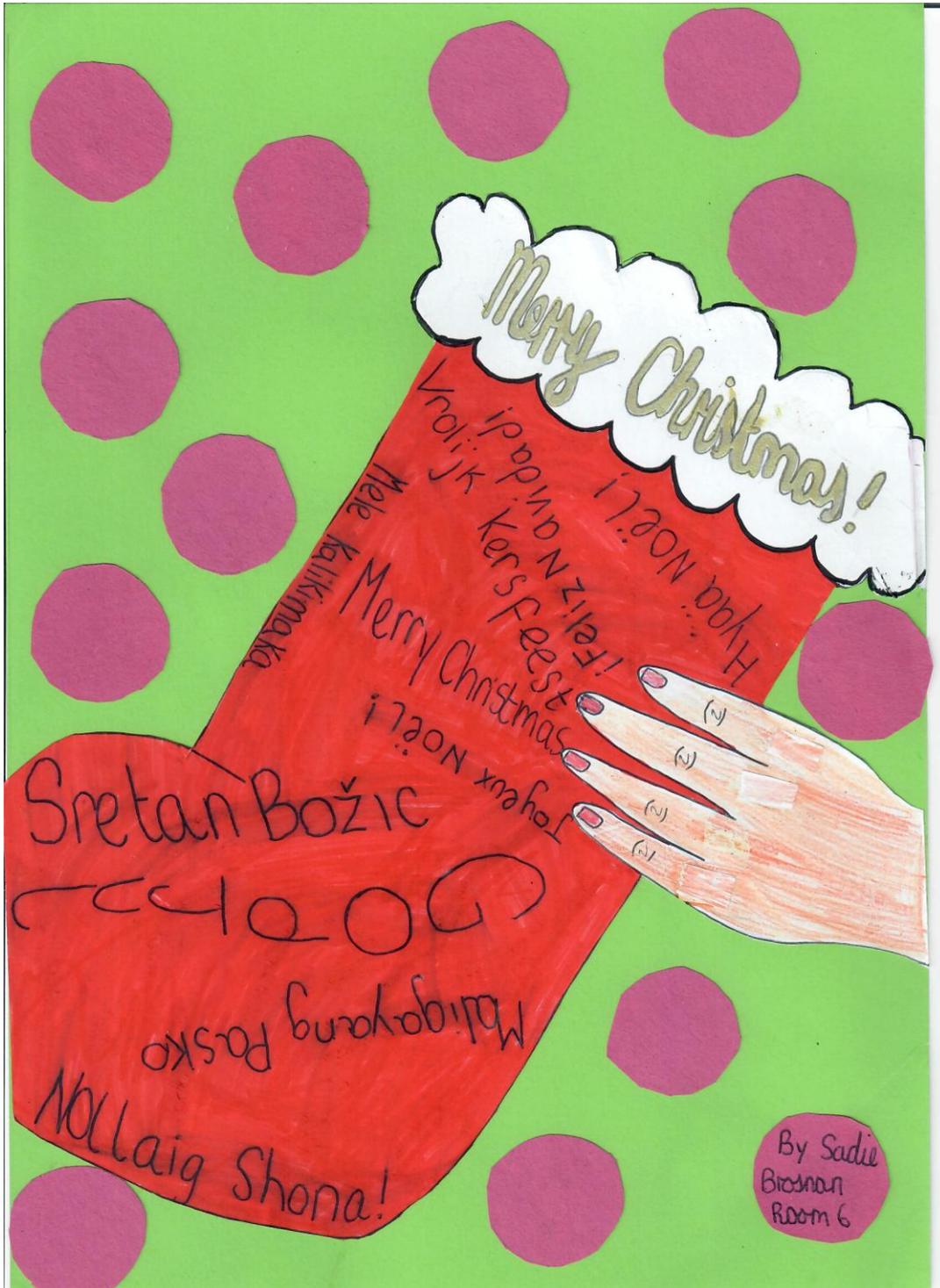


Mary Help of Christians G.N.S. Nuacht na Scoile



Sadie Brosnan
Rang 6

Nollaig 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Nuacht na Scoile – Nollaig 2025.

Tá an Nollaig buailte linn! We have so much news to share since our last Halloween newsletter. We have been working hard since then and we hope that you enjoy reading all about the activities.

Naíonáin Shóisearacha

Christmas is just around the corner and we've been very busy getting ready for our Christmas shows, "A Bundle of Joy" and "The Nativity." We loved wearing our costumes and singing all the songs together. A big thank you to everyone at home for coming to watch our performances.

We have also been decorating our windows for our "**Winter Wonderland**" display. **Room 1** created Arctic ice scenes with polar bears, while **Room 2** designed snow people using their own faces. If you didn't get a chance to visit our yard, please enjoy the *snow* many smiles and our *beary* cool polar bears!



Room 1



Room 2

In SESE, we have been learning lots of interesting facts about winter animals. Can you answer these questions? True or False!

1. Polar bears have a thick layer of blubber – true or false?
2. Polar bears are carnivores – true or false?
3. Penguins are birds that can fly – true or false?
4. Penguins like to eat berries and nuts – true or false?

We wish you all an enjoyable holiday and see you in 2026.
Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir ó Naíonáin Shóisearacha!

Naíonáin Shinsearacha

We have been very busy in Senior Infants preparing for Christmas. We visited our very own wonderful Christmas Wonderland in the courtyard. Mr. Egan has decorated a Crann Nollag and a crib. There are lights galore and the magic is bubbling!

We are practising some Irish Christmas words. Can you circle the correct words that match?

1. Christmas Tree - Crann Nollag OR Daidí na Nollag

2. Santa - Daidí na Nollag OR síóg

3. Elf - síóg OR Crann Nollag

Freagraí:

1. Crann Nollag 2. Daidí na Nollag 3. síóg

In art, we created some lovely candle holders from clay. We added some beads and jewels to them! We plan to give them as homemade gifts to our family and friends this Christmas. We also designed our very own polar bears in the Arctic! Take a look at our masterpieces!



Billie Murray, Room 2



Zaina Fahad, Room 3

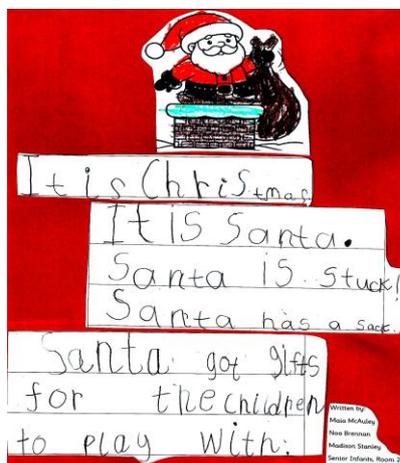


Milani Lyons, Room 2

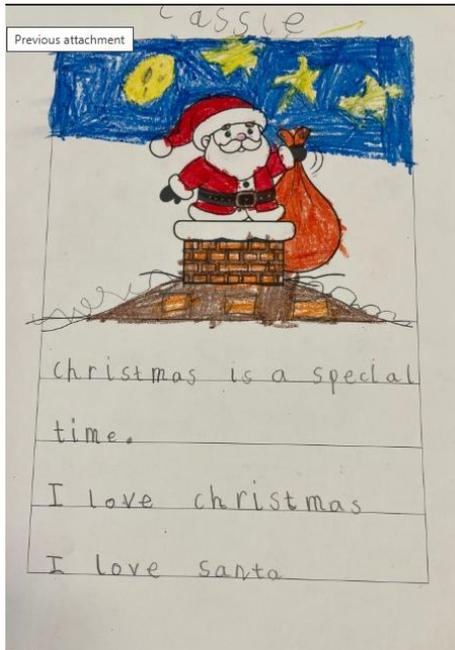


Kaley Culwick, Room 3

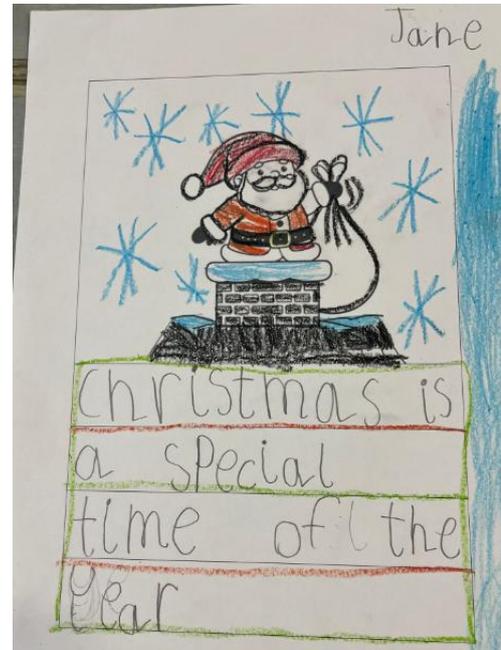
We have also been working hard at writing full sentences in class too! Our full stops, finger spacing and capital letters are hard to remember but we are definitely getting better! Here is a sample of some of our wonderful work!



Maia McAuley, Noa Brennan and Madison Stanley, Room 2



Cassie Flynn, Room 3



Jane Drake, Room 3

Finally, enjoy the break from school and we look forward to returning in January 2026!

Rang 1

The girls in 1st class had a busy few weeks and we have learned lots of new things. Everyone has worked very hard and we are looking forward to the Christmas holidays.

We have been exploring interesting topics in SESE such as winter traditions around the world, exploring all about Lapland and the learning about the life and work of Hans Christian Andersen. We enjoyed reading 'The Snow Queen' and 'Thumbelina'.

In maths, we have been working on subtraction and length and area. We have also had lots of fun measuring the length, width and area of real-life items in the classroom.

During PE lessons in the hall, we have been practising our gymnastics skills and learning how to perform different types of rolls, turns and movements safely and correctly.

In Room 7 we have been learning the poem 'Once there was a Snowman' by Paul Stewart. We have included the poem for you to enjoy. The girls enjoyed making clay decorations to add to their tree at home. We have been working on procedural writing and enjoyed jam sandwiches. In Room 8 we enjoyed drawing Santa, Picasso-style.

The girls put a huge amount of practice into their Christmas carol performance of The First Noel. We hope you enjoyed it. Nollaig Shona Daoibh!



Rang 2

Both 2nd classes continue to work really hard and are enjoying all aspects of school life.

The girls wrote lovely Christmas and Winter themed Acrostic poems. In Prefab 3 we are inspired by pictures and write recounts based on them. The girls love to read their work to each other, and we are very enthusiastic audiences!

In Gaeilge we are learning about An Nollaig – we are happy to teach you some of our amazing vocabulary – Daidí na Nollag, stoca Nollag, crann Nollag, geansaí Nollag, cárta Nollag, cáca Nollag (notice the pattern!).

Scríobh na cailíní ó Aonad 4 litreacha chuig Daidí na Nollag agus cuirimid iad sa bhosca phoist sa chlós!

We were very thoughtful and generous in donating food and treats towards Saint Vincent DePaul hampers. We learned about Vincent in our Grow in Love – he was born in France over 400 years ago and told his family he wanted to spend his life helping people as a follower of Jesus. Imagine, his work is still being done all over Ireland today!

We learned all about the reindeer – whose real name are caribou – did you know that caribou are brilliant swimmers and use their hooves to help them? No two antlers are the same – they are like our fingerprints to prove our identity! Reindeer are very clever as they can warm the cold air in their noses before it reaches their lungs.

We have worked really well learning and singing Mary's Boy Child and all our teachers said we sound amazing. Thank you Ms Lynch for the music.

Nollaig shona daoibh agus athbhliain faoi mhaise!

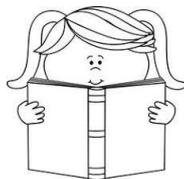
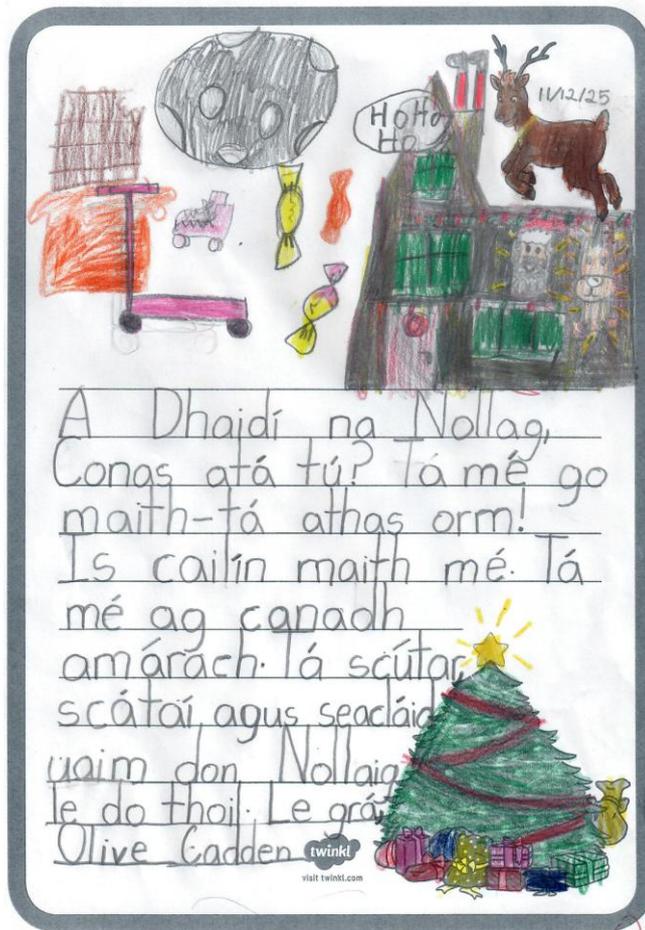
RUDOLPH

Red and green tinsel hanging on trees
Us waiting for Christmas Eve
Doing the best I can to be on the good list!
Oh I hope good enough to get presents.
Loving elves coming to town
Pudding is really yummy and delicious
Happy Christmas and a happy New Year!
By Aisling McGrath Prefab 4

WINTER

When it's Christmas it might snow
In the house it's freezing
Now it's time to ski in the snow
Tress are bare oh no
Eva loves to play in the snow
Ready for school but it might snow
By Eva Parkes Prefab 3





Rang 3

Room 12 has been very busy since our last newsletter. We paid a visit to Cabra Library. We were given a tour, and we were able to borrow books for ourselves. We were also allowed to borrow a lot of books on Ancient Egypt which we used to help us create amazing projects. In art we painted beautiful Egyptian collars which we are very proud of. In Gaeilge táimid ag foghlaim a lán focal agus frásaí bunaithe ar théama an Bia. In English, we wrote and illustrated reports about our favourite animals and presented them to our class! In science, we have been learning about the lungs and water filtration. We built a model of the lungs using balloons and a plastic bottle. We also built a filtration system using crushed granite, porcelain sand and quartz sand. We poured in dirty water and saw how it came out practically clear! In maths, we had great fun cutting up cakes into halves, quarters, eights and tenths to help us learn our fractions. We had even more fun eating the cakes at the end! We also got to see how a bar of chocolate with ten squares can help us learn about decimals! Ms. Forde's Fourth Class kindly gave us a tutorial on Book Creator and we are now experts in writing and creating our own books. We are also learning a new tune on our tin whistles called Faoileáin!

We hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas from Ms. Hannelly's 3rd class!

Christmas is around the corner.
 Happy thoughts are in store.
 Reindeer are on the rooftops.
 I love Christmas so much.
 Santa is a cookie filled soul.
 Their houses are decorated.
 Mary the mother Jesus.
 All the people go to mass.
 Spread love to all in the world.
 This Christmas!
 By: Pippa O'Reilly
 3rd class room 12

Christmas is finally here!
 Happy new year
 Rudolph's nose is shining
 It's going to be a holly jolly year
 Santa is coming to town
 The sleigh bells are ringing
 Mistletoe is everywhere
 All the children are playing
 Santa is singing cheerfully
 By Julie and Tara
 Room 12

Cookies and Milk
 Holly and jolly spirits
 Reindeer stamps
 In the North Pole where Santa lives
 Stockings hanging over the fire
 Sparkle glittering
 Merry Christmas to all!
 All the children sleeping in bed
 Sleigh bells ringing
 by Isabel and Nora Room 12

Rudolph's big red nose.
 Elves are working hard this year.
 Love Christmas!
 New years resolution.
 Singing on a Christmas night
 Every one its Christmas
 Elf on the shelf
 Reindeers eat carrots
 Snow is falling all around us.
 By:
 Emma and Eleanor
 Room 12



The girls in Room 11 have been getting into the festive spirit as we approach the Christmas Holidays. Our weeks have been wonderfully busy, and the girls continue to impress with their enthusiasm and hard work. We have been enjoying our GAA lessons with Fergal every week - he keeps us on our toes and the girls' skills and confidence have grown so much. Well done girls!

In French, the girls have been absolutely flying through their lessons. Their pronunciation, vocabulary and excitement for learning a new language have been fantastic to see. We

are very proud of how eager they are to take on new challenges. The girls have also worked very hard on their rendition of 'Douce Nuit', which they showed off at this year's Carol Service.

In maths, we have continued to use our Izak9 boxes to work together and solve tricky puzzles. The teamwork, problem-solving that fill the room during these sessions make them a real highlight of our week and a great resource.

We have also been busy with plenty of festive creativity. Our art lessons have been filled with Christmas crafts, decorations and lots of colour. Our classroom is certainly looking merry and bright! The girls have created their winter wonderland scenes which are now on display in our windows. You should be able to see them from the yard!

We wish everyone a warm, peaceful, and very happy Christmas. Well done on a wonderful term, girls!

Rang 4

4th Class have had a great term in Prefab 7. We have completed our first novel called 'Adam's Starling'. We really enjoyed reading it and agree that Linda really is lovely! We have started learning about the Incas, did you know that the Incas had no written alphabet and recorded everything on knotted colour cords. We are making books all about the Incas on Book Creator! We created some beautiful Christmas decorations out of clay and painted them. Our class will be attending Science Blast next March and we are excited to pick our question and start investigating. We are also very proud that we won the attendance award for the month of November, so well done to all the girls in Prefab 7! We hope everyone has a Happy Christmas Break.

Now enjoy some Christmas jokes!

What kind of bird can write? A pen-guin
- By Saibh Donohoe

What do you call an old snowman? A puddle
- By Dasha Lee

How much was Santa's sleigh? Nothing it was on the house
- By Tamzin Nolan

What do elves learn in school? The elf-abet
- By Lily Gariba

What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot? Get out of my face
- By Yishu Yao



Rang 5

Fifth class have had a wonderful term full of fun and learning.

For one, the fifth class girls have all successfully run a full marathon! The girls ran several laps of the school yard every day for eight weeks. The end of the marathon culminated with a big event in Santry Stadium where lots of schools from the area gathered to run their last mile. Each girl was given a t-shirt and medal for their hard work. We are so proud of the girls for this massive achievement!

Both fifth classes have continued to learn chess with Gabrielle each Friday. We recently reached the final session of the termly chess championship, which saw many girls win medals and prizes for all of their chess accomplishments. The girls are also enjoying

choir each Monday with Ms. Lynch. They have many exciting Christmas events coming up where they will be singing at the Christmas Tree Lighting event outside Our Lady's Church, at the Cuan Ros Nursing Home and, of course, at our school Carol Service!

In SESE, both classes have been learning about various topics such as the counties of Ireland, World War II, and the Irish Potato Famine. The fifth class girls have also been practicing for mini plays on the Irish Potato Famine. One of the highlights of our term has been creating 'famine shoes' from recycled materials which we will wear as props for our plays. Both classes also engaged in interesting scientific experiments to explore the three states of matter, including creating 'Oobleck' and homemade lava lamps. Did you know that Oobleck is both a solid and a liquid at the same time?

In visual art, the girls have created beautiful Christmas tree paper plate weavings. These are on display in the corridor outside the school office if you would like to catch a glimpse!

In English, the girls are nearly at the end of their class novel, 'A Girl Called Blue'. Many of the girls have named it as their favourite book! We have also been learning about persuasive writing and engaging in debates as a class. Rinne na páistí sár-iarracht agus iad ag foghlaim an topaic 'Bia' sa Ghaeilge. Rinne gach páiste 'biachlár' bunaithe ar a bialann féin. Féachaí ar roinnt de na biachlár agus ar shamplaí oibre eile thíos:

5 th class are grateful for:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friends 2. Family 3. Brother <p>By Kate Cunningham</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family 2. My Pet Hamster 3. Friends <p>By Zoey Doogan</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family 2. Wonderful class 3. my dog Bella <p>By Millie Leahy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My dog Hannibal 2. My family 3. My friends <p>By Macky Gill</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My wonderful Nanny 2. My amazing class 3. My incredible teacher Ms. Brennan 4. a roof over my head 5. a loving family 6. My great friends <p>By Layla Redmond Coates ♥</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. my family being healthy 2. my friends that care for me 3. and my siblings <p>By Charlie Malone</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supportive family 2. Clean water 3. Peaceful country <p>By Mia Pham LA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water 2. a roof over my head 3. Doctors <p>By: Alanna Lynch</p>



Rang 6

It has been a very busy term in 6th Class from October to December!

We were delighted to be invited to the St. Dominic's Trade Fair, where we explored a wonderful variety of student-run businesses. The girls enjoyed browsing the stalls and picking up lots of different things.

In music, we have been practising festive jingles on the tin whistle, which we will perform at the Christmas Raffle.

On the 13th of November, our 6th Class cross-country team took part in a race in St. Anne's Park and achieved an impressive second place. Well done, girls!

In history, we have been learning about Ancient Greece and World War I. The girls were especially fascinated by the story of the Christmas Truce, when soldiers paused fighting to play a football match.

In drama, we have been busy creating our own toy advertisements, and in English we have been using the iPads to write and develop our stories.

Our Confirmation students have also been attending Mass regularly and getting their cards stamped as they prepare for their special day.

Christmas Jokes by Room 10:

Who hides in a Christmas bakery?

A mince *spy*!

How do snowmen shop online?

They use the *winter-net*!

What type of photos do elves take?

Elf-ies!

Why is Santa afraid of 6 7?

Because 6, 7, 8 9!

Céard a thugann tú ar réinfhia drochbhéasach?
(What do you call an obnoxious)
Rude-olph!

5th Class Choir News

The two 5th classes have been busy since September when they officially became the MHOC choir for 2025/2026. They sang beautifully in the church for the school Carol Service. On Tuesday 16th December the choir attended and performed at the switching on the lights of the Christmas trees at the church. We were due to sing at Cuan Rós Nursing Home but this had to be cancelled due to the flu virus in the home. We hope to go in Spring.

Christmas Events

Thank you to the family and friends who came out in such great numbers for the girls. We can always count on you to support the school in this way – go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir!

Christmas Carol Service

Our annual Christmas Carol Service was held in the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians on Friday, December 12th. It was wonderful! Thank you to all the families and friends who were with us on the day. There was a very impressive turnout and congratulations to our pupils, teachers and special needs assistants who prepared such joyful performances for us.

Infant Concerts

Both Junior and Senior Infants performed their plays in the School Hall on December 15th. Friends and family were treated to 'A Bundle of Joy' and 'The Nativity'. Well done to the girls for learning all their lines and songs. It was a lovely way to spend Monday morning of our Christmas Week in school! We love to invite family and friends into the school and are thankful to the girls for reminding all of us of the true meaning of Christmas.

A Visit from Santa and the Garda Band

On December 11th we were treated to a lovely concert in the hall from the Garda Band. The girls, their teachers, special needs assistants, Ms O'Reilly and Mr Egan sang happily for the duration. Some lucky ladies even got to meet the man himself, Santa!

Christmas Raffle 2025

Thank you to everyone who supported our raffle this year – the ticket sellers, those who bought tickets and the local businesses who sponsored prizes on our behalf – Leddy Uniforms, Grants Uniforms, Etherson's Butchers, Copy and Mailroom Systems, VaughTec, Techsure, Emerald Facility Services, Angler's Rest, St Oliver Plunketts GAA Club, Bohemians Football Club, Awesome Walls, Jump Zone, Community Credit Union

and Dunnes Stores. A full list of those who won prizes will be published on the school website, www.maryhelpofchristians.ie

St Vincent de Paul Appeal

Our girls and their families showed their generosity to those less well off by bringing in food for St Vincent de Paul Society. All the food will go towards providing hampers for families in need this Christmas.

Winter Wonderland Windows

All classes in the school were invited to decorate the windows of our school for Christmas. If you haven't had the opportunity to come to the school yard recently, hopefully you will get to do so before the holidays. The girls and their teachers have done a great job and the windows are a real feast for the eyes. Decorating the windows is a long-standing tradition in the school and it is wonderful to see how imaginative our classes can be.

Parents' Association

The Christmas Card fundraiser was a great success, and we hope your friends and families will enjoy receiving a card designed by your daughter. Our Parents' Association will be organising some fundraising activities in Term 2 and Term 3. If you would like to become more involved in the Parents' Association, please email mhocpa@gmail.com They would be delighted to welcome new members.

Attendance

If your child is not present at roll call, she will be marked absent and you will get a notification on Aladdin Connect stating this. It is always necessary to let the school know why your child is absent. This is easily done through Aladdin Connect.

If your child has an appointment and arrives late to school, she will be marked absent if she is not present at roll call. You will receive a text stating this. This will happen even if you have notified the school in advance. Her class teacher will record that it was a late arrival, rather than an absence for the full day.

We receive many queries regarding this point. We cannot mark a child present at roll call if she isn't present in the school at that time.

Parents/guardians are reminded that there is a legal obligation on our school to record every absence of every child throughout the school year, with an added obligation of reporting absences of 20 days and over to The Educational Welfare Services of the Child and Family Agency (Tusla). This report is for statistical reasons only. Tusla will engage with families where we have specific concerns around school attendance and have asked them to become involved. Parents/Guardians will receive a text alert when their child has missed 5, 10, 15 days and so on.

Please keep absences and early collections to a minimum. Some children are frequently collected early from school and miss valuable class time as a result. It all adds up.

If your child is frequently missing days from school when she is not ill, this will have a negative impact on her overall progress for the year.

Attendance Statistics for Term 1

September	95.1% pupils present
October	95.8% pupils present
November	90.0% pupils present
December	92.5% pupils present, at time of printing

November and December have been challenging month as so many of our girls were very sick during this time.

Admissions and Enrolment

We are currently taking applications for Junior Infants 2026. All information can be found on our website, www.maryhelpofchristians.ie, or by phoning the School Office. The closing date for receipt of applications is 30th January 2026.

Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free

Last year, our school community joined the *Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free* initiative, along with 15 other schools in Dublin 7 and Dublin 15. This decision followed a parental survey conducted in March and a very well-attended talk on the topic held in May at D7ETNS.

This term, parents and guardians of our Junior Infant pupils were also invited to participate in the initiative, and an overwhelming majority chose to do so. We hope it may be reassuring and supportive for families to know that many parents have decided to postpone giving their child a smartphone for as long as possible, or at least until the end of primary school.

Cybersafe Kids (cybersafekids.ie) provides excellent, practical guidance for parents on managing devices in the home and navigating what can be a particularly challenging issue over the Christmas Holidays. If Santa brings a device this year, Cybersafe Kids' top tip is simple and effective: whatever the smart device, do not allow it into bedrooms at night. Instead, devices should be charged overnight in a shared, communal area of the home.

Dates for your Diary

January 5 th 2026	School reopens
February 2 nd 2026	Public Holiday for St Brigid's Day
February 10 th 2026	Curriculum Framework Day (School Closed)
February 19 th and 20 th 2026	Mid Term Break
March 17 th 2026	Public Holiday for St Patrick's Day
March 27 th 2026	Easter Holidays
April 13 th 2026	School reopens

Beannachtaí na Nollaig

On behalf of all the staff of our school, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful year ahead. I hope the girls (and their families!) have a lovely holiday and a well-earned rest. Of course, I also hope that Santa Claus comes to everyone.

We look forward to seeing you all again on January 5th 2026!

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.

Renee Moran
Principal

Christmas Holidays

**School will close for Christmas holidays on
Friday, December 19th at 12 noon.**

**School will re-open on
Monday, January 5th at 8.50 a.m.**

**We couldn't fit all the news in our paper newsletter.
Please go to Aladdin Connect or the school website for the electronic version.**





Once there was an elf,
Who sat on a shelf,
The elf's best friend was bubble
Together they caused lots of trouble.
One day they played a trick on
Santa,
By putting mentos in his Yarta!
The trick didn't go very well,
And the elf empire fell!
Now the elfs are well behaved,
Yippy Christmas is saved!

By
Cara Maguire
& Irl Casey.



By Lucy Fennessy

Nollaig



Shona

By Molly

Christmas Poem

Christmas is here,
Spreading lots of cheer.



Hanging up christmas tree decorations,
It's a busy time theres lots of preparations.

Carolers sing,
While sleigh bells ring.

As we're sleeping,
Santa will be leaping.



From house to house,
As quiet as a mouse.

Leaving presents for children to see,
Just think about how happy we will be.

As we go downstairs to our delight,
And see our presents under the tree lights!

By: Isabelle & Rachel