

## OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Our Lady's P.S.



## JANUARY & FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

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 2020.

### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Our Reception/Primary 1, 2, 3 & 4 children (pictured below) performed superbly at our fantastic Christmas show on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Congratulations to all of the children and well done to all the staff who prepared the children or assisted with the performances and raffles. We would like to thank all parents/guardians for bringing in raffle prizes. We would also like to thank all the local businesses who supported the raffles. We received prizes from; Macari's Ice Cream shop, Black's Nursery, Deevine Beauty, Island Turkish Barbers and Discount Furniture & Appliances. Thanks also to everyone who attended the shows, purchased raffle tickets and to the Community Centre committee for facilitating the shows and rehearsals. In total a magnificent £2458 was raised for our school funds. ***Thank you for your support!!***



**I would like to draw your attention to the following important information:**

### RECEPTION & PRIMARY ONE APPLICATIONS

Online Reception and Primary One applications for our school are open until 30<sup>th</sup> January. Information regarding online applications can be found on the Education Authority website at: [www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions). If you or you know someone who is having difficulty completing their application online, please contact the school office for advice or for a paper application form. Thank you.

## DINNER MONEY

Dinner money for the month of January is £52.00 and February is £39.00 for those who wish to pay monthly.

## SNACK MONEY

£5 Snack Money is due for the month of January. Thank you.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**Reception & Primary One** – Admission applications are available online from 7<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**RISE NI Parents Evening** for Reception-P3 parents on Development of Motor Skills Training – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January @ 7pm in school.

**Reception/Primary One Parent Teacher Meetings** – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**Catholic Schools Week** – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Literacy Evening for Reception-P3 parents** on Reading & Comprehension skills; Facilitator – Kate O'Hanlon - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January @ 7pm in school.

**Grandparents Assembly** – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January @ 1pm.

**Armagh International Road Race** – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Mid-Term Break** – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February (inclusive).

**Primary 6 Transfer Information Evening** – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February @ 6.15pm.

**Primary 4 & 7 Pre-Sacramental Information Evening** – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February @ 7pm (P4) & 7.30pm (P7).

**School Photographer** – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**World Book Day** – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – non-uniform.

**First Penance (P4)** – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran.

**Green Day** – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March – non-uniform.

**School Closed** – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (St. Patrick's Day).

**Service of Light (P7)** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March @ 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

**Spring Show** – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Easter Holidays** – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April – 17<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive). Children finish school @ 12 noon on Holy Thursday (No dinners will be served).

**Holy Communion (P4)** – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May @ 10am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran.

**Confirmation (P7)** – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May @ 2pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TARGETS & PARENTS EVENINGS

At the beginning of each school year we establish targets that aim to: create a safe and welcoming environment for all; improve children's progress and attainment; extend our preschool/afterschool provision; further develop communication with parents and the community; enhance our school building and grounds. This year we have focused on improving how staff feedback to pupils. Teachers and Classroom Assistants have participated in training and we have developed a draft Feedback policy and procedures which we are currently trialling. We are also focusing on further developing children's reading and comprehension skills, specifically their inferential skills. We have purchased new resources for the whole school to further improve the children's learning and we are also ordering new reading books for Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. We have arranged for Mrs Kate O'Hanlon, a very experienced Literacy Advisor, to facilitate a **Parents Workshop on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January @ 7pm for Reception, P1, P2 and P3 parents/guardians** which will focus on comprehension skills. I would encourage parents with children in these classes to attend as I feel you will find it both worthwhile and informative. We will also be promoting a Paired Reading Programme for Primary 4 children in March. Over the last few years we have invested in new reading material for P4-P7 and will continue to further develop the children's learning experiences as we strive to improve their progress and attainment.

## AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We are able to offer afterschool activities for all year groups in January and February. They are as follows:

**Monday** – Fiddle P4-7

**Tuesday** – Gaelic P6 & 7

**Wednesday** – Zumba P1, Art P4 & 5, ICT P6 & 7

**Thursday** – Sports Club – P2 & 3 and Karate/Tag Rugby – P6 & 7

**Friday** – Soccer – P2 & 3 + P4 & 5.

Please contact the school to arrange an appointment, if you have any concerns or queries. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

*Tomás McKee*

Mr Tomás McKee (Principal)