

Christmas Holid- days.

The school will close on Thurs, December 22nd @ 12.30p.m. Buses will collect the children on the first load at 12p.m. School will re-open on Mon, January 9th @ 9.20a.m. Le Cúnamh Dé.

Fundraising

Team Hope Shoebox appeal.

We sent 85 beautifully wrapped shoeboxes with gifts for boys and girls of varying ages in other countries where these children may not receive as much as our children do. Thank you for your generosity and support for this good cause.

Tea Towels

Our Parent's Association came up with a novel idea of fundraising this year. Children drew their faces on a small piece of paper and wrote their names on it. These were then transferred onto cloth. The tea towels are on sale in the school for €4 each and some of the money returns to school funds.

Please support this fundraiser and have a fun souvenir of your child(ren).

Book Fair

There will be a book fair held again in collaboration with the parents association on Feb 28th 2017. We will keep you updated closer to the time. This was a great success last year and the school libraries have greatly benefited from the large amount of money that was raised and returned to the school in 2016. We would like to extend our thanks to the committee of the Parent's Association who helped us run the book fair.

Payment for Books.

Thank you for payment for rental books. We changed the system this year and parents are asked to buy workbooks/copies and necessary equipment during the summer. Readers and maths books are rented. There are still outstanding monies owed for books please pay as soon as possible.

Buddy Reading

Ms McGowan will coordinate buddy reading which will run for the first six weeks in Term 2. The details are yet to be worked out and we will let you know next term on the school blog page.

Wishing you all a very Happy & Holy Christmas!

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Rachel Keane, Fidelma Glancy, Nicola Heslin, Micheál Mc Kiernan, Gearóidín Ní Chongaile, Lorraine McKiernan, Geraldine McWeeney, Mary Scott, Joan Tiernan, and Christina McGourty.

St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Christmas newsletter Dec 2016



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Dear Parents/Guardians.

Christmas is fast approaching and it's time to reflect over the past few months and plan for the New Year. As usual it was a busy first term with lots of visitors to enhance the teaching and learning taking place in our school. As we prepare for the coming weeks ahead we thank you for your continued support in all areas and request your cooperation in planning events for the future.

Dates for your Diary.

The children in 2nd class who will receive the sacraments –First Penance will take place on March 22nd 2017. First Holy Communion will be take place in St Brigid's church on Sunday May 28th 2017 @ 11.30 a.m. Confirmation will be held on Sunday March 12th @ 3p.m in St Brigid's church for 5th and 6th class pupils.

Choirs will be organised for both events. We request that as many children can participate in the choir on those dates attend and support their school peers.

Welcome.

We welcome Arthur & Sarah Mullen who joined our school. We hope you will be very happy with us.

Memory Lane Photographer

The photographer came on Oct 18th and the photographs will be distributed as soon as they are returned to school.

Christmas Raffle.

We will hold a Monster raffle on Wednesday December 21st in school. If any family wishes to donate prizes for this please send them in on/or before Wednesday 21st.

Our Hallowe'en raffle was a resounding success. We raised over €740 for school funds. We will buy a P.A system to help children prepare for public speaking, reading /singing at ceremonies, events to be held for or by parents/staff / visitors presenting to larger audiences in the school.

Sign in/Sign Out Policy

Parents/Guardians are requested to sign out/ sign in your child(ren) with Mrs McGourty if you have to withdraw them early or if they arrive late for any reasons. This is minimising disruption to classes and it is part of our revised Communication Policy. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Swimming

Congratulations to Ella-Mae McKeon who qualified in the backstroke event last Saturday Dec 3rd 2016. She will compete in the National Aquatic Centre on February 12th 2017.

New Entrants.

We are working on a data base of children who will be attending school here in the next few years. This will ensure we will have adequate accommodation and resources in place. Can you please contact Mrs McGourty @ 9642315 if your child(ren) will be starting from September 2017 onwards. If you know of new families with young children ready for school please inform to contact Mrs McGourty

School Attendance.

Congratulations to the following children who missed no days in 2015/2016: Ella Gilmartin, Belinda Clarke, Aisling Mc Weeney, Latisha Lupton, Claire Mc Weeney
Eileen Maguire, Michael Maguire.

Certificates & trophies will be awarded before the holidays

Maths Week

This took place from 17th –21st October. Teachers and pupils were busy solving maths problems and setting up maths trails around the school. Well done to all involved.

Floral Pride

Ms McHugh and Mrs Heslin attended the award ceremony in Manorhamilton on October 25th. They returned with First Prize of €250. Thanks To Eamonn Mac Carthy, Sabine Schmidt, Philomena Doran and all pupils and staff who worked so hard before judging day. The judges were impressed with all the pupils they met on the day and thanked them for their informative tour around our school grounds.

Solas Art Exhibition in Ballinamore.

It has come to that time of year when we are invited to draw/paint or use various art mediums on A4 PAPER on any subject of interest to the children. We are asked **Not** to submit Christmas pictures as these are exhibited all year round in school. We will submit this into this local exhibition to be held January 2017 in the Solas Art Gallery in Ballinamore. The cost is €4 per child and children must have their entry ready for January 9th 2017. There is no onus to submit an entry.

When the exhibition is over, pictures are returned to our school and they are further exhibited for the next year. We always have a lovely exhibition on show for parents and visitors to the school.

Road Safety Officer

Louise McGeever from the Road Safety Authority (R.S.A) visited our school on Thursday November 17th 2016. She gave a great presentation on all aspects of road safety for our children and adults to individual classes. This is a very topical issue nationwide and it is important that we each play a part in being responsible while walking, cycling, driving and travelling by other means on the road.

Preparing for Secondary School

Our 6th class pupils and their teacher visited Ballinamore Community School on Thursday November 17th and were shown around their new building. They were treated to lunch in the canteen and returned with great ideas of what lies ahead in their future. Some pupils and parents also attended an open day in Mohill Community School and viewed what they have to offer. We wish you well in choosing a new school placement for next year.

Upcoming Events

Carol Service

This takes on **Wednesday 14th December 2016 in St Brigid's church at 7p.m.** Please have children in the church to be seated no later than 6.45p.m. Everyone is invited to enjoy the retelling of the Nativity story through music, song and drama presented by the pupils in 2nd and 3rd class with the school choir.

6th class school tour

This year due to numbers 6th class will travel to Dublin on Tuesday December 13th. They will attend "Musical Adventures in the National Concert hall and be introduced to orchestral music. It is promised that the children will be enthralled by the acclaimed music amateur, presenter and broadcaster Tom Redmond, conductor Gavin Maloney and the RTE National Symphony Orchestra. Musical gems including Harry's Wondrous World from Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Sleigh Ride and interaction by the orchestra and children singing White Christmas will be the order of the day. After lunch we will visit Glasnevin Cemetery and tour the infamous working cemetery and perhaps take part in a grave snatching episode!!

The overall cost should be €35 per child. Thanks to raffle funds we are able to subsidise the cost and reduce it to €20.

Athletics

Thanks to Pat O'Toole for coming to our school and training the students from 2nd - 6th class inclusive as part of a 6 weeks programme.

Junior & Senior Infants.

Our infants attended the show "Ridiculous" in the Dock on Wednesday Dec 7th. Fun and frolics in a live theatre was the order of the morning for our infants. Thanks to the staff and parents who helped out on the morning. Thanks to you, the parents for bringing the children to school earlier than normal and helping us be on time for the show.

Parent Teacher Meetings

These were held in school on Nov 16th and 17th 2016. Thanks to all parents/guardians for your attendance over both nights. If for any reason you were unable to attend or you feel you need to follow up on any concern please make an appointment with Mrs McGourty and arrange a time suitable to you and the class teacher.