

‘Being the best that we can be’

# Newsletter – December 2017

Can you believe it's December already? We certainly can't here in school. December is a wonderful time of year in our school. It's a time full of business and excitement and there's so much going on. Please take time out of your busy December schedule to read about what's happening and we look forward to catching up with you at some point in December, be it at the Primary 1 and 2 Christmas concerts, our Christmas Bazaar or our Carol Concert in Lisburn's Island Hall.

Pauline Fleming

## St. Joseph's Primary School Annual Carol Concert in Lisburn's Island Hall

The rehearsals have started and the excitement is building for our annual Christmas extravaganza! We are so lucky to have the amazing Island Hall facility on our doorstep and to have the fantastic talent in music, drama and dance to stage a show of this calibre on an annual basis!

You will know by now if your child is taking part so you can be ready to purchase your tickets when they become available on Monday 4 December.

Please remember these tickets can ONLY BE PURCHASED from Lisburn's Island Hall Box Office and are sold on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. We do not want anyone to be disappointed so please book early!

## Oh yes it is...it's PANTO time!

It is Panto Day next **Thursday 7 December**. We will travel to the Grand Opera House all together on buses provided by Richmond Coaches. On Tuesday your child will receive a note detailing the number of the bus they are on and the details for pick up.

Please note pick up will be at 4.10pm from Lisburn Leisureplex. Parents **MUST ONLY** use the **Warren Drive** entrance to the Leisureplex overflow car park. **Please DO NOT use the cinema entrance as this creates traffic chaos at this time.** Thank you for your understanding.

Your child's safety will be paramount at this busy time. Please be patient when the buses arrive in the car park. Each teacher will hand your child over on a one by one basis.

After pick up come on down to school for our Christmas bazaar. What a lovely way to begin our Christmas celebrations!

## Primary 1 and 2 Christmas Concert December 2017

Primary 1 and Primary 2 will once again take to the stage to put us well and truly in the mood for Christmas.

The dates for the two Christmas shows are:

- **Thursday 14 December at 9.30**
- **Friday 15 December at 9.30am**

Tickets are still on sale and cost £4 each. Tickets are limited to 4 per family until all families have been accommodated and then they will be opened up for sale after that.



This week Mrs Fleming received a whole lot of jokes from Charlie! He had written them himself and they well and truly gave Mrs Fleming a laugh in the office. Her favourite was this one:

“What do you call a hippo with a plan?” “A hippo-plot-amus!”

It is so lovely to know that Charlie's super sense of humour has returned and we can't wait to see him back in school sharing more jokes with us!

## Open Night

We are really looking forward to our Open Night which takes place on Tuesday 5 December at 7pm. It will be a pleasure to welcome new and existing parents to St. Joseph's and to show them what we have to offer. Application forms for P1 have been sent home to brothers and sisters and are available at the school office as well. Please spread the word to all you know!

# 'Being the best that we can be'

## Christmas Bazaar

We are really looking forward to our annual Christmas Bazaar this year on **Thursday 7th December from 5pm until 7.30pm**.

There will be hot food available to buy for dinner (hotdogs, pizza and stew), so come on down straight after collecting your child from the Pantomime and join in this wonderful fun filled, festive night!

There will be lots of stalls including tombola, bottle stall, toys, Christmas shop and lots more! Don't forget to visit Elfridges and Santa's Grotto too!



## Sporting News! Olympic Handball

Congratulations to the P6 Olympic handballers who participated in the Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council Olympic handball league for the first time. The boys and girls played against St. Joseph's Carryduff, and St. Ita's and since another team failed to show, they played each other twice. The boys came away with 2 wins, a draw and a loss whilst the girls won 3 and drew one. The next set of games will take place in January so when we return after Christmas, the children will be training against the current P7 children who participated last year. Well done to all involved.

## One Wall Handball

Our one wall handballers (Jack McMahon, Ray Brady, Conn Rush, Charlie Wilson and Eoin Ryan) have been enjoying playing at Good Shepherd Primary School in Poleglass and are growing in skill and confidence. The first week they played against Good Shepherd and drew overall and similarly in the second week they played against Gael Scoil Noal and drew. Their next and final round is against Bunscoil Phobal Feirste, date to be confirmed. We wish the boys luck!



## Value of the Month

Our "Value of the Month" for December is CHARITY. This is a very apt value for us as a school as in December we like to encourage our pupils to look beyond themselves and think of others less fortunate. We encourage them to collect items for our St. Vincent de Paul hampers. *"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just"*  
**Pope Francis**

## Hampers

**Thank you so much for all the donations so far for our hampers. Please send all remaining items into school before Tuesday 5 December. Here's a reminder of what each year group should bring:**

- P1 - crisps, pringles, twiglets**
- P2 - biscuits and crackers**
- P3 - sweets and chocolates**
- P4 - mince pies and puddings**
- P5 - Christmas cakes, logs, buns and cakes**
- P6 - bottles of cranberry sauce, pickles, tea, coffee etc**
- P7 - bottles of shloer, juice and adult juice etc**

**Any donations of 'adult juice' as well as tins would also be welcome.**

**Our hampers will be used as prizes on the rickety wheel as well as donations to**

## Term 2 After School Activities

Following the success of the after-school activities programme in Term 1, we are pleased to confirm that all clubs will be returning for Term 2! The registration morning will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 8.15 am. Alongside our current clubs there will be some exciting new activities on offer including a P1-P3 Gardening and Environment club with Mrs Hunter and 'Labrats' Science Detectives - a 'hands on' and investigative approach to science delivered by qualified science teachers. More detailed information regarding clubs, dates and costs will be emailed to all parents and uploaded to the school website in the coming weeks.



## Play Based Learning Policy for Parents

We are delighted to have developed a new 'Play based Learning Policy' for our Foundation Stage. The full policy can be accessed on our school website but we have created a 'parent-friendly' version of this policy and it will be sent out to all parents in the Foundation Stage next week. Please take time to have a read and see how we develop play in these early years.

# ‘Being the best that we can be’

## Talk Boost!

We are delighted to announce the return of the ‘Talk Boost’ targeted communication programme which will begin, once again, in January. The programme, which proved very successful last year, will support children in the development of communication and language skills through a variety of practical activities. Miss Gray and Miss Vient will be delivering this across Primary 2. You will be informed, before the end of December, if your child has been selected for this and more detailed information will then follow.



## School Development Day: Advance Notice

When we communicated the 2017/2018 school holidays with you last year we told you that we had one more exceptional closure still to take. I can now confirm the date of that exceptional closure as **Monday 19 February 2018**. This day has been confirmed as ICT Training for all staff.

We always try to add exceptional closures onto already existing holidays to make childcare easier for you as families.

This means that the February mid-term break will run from Monday 12 – Monday 19 Feb inclusive. Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 20 February 2018 as normal.

## Assessment for Learning: Effective Questioning

As a school we are constantly developing assessment for learning techniques. Effective questioning is a key part of assessment for learning. As part of ongoing work with CCEA I came across this very useful “Question Generator” on one of my training sessions. As teachers and parents we ask a lot of questions with the majority of them being “What did you do today?” etc...what we call managerial questions. This question generator provides a framework to begin asking more ‘higher order questions.’

We thought it would be useful to share this question generator with you as parents. You can use it as part of your child’s reading homework. It will help you to formulate lower order style questions such as ‘Who is in the park?’ as well as higher order style questions such as ‘Why might Biff be cross in this story?’ These higher order style questions require your child to think a little more about their answer.

### Question Generator

	Is	Did	Can	Would	Will	Might
Who						
What						
Where						
When						
How						
Why						

Please use at home to support your child with reading activities.

## Hive Hackers

We are absolutely delighted to have been asked to participate in PWC’s Hive hackers programme! In this programme our pupils will be exposed to the world of digital technology. They will cover topics such as sequencing, looping, debugging, events, digital footprint and much, much more.

We hope to open this programme to our primary 7 pupils. Mrs McCambridge will be attending a training and information session on Wednesday 20 December so we will know more details then. A big thank you to Mrs Louise McSparron (Patrick in P1’s mummy) for helping us out in our application to join ‘Hive Hackers.’

## Christmas Holidays

The school will close for Christmas holidays on Friday 22 December with early closing. In order to ensure the safe pick up of pupils on that day the pick-up arrangements will be as follows:

- All P1 – p3 children with no siblings in P4-P6 must be picked up at **11.45pm** at their normal pick up point
- P4 – P7 pupils with siblings must be picked up at **12 noon** at their normal pick up points.

The school will reopen for **Tuesday 9 January 2018**.



## Primary 7 Treats!

We are so proud of all of our primary 7 pupils this term as they have all worked very hard on improving their Literacy and Numeracy skills. We think they deserve some special treats! On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December P7 pupils will visit the Lisburn Omniplex and Bowl from 9.30 to 2.45pm. The total cost of this trip is £14.

### St. Patrick’s Academy Science Fair

Pupils will also visit St Patrick’s High School and participate in their annual Science Day on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Pupils must bring a packed lunch on this day and will return to school at 2.45pm.

# ‘Being the best that we can be’

## Dates for your diary!

Mon 4 December	Mrs Fleming at EA Engagement Session: 9am - 12noon  P7 Treat Trip with Mrs O'Hare, Mrs McCambridge, Mrs Trowlen and Mrs Keenan  P3 and P4 Maths Development Day Miss Clarke: SUB: Miss McKeown Ms Kitt: SUB: Miss Doyle Mrs Connolly: SUB: Mr Reid Mrs Gould: SUB: Ms Gorman  3pm Healthy planning Session  <b>Christmas Carol Concert in Island hall: Tickets go on sale and can only be bought at the Island Centre Box Office</b>
Tues 5 December	P2 Miss McAnerney Ms Kitt and P5 Mrs Gartland at pottery in Island Arts Centre  10am Catholic Trustee Support Service meeting with Mrs Fleming and Miss Clarke  2.15pm – 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P4 – P7  Mrs O'Hare at Linen Museum Meeting at 2.15pm  <b>Open Night at 7pm</b>
Wed 6 December	<b>Christmas dinner for pupils</b>  P7 at St. Patrick's Science and Technology Day  Miss Clarke and Mrs Hanna at Friends School: Ks2/3 transition project Meeting from 2.15pm  2.15pm – 4pm Healthy Planning Session
Thurs 7 December	<b>Panto Day</b>  <b>Christmas Bazaar 5pm onwards</b>
Fri 8 December	<b>School closed for pupils</b>
Mon 11 December	
Tues 12 December	Middle Management Training Session with Alana Willis (CCMS)
Wed 13 December	P3 at tennis  P4 at Santa in Linen Museum Ms Gibson at C2K training from 1pm  St. Vincent de Paul collecting hampers
Thurs 14 December	<b>P1 and P2 Christmas concert at 9.30am</b>  <b>P3 at Santa in Linen Museum</b>
Fri 15 December	<b>P1 and P2 Christmas concert at 9.30am</b>  P7 at badminton  No swimming for P5
Mon 18 December	2.15pm Miss Beatty meeting C2K re CEFR Assessment  Mrs Connolly: Annual Reviews  P1 Mrs Crilly and P1 Mrs Gorman at Santa in Linen Museum
Tues 19 December	<b>Registration Morning for after school activities in Term 2</b>  <b>Christmas Carol Concert in Lisburn Civic Centre's Island Hall at 7pm</b>
Wed 20 December	<b>1.45pm Choir representatives to Thompson house</b>  P3 at tennis (last session)  Mrs McCambridge at 'Hive Hackers' training session in PWC, Belfast

Thurs 21 December	Christmas Mass at 10am in St. Patrick's Chapel
Fri 22 December	School closes at 12noon

## Adverse Weather Policy

As winter is well and truly here, I thought it would be wise to share our adverse weather policy with you at this stage. I love to see the snow but only at the weekend!

This policy sets out the school's action plan for adverse weather. In times of extreme weather, such as a heavy snowfall, the Principal and Senior Leadership Team will consider the checklist below to see if it is necessary to close the school

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team will begin the process by answering these questions related to the safety of pupils and staff:

1. can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
2. can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
3. in an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
4. is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
5. Transport – can buses, meal deliveries, etc., reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
6. If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the Pupil Teacher Ratio acceptable? An acceptable PTR would be 1:30
7. Have local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling, been declared hazardous?

Having considered each question carefully, the Senior Leadership team will complete a Risk assessment based on the answers. They will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 'No' to any of the 7 questions

## If a decision is made to close

- Here in St. Joseph's P.S. we have a text message service to inform parents if the school is closed and again when the decision is taken to re-open
- All parent contacts will be sent a text message
- Radio Stations – BBC Radio Ulster will also be informed
- We will use our twitter feed to communicate the closure



# ‘Being the best that we can be’

## October 2017 Award Winners

### Primary 1

Value of the Month: Courtesy	Olivia Ferris Kara Officer
Pope Francis Award	Corey Grimley Amelia Boal
Writer of the Month	Sarah Murton Johnny McCay
ICT Whizz of the Month	Charlotte Feenan Jacob Bartley
Mathlete of the Month	Holly McCann Abigail Barr

### Primary 2

Value of the Month: Courtesy	Maisey Rose Heatley Ben Campbell
Pope Francis Award	Oisín Marsden Madison Ward
Writer of the Month	Sophia McNally Aoife Breslin
ICT Whizz of the Month	Emmett Lagan James McLaughlin
Mathlete of the Month	Oisín Marsden Nicholas Badoi

### Primary 3

Value of the Month: Courtesy	Mia McGinn Adele Curtis
Pope Francis Award	Jay O’Neill Colin Kitowski
Writer of the Month	Neil Jayan Emma Moran
ICT Whizz of the Month	Finn O’Hare Finagh Rowlands
Mathlete of the Month	Ethan McKeown Caleb English

### Primary 4

Value of the Month: Courtesy	Oisín Holman Ryan Nokes
Pope Francis Award	Ethan Annon Luke Hunter
Writer of the Month	Eva Branks Nara Beggs- McCormick
ICT Whizz of the Month	Emma McKibbin Grace Bunce
Mathlete of the Month	Wojciech Tunkiewicz Ben Jeffrey

### Primary 5

Value of the Month: Courtesy	James Barrett Charlie Lawlor
Pope Francis Award	Naomi Cairns Hannah Rush
Writer of the Month	Erin Mallon Finn Lappin
ICT Whizz of the Month	Darragh Kennedy Ryan McGhee
Mathlete of the Month	James Wilkinson Barra Noble

### Primary 6

Value of the Month: Courtesy	Conall Gallagher Daire KIELTY
Pope Francis Award	Matthew Sloane Cara Jones
Writer of the Month	Joshua Wilson Euan Lappin
ICT Whizz of the Month	Patrick Crilly Rebecca English
Mathlete of the Month	Yzabelle Pazia Rebecca English

### Primary 7

Value of the Month: Courtesy	Lucy McKibbin Cillian Quinn
Pope Francis Award	Alton Joshy Eddie Green
Writer of the Month	Aoife Moran Conn Rush
ICT Whizz of the Month	Jack McMahan Emma Duffy
Mathlete of the Month	Emma Grace Vance Caitlin Finlay

### Mathletics Class Awards

Congratulations to Miss Clarke’s class (84 420 points) and Mr Gallagher’s class (69 690 points) who won the class awards for Mathletics in Key Stage 1 and 2

### Mathletics Gold Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved ‘Gold Awards’ in Mathletics in September:

- Mollie Barr (P3)
- Yzabelle Pacia (P6)
- Zara Johnston (P6)
- Sarah Joseph (P6)
- Roisin Quinn (P5)

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