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## **December Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the Christmas season, please read the following information carefully for information on upcoming events and general news in the school.

### **Christmas Preparations**

Junior and Senior Infants will be performing Christmas shows for their families at 11am on 20<sup>th</sup> of December. Families from these classes will be invited in on the morning from 10.45am. We really look forward to seeing them on stage. Santa will also be visiting the school before the holidays. As he is very busy this time of year, his time of arrival has not been confirmed.

### **Science and Maths weeks**

Well done to all of the children who participated in maths weeks activities and trails throughout the school led by Mrs O'Sullivan. We are always encouraging our pupils to see that Maths is all around us and it was great to see the participation in events during the week. Science week saw children attend many different events in UL, Mary Immaculate College and LIT. 6<sup>th</sup> class boys put on a really excellent Science Fair during the week that all of the pupils in the school learned from. Thanks to Miss O'Grady and Mr Shanagher for all their work with the pupils.



### **Scholastic Book Fair**

An amazing selection of new books have been on show in the school since last week. Most children and parents by now have had an opportunity to purchase some really quality books. 60% of all revenues collected will be returned to the school by the Scholastic Company in vouchers to purchase books for school libraries. Thanks to everyone who supported the Fair and Mr Ryan and Miss Dillane for organising.

### **Sport**

Hard luck to Mr Shanagher's U13 footballers who were narrowly beaten by Corpus Christi in their league semi-final. This is always a tough stage of any competition to lose but they were certainly gallant in defeat. The U11 played out their league and gained some valuable experience for future years. Our 6<sup>th</sup> class Soccer team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the annual An Garda Síochána Limerick City Garda competition. Congratulations to Darragh Carey who finished top scorer with 8 goals. Well done to all. 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes have almost completed their 6 week course of swimming at the UL arena this term. Well done to all of the boys for their cooperation and excellent behaviour during the lessons.



## **Parkway Shopping Centre Recycling Competition**

Congratulations and sincere thanks to Conor Blake in 2<sup>nd</sup> class who won a new iPad for himself and €1000 cash for the school in the Parkway recycling competition. Conor reportedly put more bottles into the bank than anyone else and was a deserved winner. The money raised is going towards the purchase of Nexus clear boards for pupils which will support our approach to improving problem solving abilities. Many thanks Conor.

## **Parents Association**

Thanks to everyone who attended last month's AGM. John Nugent has been nominated as the new chairperson of the Parents' Association while Martina Crkonova has taken on the role of treasurer. Jennifer Chambers continues as our secretary. We thank them for their commitment to the school and wish them well in their roles for the coming year. We again appeal to anyone who would like to assist the work of the committee in any way to contact any committee member or by emailing [parents@stpatricksboysns.com](mailto:parents@stpatricksboysns.com) for more information.

## **Health and Safety**

As is the case every year, our Junior Infants and any new entrants to the school received their vaccinations last week unless they had received them previously. Thanks to all parents for their cooperation at this time. As you know, attendance is really important in school. However, if your child is genuinely sick please leave him at home until he is fit to return. As you can understand, the risk of spreading illness in classrooms is quite high. In the event your child is absent from school, we ask that you send a note to his teacher on return, explaining the absence. This is a really important record that the school must keep for every absence in a school year.

I am delighted to say that second class had the highest attendance for the month of November at 97.7%. Well done Rang a Dó!

## **Parent Teacher meetings**

Meetings have been taking place over the past fortnight or so. Many thanks for your cooperation and attendance. It is so important for that lines of communication are kept open between school and home. Should you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's teacher during the year.

## **Green Schools' and Garden**

Miss Williams Green Schools' Committee is up and running for the year. This year they will be focusing on achieving the water flag. We wish them well in their work. As regards litter and waste, please be aware that children are expected to take home their lunch waste with them every day. We encourage you to recycle all recyclable items as appropriate. More information on what can and cannot be recycled is available on [www.recyclingireland.ie](http://www.recyclingireland.ie).

Mrs Tierney and her team of gardeners have sowed some winter cabbages and carrots in the school garden recently. We wish them well in this new venture for this time of year and look forward to a healthy crop in the spring!!

## **Christmas Cards and Annuals**

Many thanks for your support of our Christmas Card fundraiser. In total we raised €440. This money will go towards the cost of updating STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) equipment in the school. Christmas annuals are also now on sale and come at a cost of €4.

Finally, please note that the school will be closing on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December at 12pm for the Christmas holidays and will reopen on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Sincerely,

Anthony Liddane and Staff

