

Christmas 2024

# ST. LUKES NS NEWSLETTER

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Staff and Pupils,

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the incredible students, dedicated staff, and supportive families of St. Luke's. Once again, it's been an amazing year filled with learning, growth, and many wonderful memories.

As we approach the festive season, it's a time to reflect on all that we've accomplished together in 2024. I'm immensely proud of our wonderful children for their hard work throughout the year. The Student council for their dedication to making our school a better place and the unwavering commitment of our teachers and staff in their provision of high quality teaching and learning as well as their dedication to create a school environment that is friendly, supportive, cooperative and inclusive.

Our school community and especially our parent body is truly special, one of a kind, and I am incredibly grateful of the strong partnership we have with our families and the support and passion that is constantly shown by our PA and parents for the betterment of our resources, facilities and learning, sporting and extra-curricular opportunities.

The magic of Christmas is alive and well in our school! The excitement and joy of our pupils is contagious! I hope that the holidays bring them wonder, happiness, and the opportunity to create lasting memories with their families. Thank you for sharing your amazing children with us. Wishing you a Merry Christmas filled with love and laughter, and a Happy New Year.

Le Meas,  
Eddie Pepper

## SCHOOL UPDATES

- 20 Laptops purchased using PA fundraising - touch typing and coding will be rolled out in senior classes in the new year. Teachers will discuss a whole school approach to this also after the pilot in 5th and 6th class.
- Google Classroom up and running in 3rd to 6th class
- Digital pupil portfolios being trialled in 3rd to 6th class.
- Digital Learning Plan developed - this document is an evolving document and is closely linked with school self evaluation.
- New Primary maths curriculum being implemented/ embedded by all teachers in school.
- New Primary Curriculum Framework being implemented in all classes - suggested time allocations, subject areas and language, "playful and engaging learning activities."
- Updated Code of Behaviour to be developed in light of the Bí Cineálta guidelines, recently published department guidelines "Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations" (Dec 2024) and upcoming 2025 publications: TUSLA (Developing a Code of Behaviour - March 2025); NCSE (Relate Behaviour Framework - January 2025); and NEPS (Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties - late 2025).
- Principal working with the SET team on the review of our SEN Policy in light of Circular 0064/2024 "The operation /application and deployment of Special Education Teacher Resources" and the accompanying "Guidelines for Primary Schools Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Classes"

## NOTICES:

- Please continue to notify teachers/the principal via the Aladdin Connect App of any absences, late arrivals or early finishing.
- Please continue to use teacher email accounts listed on the website or Aladdin Connect to schedule meetings. Teachers are not expected to answer emails outside of normal working hours.
- Please provide a detailed agenda with all meeting requests - this ensures that teachers are best prepared to answer your questions/queries.
- See website for current school policies.



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## GREEN SCHOOLS

The Green School's Committee have been busy these past few months. Recently we went up to St. Luke's Community Garden and met with Carla, the head of the garden.

We planted trees in our own planter.

The eldest Green Schools Committee members conducted a litter pick in our school yard.

Finally, we assigned jobs to members of the committee. Luke will be the Secretary and Corin will be our online communication officer.

Merry Christmas from the Green Schools Committee.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

- We would like to inform you about what we have done this term and what we will do in the future.
- This year's student council have been focusing a lot on the Bí Cineálta policy. So this month we have drafted a student friendly policy.
- Regarding to the policy we stuck positive affirmations around the school.
- We also organised a Christmas jumper day to raise money for the Cork City Hospitals Children's Club.
- We thank you all for all the donations that were brought in on the day. We raised a total of €198 which is amazing for the children in Cork City Hospitals Children's Club.
- We got new door stoppers in the school.
- We are also going to make a new school banner, we are going to get a few new designs for it in January.

Kind regards,  
The Student Council

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

- Thank you to all of the parents of St. Luke's. Your fundraising efforts have again been incomparable this year
- Thank you to the Staff for your hard work and dedication throughout 2024
- Well done to the student council for an amazing year
- Merry Christmas to all of our pupils, staff, parents and extended school community.

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Parents Association would like to sincerely thank everyone who volunteered and contributed to the Christmas Fair this year. The event went off without a hitch and everyone had a fantastic day.

Thank you to all who helped out with the raffle, food stalls, bric-a-brac, coffee station, bank, baking, face painting and all the fantastic activities.

The total raised on the day was an astonishing €4757! Thank you all for your support of the event!



## BÍ CINEÁLTA



- Bí Cineálta Surveys now closed - Pupil and parent surveys
- School will be closed for a half day in the new year to facilitate Staff consultation and the Bí Cineálta policy development - date to follow.
- The Stay Safe Programme will be delivered to all classes in the new year in line with school policy
- The Student Council has developed a Draft of the Pupil Friendly Bí Cineálta Policy. This will be discussed at wider school level with the children, will be on the agenda for a staff Croke Park meeting in January and once finalised, will be placed on the agenda for ratification by the Board of Management at a board meeting in the new year. Well done to all involved in the development of this policy.
- Parents will be invited to take part in an information session/focus group lead by Mr. Pepper in the new year to discuss the Bí Cineálta procedures and the development of our new policy.







# PHOTOGRAPHS

