swimmers are shaping up really well, so much so that we have entered a number of teams for the Swim Ulster Gala, which takes place in Bangor on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>; more details to follow.

### Christmas Appeal:

This year, St Vincent de Paul is asking for vouchers so that families who are experiencing difficulties can choose suitable gifts. As a school, we are supporting this appeal. Anyone who would like to donate a voucher can do so through the school. The Greater Shantallow Area Partnership are also appealing for assistance for local families who are currently experiencing some financial difficulty. The school's response to this appeal last year was phenomenal, so we're hoping for a similar response this year. Their appeal letter is being shared with all parents. Please do not feel obliged to contribute if you are not in a position to do so. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this appeal.



### Uniform etc:

Please mark clearly your child's name on his/her uniform items. There has been a big push to encourage pupils/parents to clearly mark pupil names on items of clothing, and there is a reduction in the volume of items in the Lost and Found, but some found items are still here, unclaimed, as they have not been labelled.

### Medical Register:

We regularly update the school's medical register. It is very important that the school is informed if your child develops a medical condition/allergy. A medical practitioner's letter is required for verification purposes. This information is particularly important for canteen services.

### Choir Christmas Performance:



This year, our choir will be performing at the North West Cancer Centre and at Owenmor Care Home on the morning of Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>; details anon. We would love to send them further afield, but the cost of buses has become prohibitive.

**"Bonum Videre Optimum Educere"**

### **P7 Literacy/Numeracy Club:**

The final P7 Literacy/Numeracy club takes place on Wednesday November 19. I would like to thank our P7 teachers, Mr O'Connor and Mr Mc Nulty for their dedication to the pupils in their care, and for volunteering their time on those days.

### **Christmas Draw:**



Preparations for our annual Christmas Draw are now well underway. Our draws are always very well supported, and any money we raise this year will help fund our new outdoor play project. As always, there are some fantastic prizes this year. More details to follow. Winners will be drawn on the afternoon of Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Parental Contribution:**

Each year, we ask each of our families for a contribution of £10 per term to help with the resourcing of school provision which is not covered by the school budget; the most notable expense is that of licences for programmes such as Mathletics and Accelerated Reading. The contribution is voluntary, but it is generally well supported and we have, thus far, been in a position each year to cover the cost of these programmes. Please see Parentpay for details. Many thanks to those who have contributed so far; your support is greatly appreciated.

### **First Communion/Confirmation Dates:**

Please note, this year's Confirmation ceremony takes place on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 4.00 p.m. in Steelstown. First Confession takes place on Thursday, March 12 at 6.00 p.m. in Steelstown. First Holy Communion takes place on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12 noon in Steelstown.

### **Christmas Holidays:**



School will close for all pupils at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Kind regards

Mr Friel

**"Bonum Videre Optimum Educere"**