



St Patrick's Boys' School

December Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 7 th December	School closed for teacher training
Tuesday 19 th December	Cinema Trip (Junior Infants to 4 th)
Thursday 21 st December	Cinema Trip (5&6 th classes)
Friday 22 nd December	Christmas holidays (School will close at 12:00 noon.)
Monday 8 th January	School re-opens

Primary Maths Curriculum

The school will close for pupils tomorrow, Thursday 7th December as teachers will attend training for the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

Christmas Holidays

The school will close at **12:00 noon** on Friday 22nd December. The school will re-open on Monday 8th January 2024.

Christmas Plays/Concerts December 2023



Class	Teacher(s)	Time & Date
Infants	Ms. McGonagle	1:00 pm Monday 18 th
First Class	Mrs. McCandless	2:00 pm Wed 20 th
Second Class	Ms. McDaid	1:15pm Wed 20 th
Third Class	Mrs. Edel Doherty	12:00 pm Wed 13 th
Fourth Class	Mr. Philip Cuffe	2:00 pm Mon 18 th
Fifth & Sixth	Mr. Doherty&Mr. McFeely	1:15 pm Thurs 14 th

Cinema Trips

All classes will go on a cinema trip this Christmas. Junior Infants to Fourth Class will go to **Arthur Christmas** on Tuesday 19th December. Fifth and sixth classes will see **Home Alone 2** on Thursday 21st December. Please note that Home Alone 2 is rated PG. The cost for all the trips will be €5. The Parents' Association will cover the cost of the buses. Please bring this money to the class teacher by Wednesday 13th December.

Separate notes will be issued to the children with arrangements for the cinema trips.

Christmas Jumpers

Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers every Friday in December (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd).



Christmas Cards

Children are asked **not** to bring Christmas cards into class to distribute among their friends.

St. Vincent de Paul

We are not asking parents this year to donate to the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Instead, we will support our local St. Vincent de Paul. Envelopes will be distributed this Friday December 8th. **All money collected will be used in the local area.** Families have been extremely generous in the past and this has been much appreciated. We look forward to a positive response this year again.

Safe cycling

Sixth class pupils have received cycling training from Fergus and Gemma McDaid, who are providers of the national standard for cycling training known as Cycle Right. The training is completed over a four-week period. On the fourth week, Friday 8th, the boys will be taken out on the local roads.

This initiative is funded by Department of Transport (RSA) and Donegal County Council. The children are receiving excellent training and having outside fun at the same time. We are delighted to avail of this programme.

Concern Primary Debates

Congratulations to our debating team who carried the motion that Getting Rid of Plastic Pollution in our Oceans is just a Dream against a very strong Scoil Cholmcille, Greencastle team. Well done to Alex Bradley (captain), Rory Bradley and Ben Kelly (speakers) and Gareth Gomez, Jack Walsh and Lochlann Harkin (research & rebuttal).

50/50

Congratulations to Mrs. Teish Doherty, former principal on her recent win of €150. Congratulations also to today's winner, Michael McCandless who receives €120. There will be a draw every Wednesday up until the week of the Christmas holidays.

Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Margaret McLaughlin on the death of her brother, James recently. Ar dheis de go raibh a anam dilis.

CCS Christmas Show

Our senior pupils will visit Carndonagh Community School on Tuesday 19th December to see the school's Christmas Show. We look forward to this event.

Board of Management

The final meeting of the Board of Management (2019 to 2023) was held in the school last week. The board thanked the staff, parents and pupils for their hard work and dedication over their term.

We express a sincere thanks to the board members: Fr. Con McLaughlin, Donal Farren, Kathleen Farren, Andrea Porter, Jim Harkin, Caroline Canny, Noel Doherty and Anne McLaughlin.

A new Board of Management takes up office from 1st December. Members are:

Patron's Nominees:	Fr. Con McLaughlin & Nuala Lafferty
Community Representatives:	Jim Harkin & Claire McElhinney
Parents' Nominees:	Paul Canny (Father) & Caroline Canny (Mother)
Teacher Nominee:	Noel Doherty
Principal:	Anne McLaughlin

Please note, there was no need for an election for parents' nominees on the board as only one mother and one father put their names forward for election.

Student Council

A new student council was elected recently. Congratulations to Rodijs Cirksis, Harry Ward, Riley Farren, Darragh Doherty, Jaxon Logue Farren, John McElhinney, Gareth Gomez and Cillian McElhinney.

Thank you to the outgoing student Council: Edward Doherty, Declan McConomy, Cathal Doherty, Lochlann Harkin, Carter Taitt, Alex Bradley, Jack Walsh, Oisín Harkin and Jacob Doherty,

Traditional Musical Instruments

As part of our Creative Schools project, all children from first to sixth class are currently receiving tin-whistle lessons from Roisin McGrory. Many of the senior students are ready to move on to other instruments. We are hoping to build up a store of instruments and we are asking our school community to donate any unused instruments that you may have. Thank you.

Sport

Swimming lessons have finished for fourth class. Lessons have been arranged for third class in the new year. More information will follow.

Rugby: Lisa Mills is successfully conducting very enjoyable rugby sessions with 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th classes on Thursdays. The boys are learning to move forward as a team by supporting one another with lateral and backward passes.

Soccer: The six-a-side league will finish this week with an away match to Tooban. Well done to all the boys from fourth, fifth and sixth classes that participated in this year's Six-a-Side Inishowen Primary School's League. Thanks to all boys who returned cards for the Halloween Draw. Unfortunately, we had no winners on this occasion.

We wish Gareth Gomez a speedy recovery following his serious injury.

Cillian McElhinney, Alex Bradley, Gareth Gomez and Ben Kelly remain in the Last Man Standing competition.

Fundamental Skills: John Gibbons is working with Infants and First Class.

HSCL (Home School Community Liaison)

Home Visits

Home visits continue to be an integral part of my role, taking up approximately 30% of my time. Home Visits allow the parents an opportunity to have a chat about how they and their child are settling into school life. Many parents and children have been made aware of and have joined groups as a result of these Home Visits. I fully understand that Home Visits do not suit all of our parents but please feel free to contact me at any time on the HSCL number.

Zumba

Zumba started on Monday 9th November in the hall in St. Patrick's Girls' School. It is running until Thursday 14th December for x6 weeks and it is free. The class is being facilitated by Treasa from TR Fitness. Everyone is enjoying it thoroughly.

Healthy Families

We had a lovely group of parents who participated in this class recently. The focus was on gathering to share experiences and on tips and advice on how to make small changes, while being consistent and staying positive within your

family. It was a place and space to work through some of the challenges you maybe have as parents E.g. managing technology and healthy eating. Thanks to Sheila Keyes and Alison Bardini for facilitating it.

Ag Súgradh le Chéile

Thanks to the parents/guardians/ older siblings who joined the Junior Infant boys for Ag Súgradh le Chéile. Ag Súgradh Le Chéile Aims to Promote Active Play Between Both Children and Parents. I appreciate the effort made to come into school during the day.

Christmas Jumpers

Thanks to everyone who donated Christmas jumpers. A lot of children were delighted with their new jumpers. I still have some smaller size jumpers if anyone wants to get one? Text me to arrange a time.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas.

Sinéad McLaughlin

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