

December  
News 2021



### Important Dates:

7<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner in school

8<sup>th</sup> December **School Closed**

22<sup>nd</sup> December Close at 11.30am for Christmas Break.

School re-opens Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Confirmation 12<sup>th</sup> March Time TBC

Holy Communion 21<sup>st</sup> May @ 11am

## December

We will be having our annual **Christmas Jumper Fundraiser**. This year it will run from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Children can wear their Christmas Jumper to school, instead of the school cardigan/ jumper or they can wear a Christmas hair accessory.

Children are asked to make a donation in the collection box in their classroom.

All funds collected will be donated to St Vincent de Paul. We hope that the whole school will look festive and bright and that we raise money for this good cause.



## Christmas Nativity Plays

Despite the COVID pandemic we are going ahead with our annual Nativity Plays. P1 - P3 are doing "The Nativity" and P4 - P7 are doing "Who took all the Loo Roll". The children and teachers are currently all very busy preparing for Christmas.

Unfortunately, we cannot welcome you all into St Matthew's this year to see the children perform and we know this is a huge disappointment for all of us!

Christmas would simply not be the same without watching our children perform their Shows.

Therefore, we have decided to make a recording. We have a videographer booked to record both shows, please be patient with us as this will be uploaded to our website and snippets will be uploaded to our Facebook page week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> December for all families to share this magical piece of Christmas with all their family and friends.

### **Advent Prayer**

During this special time of Advent, we would encourage you to read the Advent Prayer each day with your child.

#### *An Advent Prayer*

God of light and hope,  
look upon us in love,  
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus  
that we may love you and serve you in your kingdom.  
Protect us during this week  
and keep us watchful in prayer  
as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
who is the light of the world,  
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### **Annual Flu Immunisation Programme.**

The School Nurse team will NOT return to administer the vaccine to any children that were not in school 27<sup>th</sup> October. Please book an appointment with your child's doctor.



**After School Clubs will resume after Christmas Break**

**Mondays**

**Multi Sport Club**

P1 - P3 2.30 - 3.20

P4 - P7 3.30 - 4.20

**Tuesdays**

**Gaelic Club**

P1 - P3 2.30 - 3.15

P4 - P7 3.15 - 4.10

Cost £1.50 per child per week.

**Wednesdays**

**Traditional Music Club**

P4 - P7 Children have been given their time slot

Cost £2.50 per child per week.

Multiple instrument discount.

**Thursdays**

**Dance Club**

P1 - P3 2.30 - 3.20

P4 - P7 3.30 - 4.20



**PTA Christmas Fundraiser**

The PTA are holding their annual Christmas Hamper Fundraiser. Families have been asked to donate items to the Hampers please return items on/before Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

December to the collection box in the foyer or children can give them to the class teacher.

Tickets have also been sent home, please sell as many squares as you can and return the sheets with money on/ before

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December.** The draw will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The PTA would like to thank everyone who joined their Zoom AGM. Especially the new members who have joined us.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work & dedication of the PTA in trying to raise funds for our children during what has been a difficult and challenging 20 months.

I would like to thank our outgoing chairperson Natalie McGee and welcome our new chair Shauneen Mullan. I have no doubt that with her enthusiasm she will be a great asset to an already amazing committed group.

**COVID-19 Absences**

Please remember to keep school informed should your child be absent for any reason, including the need to self-isolate. Please also make us aware if your child develops COVID -19 symptoms, if you have booked a COVID test or are awaiting results.

Teachers will communicate homework etc via Seesaw.

**Remember: Keep washing your hands, wear a mask and make space! To keep everyone safe!**

**School Collection**

Thank you to everyone for following our new "pick up" rules. Our children's safety is our first and main priority. Please, wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing rules when collecting children.



Applications for free school meals can be made online on the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

**Children Starting P1 in September.**

If you know anyone starting P1 in September 2022.

Online Applications will open at Noon on 10<sup>th</sup> January and close Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January at Noon



**On behalf of myself, the Governors and staff I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!**