



JANUARY & FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the start of a new year and a new academic term. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all staff, to wish you and your family health and happiness for 2023.

First, I would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas raffle by donating a prize or buying a raffle ticket. We raised a fantastic £1500 for 'Frankie' and 'Make a Wish' Foundation which was presented to Anna (Frankie's sister) before Christmas. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to all our P1 and P2 children who performed brilliant Christmas shows and our P3-P7 children who sang beautiful songs which were posted on our website. If you were unable to attend the shows or have not viewed the Christmas songs, please go to our website to catch up on the children's fantastic performances. Thanks to all our staff for preparing and supporting the children with their Christmas shows or songs.

Please read the following important information regarding our school and planned events for the half-term. Thanks.

RECEPTION & PRIMARY ONE APPLICATIONS FOR 2023/24: Online applications for Reception and Primary One children via the Education Authority's website (www.eani.org.uk/admissions) are available to complete from **Tuesday 10th January 2023 until 27th January 2023 (12 noon)**. You may scan the QR code to access the Education Authority's admissions website.



We have posted a short video on our school website (www.ourladyspstullysaran.com) which will give parents a glimpse of life in our school with information included regarding the admissions process and an updated school Prospectus for prospective families to view. Please encourage all prospective parents/guardians to visit our website to learn more about our school. Parents may scan the QR code to access our school website, view our admissions information and much more. Parents/Guardians can also contact the school to chat with me or arrange an appointment, to come and walk around our school.



TAK£500 + PROJECT: Our School Council has applied for two £500 grants from ABC Council as part of the TAK£500 + Project. They have applied for the money to facilitate **FREE** afterschool soccer clubs for boys and girls. This was in response to an afterschool survey carried out by the School Council in November. Many children stated that they would like to participate in soccer classes for boys and girls. Representatives from the School Council will be at the Armagh City Hotel on Saturday 14th January from 10.30am-3.30pm where they will show case their idea to receive support for FREE afterschool soccer clubs for all interested boys and girls. Other local groups: Tullysaran Community Association, Tullysaran O'Connells GAC, Tullysaran Camogie Club and Tullysaran Walking Club will also be in attendance so we

hope some members of our school community will be able to come along to support our idea and other local groups. Everyone aged 8 or over who attends the event will have ten votes to support local projects. Please call into the Armagh City Hotel on Saturday. You may also scan the QR code for more information. Thanks.



SCHOOL STRIPS: We are currently in the final stages of agreeing designs for our new school sports strips. The Primary 6 and 7 children have created possible designs online and we will be narrowing it down to our final strips this month. P4-P7 children will be provided with the opportunity to vote for their favourite design from three choices. We will then order 20 new strips (jersey, shorts and socks) for both our boys' and girls' sports teams. Currently JF McKenna and Mc Elmeel Mobility Services Ltd sponsor our school strips and both companies have confirmed that they would be willing to continue their sponsorship however if other local firms would like to be a sponsor, please contact the school office. Thanks.

DINNER, BREAKFAST & 123 CLUBS MONEY: Dinner, Breakfast and 123 Clubs money should continue to be paid in advance and via ParentPay. Thank you.

HEALTHY SNACK: Children should bring a drink of water and a healthy snack (for break-time): fruit, pancake, sandwich, crackers with butter/cheese (*Not permitted: jam, chocolate, sugary spreads, Nutella, peanut butter, nut products etc.*) to school with them each day for break-time. Thank you.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Reception & Primary One: Admission applications are available online from 10th – 27th January

Catholic Schools Week: Sunday 29th January – Saturday 4th February

Grandparents Assembly: Wednesday 1st February

Primary 7: Post-Primary Admission applications are available online from 1st – 23rd February

Internet Safety Day: Tuesday 7th February

Mid-Term Break: Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February (inclusive)

World Book Day: Friday 3rd March – non-uniform day

First Penance (P4): Tuesday 14th March @ 7pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran

Green Day: Thursday 16th March – non-uniform

School Closed: Friday 17th March (St. Patrick's Holiday)

Easter Holidays: Friday 7th April – Friday 14th April (inclusive)

Holy Communion (P4): Saturday 20th May @ 11am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran

Confirmation (P7): Saturday 27th May @ 11am in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

TERM TWO 25 YEAR CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES: During Term Two we will continue to celebrate 25 years of our school. We have teamed up with CLS Signage to create a new welcome sign for our front foyer. Every child's, staff members' and Board of Governors' handprints and initials will be incorporated into the sign. We will also agree the design for our new school strips and begin to plan our family fun day. We have found some photographs which have been stored digitally and will be displayed on our school website. Images from the official opening day are currently on our website and we will be changing these shortly to some other events so please take the opportunity to join us as we remember 25 years of Our Lady's.

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES: A letter regarding afterschool activities for January and February was sent home and posted on our website on Monday 9th January.

We are excited to announce that our school will soon be on Twitter! Stay tuned for the launch on our school website where you can then follow us to stay up to date on all the latest news, events, and happenings in school. We can't wait to connect with you all in this new way #school #education #twitter

Please continue to drive and park safely around our school and local community at drop off and collection times. Please also contact the school if you have any concerns or queries.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Take care and all the best

Tomás McKee

Mr Tomás McKee

(Principal)