

Newsletter – December 2018



Welcome to our December Newssheet. This Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is a time when we get ready. We are getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The children will be learning about Advent and the story of the Nativity in school. There is no better place to be than in a primary school during December. The children are already beside themselves with excitement and we are lucky enough to share in every moment of that excitement.

Of course, there's lots happening here in school, in December, have a read to find out all the details.

Pauline Fleming, Acting Principal

Charlie & Nancy's Christmas Sale

I am so delighted to tell you that Charlie and Nancy Craig held a sale on Saturday 24 November to raise money for our school. They had made lots of beautiful Christmas decorations using origami to sell and even had a Christmas raffle. They made an amazing £300 which they donated IN FULL to our school. I can't tell you how very proud I am of them both! Well done Charlie and Nancy and thank you to the boys and girls from his class who bought lots of things in the sale too!



Foundation Stage Christmas Concert

Primary 1 and Primary 2 will entertain us all on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 December with their Christmas concerts. The shows begin at 9.30am. Tickets are still on sale with no limit on the number bought.



Christmas Carol Concert

Our annual Christmas Carol Concert will be in the Island Hall on **Tuesday 18th December** from 7pm - 9pm

The **Primary Five** children will showcase their Nativity play along with Christmas Favourites from our choir and musicians.

Tickets will go on sale on **Monday 3rd December** from the Island Hall Box Office. Please note tickets will not be available from school and this is a strictly **first come, first served** event. Tickets have sold out in days for this event in previous years so please be sure to be organised and get your tickets early!



Open Night

This year our Open Night is on Tuesday 4 December at 6pm. We are once again hoping for a fantastic turnout. Please spread the word to those you know with a child ready for Primary 1 in September 2019.



'Being the best that we can be'

Christmas Hampers

There's still time to donate an item or two to our Christmas Hampers. We will share these with needy families in the locality through St. Vincent de Paul, Lisburn.

Here's a list of what each year group should bring:

- P1 - crisps, pringles, twiglets etc
- P2 - biscuits and crackers
- P3 - sweets and chocolates
- P4 - mince pies and puddings
- P5 - Christmas cakes, logs, buns and cakes
- P6 - bottles of cranberry sauce, pickles, tea, coffee etc
- P7 - bottles of shloer, juice and adult juice etc

We will also use some of the donations to make up luxury hampers for our Christmas Wheel at our Christmas bazaar. Please send any donations of 'adult juice' as well as tins etc into school along with your hamper items.



Christmas Dinner

This year pupils will have the chance to have a "Christmas Dinner" in school. Louisa, our school cook has been busy working away on a festive menu. The cost of a dinner is £2.60 and Christmas dinner is open to all pupils even if they don't normally have a dinner in school.

Payment must be made before **Wednesday 5 December 2018** so that we can have final numbers for Louisa. All payments should be made to your child's class teacher. Pupils who are entitled to free dinners do not pay.



Christmas Bazaar

Our annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Monday 10 December from 5.30pm - 7.30pm**. This is always a fantastic evening for all the family with the rickety wheel, Elfridges, Christmas Stalls, etc. There will be a night off making dinner too as there'll be a burger van here on the night! Please come along and support the event.

Please note all children (present or past pupils must be accompanied by an adult at all times during the bazaar)



Christmas Ballot

Our PTA have also organised a Christmas Ballot this year. The fabulous prizes are as follows:

1. A Samsung Tablet and an Amazon Echo Dot
 2. £200 Photography Voucher from Peter Thomas Photography
 3. Luxury Alcohol Hamper
 4. £50 Voucher for Afternoon Tea at the Fitzwilliam Hotel
 5. A Child's Bike
- & lots more!**

Children will bring home 2 books of ballots and can return £5 per book in an envelope to their class teacher. Don't worry you can return books you don't sell. Please don't feel obliged to sell both books. The ballot will be drawn at

Digital Admissions

Applications for admission to Primary 1 in September 2019 will be completed digitally this year. Parents will apply through a **Parent Portal**: A new portal for parents to apply online for a place, including the listing of preferences.

The new Digital Admissions process will go live on **Wednesday 2 January at 10am** and will close at 12 midnight on **Thursday 31 January 2019**. This replaces the current paper-based application form.

I will have training in the new procedure so anyone who needs any help in applying can contact me here at school.

'Being the best that we can be'

PANTO DAY

Oh yes it is!!!!

Yes, it's Panto Day on **Wednesday 5 December**. This is such an exciting day for pupils and staff alike as we evacuate the whole school to go to Belfast's Grand Opera House to see the Panto. This year, the panto is 'Jack and the Beanstalk' so a real treat for all of us!

Pick up will be in the car park behind SALTO on Warren Park but we will send you a separate note regarding pick up arrangements etc and the number of the bus your child will be on.

Children should not bring their schoolbags to school on Wednesday and if taking a lunch, they should bring it in a plastic bag so that they don't have to bring a lunch box etc

This is a day to be patient. As you can imagine each child's safety is our number 1 priority on that day.



Shared Education for Parents

We are delighted that we can take our shared education project with Harmony Hill Primary School one step further next week. NSPCC will be hosting an 'Internet Safety Talk' for parents in Harmony Hill on Tuesday 4 December at 9am. Here is a link to registration for the event:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZna6HgziQIQMa74WThO103CYGDSsERJJCB3imRJBBHfp2tA/viewform>

Internet Safety is so important in this digital age. This workshop will provide you with up to date and relevant information for you.

Mrs Crilly will be in Harmony Hill to meet you. Please go along if you can.



Microsoft Office for Free

This is just the right time of year to let you know that you can download MS Office for FREE on up to 5 devices. I know this will come in really useful in the coming months and is a great saving for all of us.

Follow the link below:

<http://www.stjosephsschool.org/news-news/download-microsoft-office-for-free/>



Primary 6 Mrs Gorman's Class YMCA Project

We are delighted to have been involved in the YMCA's Shared EDUCATION PROJECT WITH Largymore Primary School. The project has now come to an end but the children will have the opportunity to showcase and talk about what they have been learning on **Wednesday 19 December from 3pm - 4pm in Largymore Primary School**. Parents of pupils in Mrs Gorman's class are warmly invited along to this event and there'll even be a cup of tea and a mince pie as well.



Handball News!

A special mention to Eoghan-Rua Rowlands, Joseph McMahon, Luke Morrison and Ciaran Lavery who played on a four wall handball court for the first time on Thursday 22nd November in a local Primary School competition at St Pauls GAC. The boys found it very different to the one wall handball which they play in school but they quickly got the gist of the game and found it great fun. Some games were won, some lost, but all in all it was a brilliant new experience and the boys all enjoyed it.

'Being the best that we can be'

Values of the Month

Our "Value of the Month" for December is **CHARITY**

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

Pope Francis

This is a month in which the value of "CHARITY" can truly be seen across the school. We have already sent lots of shoeboxes filled with Christmas cheer to Eastern Europe, our classrooms are filled with goodies for our Christmas Hampers and we will be presenting a number of cheques to our chosen charities at our Christmas Carol Concert on 18 December. Your generosity, as parents, is simply amazing. Thank you.

We will present awards to those pupils in each class who display the value consistently throughout the month.



Registration Morning for After School Activities Term 2

Registration for Term 2 After School Activities will take place on Wednesday 19th December at 8.15am in the Assembly Hall. A letter outlining what clubs are available and fees for the term will be emailed next week. Please keep a close eye on your inbox. A paper copy will also be available on request at the office.

2019 Term 3 Dates

- School opens **Tuesday 8 January 2019**
- **February Mid-Term** Monday 18 February 2019 - Friday 22 February incl
- **St. Patrick's Holiday:** Monday 18 March 2019
- **Easter Holidays:** Thursday 18 April school closes at 12noon



Dates for your diary!

Mon 3 Dec	Planner 4 begins Primary 7 at St. Patrick's Science Fair Waterbus for P6 at 10am
Tues 4 Dec	Harmony Hill PS: NSPCC Internet Safety Talk at 9am: All St. Joseph's Parents are welcome to attend (see details above) OPEN NIGHT at 6pm
Wed 5 Dec	PANTO DAY: See information above Last day for Christmas Dinner to be paid £2.60
Thurs 6 Dec	Shared Education day: Mrs O'Hare SUB: Miss Leonard
Fri 7 Dec	AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS: LAST DAY Shared Education day: Mrs O'Hare SUB: Miss Leonard First Aid Course for Mrs Braskiene, Miss McCarthy and Miss Gray Hurling Indoor Tournament at Leisureplex P5 at swimming P7 at badminton
Mon 10 Dec	CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: SEE DETAILS ABOVE Primary 7 School Trip Holy Trinity Nursery School Open Day 10am - 12noon
Tues 11 Dec	
Wed 12 Dec	Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre P4 Mrs Connolly @ 9.45am and P6 Mrs Gartland @ 10.45am Primary 7 Shared Education Development day: SUBS: Mrs O'Hare: Mrs McCambridge:
Thurs 13 Dec	Foundation Stage Christmas Concert at 9.30am St. Vincent de Paul Collection day for hampers Mrs Awada: EA Play Course: Miss Leonard
Fri 14 Dec	Foundation Stage Christmas Concert at 9.30am P5 at swimming School Choir Carol Singing in Lisburn City Centre at 11.15am
Mon 17 Dec	
Tues 18 Dec	Christmas Carol Concert in Island Hall at 7pm
Wed 19 Dec	AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION MORNING AT 8.15AM P6 Mrs Gorman's class YMCA Project Showcase 3pm - 4pm in Largymore Primary School School Choir Carol Singing in Lisburn City Centre at 11am
Thurs 20 Dec	P4 - P7 celebrate Christmas Mass at 10am in St. Patrick's Church School Choir Carol Singing in Lisburn City Centre after Mass P6 and P7 Choir to Thompson House at 1.30pm for Christmas Carolling
Fri 21 Dec	School Closes at 12noon

On behalf of our school governors and all of our staff we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



‘Being the best that we can be’