

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Our Lady's P.S.



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Guardians

December is a very busy month for us all so please take note of the following dates and events:

ADVENT MASSES - We will attend **10 am Mass on Wednesday 4th** and **Wednesday 18th December** during the season of Advent. **Confessions** for P5-7 children will be on **Friday 13th December**.

PANTOMIME TRIPS – **Reception/Primary 1, 2, 3 & 4 - Wednesday 4th December**, Armagh Market Place to see 'Beauty & the Beast' (cost £13). The children will return @ 3.30pm approximately. Reception/P1-4 children will receive an early dinner before they leave for the Pantomime.

Primary 5, 6 & 7 - Thursday 12th December, Grand Opera House Belfast to see 'Beauty & the Beast' (£17). The children will return @ 5pm approximately. P5-7 children will receive an early dinner before they leave and they may bring a small snack with them to the pantomime. **(Pupils should arrive to school as usual in school uniform on both dates. Thank you.)**

OPEN EVENING FOR NEW PUPILS IN 2020/21 - Our Annual Open Night will take place in school on **Wednesday 4th December** between 7pm and 8pm. Please spread the word among new families in the area who may consider us as a suitable school for their children. Open Night is aimed primarily at parents of children who would like to enrol their child in our Reception or P1 class. However, everyone is most welcome to attend, especially those who have never visited our school before.

CHRISTMAS DINNER - Our Christmas dinner is scheduled for **Thursday 5th December**. Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes wearing a Christmas jumper, hat or festive clothing (no charge for non-uniform). **All children will go home at 1.30 pm to facilitate our staff Christmas lunch. There will be no 123 or 4 O'Clock clubs. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.**

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES – **Reception/P1 - 4** will perform their Christmas Plays on **Wednesday 11th December** in the Community Centre. The Matinee will be @ **10 am** with the evening performance @ **7pm**. There will be a raffle at both performances. These performances will be special occasions for all the children involved and I am sure there will be huge audiences to support them. I would encourage all parents/guardians, including those with children in P5-7, to attend and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

CHOIR – Our school Choir will be performing in the **Chestnut Nursing Home** on **Wednesday 18th December** and **Greenpark Nursing Home** on **Thursday 19th December**.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - **School Closes at 12 noon on Friday 20th December (no dinners will be served) and reopens on Monday 6th January 2020.**

DINNER MONEY - Dinner money for the month of December is **£36.40** for those who wish to pay monthly. Dinner money is paid to the Education Authority so it should be paid in advance. The Education Authority policy is that if dinner money is two weeks in arrears then the child(ren) should be refused dinner. This is

not a policy that we wish to implement so we would encourage parents/guardians to ensure that dinner is paid for in advance. Thank you. The December Dinner Menu is available on our school website.

(Please Note - Nut Products, including seeded bread, are not allowed in school. Thanks.)

SNACK MONEY - Snack Money for December is now due. Cost £5.00 per pupil. Thank you to all parents who support us in supplying a healthy fruit break for the children.

4 O'CLOCK CLUB – I am delighted to inform you that there has been a positive response to our 4 O'Clock Club which has been fairly well attended so we plan to continue to run with it in conjunction with our Breakfast and 123 Clubs. We will continue to monitor and review attendance and if there are any proposed changes we will inform parents well in advance. I am very grateful to Mrs Gillespie and Mrs Kearney for supervising of 4 O'Clock Club and I would just like to remind parents/guardians that any child who is not collected from school by 3.10pm will go to 4 O'Clock Club. If the child is there until after 3.15pm and we have not been contacted there will be a charge of £3 (4 O'Clock Club is £3 daily (3-4pm)).

REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY – Our P3 children performed a beautiful Remembrance assembly when they remembered all their loved ones and all members of the school community who have passed away. They created a lovely display, using crosses they had decorated, with all the names of those people whom they had specially prayed for. May they rest in peace. Well done to Mrs. Comiskey, Mrs Rooney and all the Primary 3 pupils. Special thanks to all the family members who attended our remembrance assembly.

DITCH THE DARK DAY – Friday 29th November was a busy day in school as our Eco Council and Mrs Hegarty organised, 'Ditch the Dark Day', which involved the children coming to school on their bikes, scooters or walking from the community centre. They all wore their bright clothes as we emphasised the importance of 'Be Safe Be Seen'. All the money raised (**£300**) from, 'Ditch the Dark Day' will go in aid of 'School Aid Romania' as two of our past pupils, Oisin Curran and Aidan Harney who are going to Romania with St. Patrick's in January. The school was a vehicle free zone as the children were able to cycle or scoot in the carpark and play in the yards. Everyone was able to avail of the hot breakfast and refreshments provided by our Kitchen staff. Thank you to Briege, Maureen, Rosie and Kerry for the food and to all of the staff who helped out. Dave Wiggins from Sustrans presented our ECO Council with the Sustrans Silver award and also worked with P 7. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event. The children had a great day and congratulations to the Eco Council and Mrs Hegarty for all their great work in achieving the Sustrans Silver award.



I would just like to remind you that all staff have requested that parents/guardians do not purchase gifts for them this Christmas. We stress this without reservation. Staff appreciate the kindness shown to them over the years however we feel, parents/guardians have enough expenses throughout the year and we appreciate all the support you give to the school.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all staff, to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Tomás Mc Kee

Mr Tomás Mc Kee
Principal