

St Mary's Newsletter December 2024

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of our first term, we would like to thank you and all the children for your support. On behalf of the Board of Governors and staff of St Mary's, we would like to wish all of our families a very happy and enjoyable Christmas.

Mrs McAlinden

Reminder of Important Dates:

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| • 12 th December 2024 | Lismore College Open Night at 5:15pm. |
| • 13 th December 2024 | Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day |
| • 13 th December 2024 | FOSM Christmas Pyjama Party Night -P1-P3 from 6:00 -7:30pm
P4-P7 from 7:45 -9:15pm |
| • 17 th December 2024 | Thanks to TESCO Craigavon a 'Pop-Up' Uniform Shop will be available |
| • 19 th December 2024 | Whole School Christmas play 'Straw and Order' at 10:00am |
| • 20 th December 2024 | Christmas Raffle |
| • 6 th January 2025 | Christmas Holidays at 12 noon |
| • 9 th January 2025 | Children return to school for Term 2
2:15-4:00pm Open Afternoon for New Admissions |

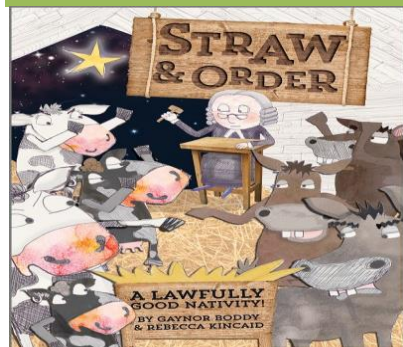
Switching on the Christmas Lights at Sarsfields -29th November
Thank you to all the boys and girls who sang so beautifully.



On Friday 13th December we have our Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and FOSM Pyjama Party

- P1-P3 from 6:00 -7:30pm
- P4-P7 from 7:45-9:15pm

Everyone is invited to our Christmas performance on 17th December at 10:00am



SVP Hampers
We are grateful for food donations for the Christmas hampers for Saint Vincent de Paul.

A special thanks to Portadown Wellness Centre, for donating a real Christmas tree to the school.



We are looking forward to working in partnership with them in the new year.

We had lots of fun participating in the Christmas Daily Mile.



KIDS CHRISTMAS PYJAMA PARTY
FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER
AT ST MARY'S PS DERRYTRASNA

£5 PER CHILD

Includes:
Chocolate Fountain
Santa Letter Writing
Reindeer Food Making
Christmas Games
Craft Corner
Jingle Disco
Tattoos
Nail Art

Wear your Christmas pyjamas!

Tuck shop will also be open to purchase from

All proceeds go to providing equipment and experiences for the kids throughout the year. Thank you for your kind support.

Other News

The 'Alice' Program

St Mary's PS Derrytrasna have kindly received a donation from Frances Austin Gallagher to kick start the Alice Program in memory of her late sister Alice Austin. Alice was born and bred in Derrytrasna and attended the old St Mary's primary school. Later in life she emigrated to Canada for work, where she also got married and settled. Following her death, Alice was returned home and is buried in Derrytrasna graveyard. Alice was enthusiastic about learning and reading, particularly loving the subject of English. Alice understood the importance of obtaining a good education to help get a step up in life. At St Mary's PS, the 'Alice Program' is helping our children thrive by providing teaching support and resources to specifically tackle English and Maths themes. This term we have been able to work with children in small groups to help them strive to achieve their greatest potential. We are most grateful to Frances and her husband Chris for their generosity.

We were working in partnership with the Amma Centre on creative learning. We were delighted with the workshops on creative writing provided by the author Declan Carville to the P3, P4, P5 & P6 children.



Primary 4 made their First Confession. The children were excellent ambassadors for their families and St Mary's. A special word of thanks to Fr Fitzpatrick and Fr Shajan.



We are most grateful to the Credit Union for donating a cheque of £250 to the FOSM



Admissions

Primary 1 application procedures open on Friday 10th January 2025 through the EA online portal and applications close at 12 noon on Friday 24 January 2025.

We are holding an open afternoon on 9th January from 2:15-4:00pm

Primary 6/7 have enjoyed Taster days at St Ronan's College and Lismore Comprehensive School.

Thank you to St Ronan's College for inviting our P6/7 pupils to take part in science lessons with St Ronan's College Upper Sixth Pupils on 27th November 2024. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.



Remember the FOSM Raffle will take place on 19th December!



We had a very informative day with the Dog Trust learning about how to keep safe with our pets.



Huge thanks to the Fibrus Community Fund for providing us with great new technology which will help the children to learn new coding skills. We are grateful to FOSM for applying for this funding.

