



St. Colmcille's J.N.S. News

December 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a very busy couple of months here in St. Colmcille's J.N.S in preparation for Christmas. The school is covered in beautiful art work throughout and the sounds of Christmas songs echoing from the classrooms is putting everybody in the festive spirit.

Recent Events

We had a visit of the Sam Maguire and Brendan Martin cups to the school on Wednesday November 27th. There was great excitement in the school as the players answered questions and offered the children words of advice. Some members of the victorious Ballyboden senior football team visited us also. The children in the Junior School now believe that winning these cups are a set event every Autumn!! We all know that this is not the case and the effort and sacrifice these players make is an important message we get across to the children. Well done to both the men's and ladies' teams on their fantastic achievements.

Nativity Plays

The Nativity Plays are in full swing here in the school. We have our new stage ready to go for this year's performances. The sound of Christmas songs filling the atrium on a daily basis fills us all with festive cheer. I want to compliment all the teachers on the wonderful plays and a special well done to all the boys and girls who performed so well. It was great seeing the parents and indeed grandparents visiting the school for the performances.

Christmas Display Pictures



We will hold our assemblies with our assembly groups on the last two days before the holidays.

- Willow / Horse Chestnut / Oak / Sycamore.

We continue to talk about the importance of exercise and healthy eating and how it is much more fun having 'less screen time' and getting outside! Despite the recent wet spell we have endured the children have spoken about different alternatives to spending their time on phones, tablets etc. These include playing board games, drawing pictures and role-play.

Each class will perform a song or Christmas poem at the group assemblies and it also provides children with the confidence to perform in front of an audience.

Our 1st and 2nd class assemblies are continuing on a weekly basis and the themes we have covered recently are friendships, concentration, respect, the choices we make, those who help us as well as the importance of helping others and each week a class performs a poem or song. Both our 1st and 2nd classes have completed two signs for Halla 3 and Halla 4 which are proudly displayed on the walls reminding us of our school motto to "Be The Best That You Can Be".

Bookfair

Thank you to the Parents Association for running a fantastic book fair as always from Monday November 18th - Thursday November 21st .The Book Fair coincides with our 1st and 2nd class Parent Teacher meetings and the children really look forward to this event every year. It is an annual event which took in €10,700 in book sales. A huge word of thanks also to Ms Corduff for helping with the organisation and smooth running of the event.

Carol Service

We are holding our school Carol Service on Wednesday December 18th in the church at 11am and all of the classes are practicing their carols on a daily basis. A special mention to Ms. Raffertys class who were chosen this year to perform the Nativity Play in the church and have worked extremely hard over the last few weeks during rehearsals.

Parking

We would kindly ask parents and childminders to avoid parking on double yellow lines as it is obstructing the view of the lollipop lady outside the church. The safety of the children crossing is of paramount importance. Can we also remind you that no dogs are allowed on the school premises - except guide dogs.

“What comes in Must go Home”

Well done to all the boys and girls and indeed the parents for helping our school contribute to the environment by minimising our waste here in school and taking home our plastics, papers, tinfoil, cartons etc. in our lunchboxes and recycling them at home. Both staff and children have really welcomed this initiative and along with the Senior School we hope to create an awareness of the importance of ‘reusing and recycling’.

Card Reader

Our new card payment machine is now available for use in the school. This will be particularly beneficial in making purchases at our uniform shop going forward.

Annual Food Appeal

Thank you to all for the donations received this week for our annual Christmas food appeal. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. This time of year can be a very difficult period for a lot of families and your support means a huge amount to many people.

Visit of Santa Claus

We are looking forward to a visit from Santa Claus to the school in the coming days. He loves visiting the children in St Colmcilles JNS every year and listening to Christmas songs and poems as well as admiring the beautiful Christmas artwork displayed around the school. Thank you to the Parents Association for organising.

Upcoming school closures

Friday 20th December - *School closes at 12 noon*

Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January - *Christmas Holidays*

Monday 6th January - *School reopens 8:50am*

I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and to thank you all for your continued support. We look forward to a very bright and positive New Year.

Le gach dea-ghuí,



David Curtin (Príomhoide).