



St. Joseph's NS Templarainey

December 2017 Newsletter



A Chairde,

The Elves on the shelves are making a nuisance of themselves, Santa cameras are working hard and Richie has all the decorations up - Tá sé in am don Nollaig!! Our first term is nearly over and we look forward to the start of 2018, and we have exciting times ahead.



New Building: Our new building is progressing well and we hope to have our roof on before Christmas. We will keep you informed but we are told that we will definitely be in our new building by the start of the next school year i.e. September 2018.

Fundraising: Now that we can see the end in sight we need to look forward and plan our playground and furnish our new building. We need to do some fundraising to achieve all of this. So, we ask you to do your best by supporting our forthcoming fundraising initiatives.

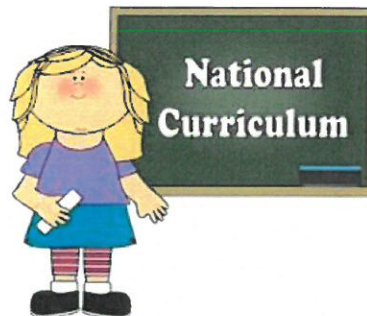


We ask you to do your best to support our St. Stephen's Night fundraiser in the Arklow Bay Hotel. We make profit on the number of tickets we sell so we really need to boost our ticket sales. If we could have one ticket purchased per family (€10 per ticket), we would be thrilled. We don't want to cause undue pressure but funds are necessary to complete our building project. St. Stephen's Night promises to be a great night in the Arklow Bay Hotel so please do your best in this regard. The members of the Parents' Council will be selling tickets outside Sharon's office in the morning times and the afternoons. Also, Sharon will have some tickets available in the office during school time.

Christmas Concerts: We are running a School concert on Tuesday 19th December and Wednesday 20th December in the school hall. Each class grouping will perform one item and our school choir will also participate. Every boy and girl will be involved and it is a great opportunity to 'get into the Christmas Spirit' and experience the happiness around the school. We will have a donation box at the door and ask adults to contribute €5 to come to the concert. Once again proceeds will go the building fund.

Christmas Plays: Some Junior Classes are also doing Christmas plays this year. We welcome parents,

grandparents, child-minders to come and see their plays in the classrooms.



Curriculum matters: The boys and girls have been working hard during this term at all subject areas.

Maths - we are continuing to concentrate on tables and problem solving and

ask you to take an active role in promoting these areas of your child's learning. **Gaeilge:** We are making steady improvement in the speaking of Irish around the school and it is great to hear the boys and girls communicating through Irish. Maith Sibh! We would encourage you to speak the 'cúpla focal' at home as well - it's amazing how quickly you will remember words you thought were long forgotten. We had very enjoyable Irish classes for parents last year and I would ask any parents interested in classes this year to give your name and mobile phone number to Sharon in the office. **Literacy:** Please continue to encourage your children to read at home. As well as 'screen time', you might consider 'reading time' at home?

Discussions about books the boys and girls have read or are reading are invaluable and you will have a sense of their understanding of the texts.

Sports: Our GAA training sessions are going well and with money raised through non-uniform days we have purchased some new Sports Equipment and have replaced equipment that was well past it's 'sell by date'!! **Bootcamp** will be organised again when the days get longer and the weather improves.

Well done to all the classes that are exercising each morning - fitness is really improving!!

Music: Our choir is busily preparing for the Peace Proms next February. This is a fantastic night with the children performing with a real orchestra in the RDS. We are really looking forward to the concert.

Art: Our Art Exhibition was a huge success this week and it was great to see the fantastic work produced by the boys and girls. Thanks to all the parents who came to see the wonderful work done by the boys and girls and for your continued support. Also a big thanks to the Parents' Council for their help at the Exhibition.



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Enrolments: We are currently taking enrolment applications for Junior Infants for September 2018. Please contact the office if you wish to enrol a child for September 2018 as places fill up quickly each year.

Parent / Teacher meetings: All our meetings for children from 1st to 6th classes have been held. If you have not had a meeting with your child's teacher please ring Sharon in the office. Parent / Teacher meetings for Junior / Senior Infants and children attending the Ms. O'Riordan, Ms. Redmond and Mrs. Joyce will be held in the New Year and you will be informed closer to the time.



Healthy Eating: Just a reminder that we are a Healthy Eating School and treat day is only on a Friday. Also, a reminder not to give children peanut butter or chocolate spread in consideration for the boys and girls in our school who

have a severe nut allergy.

Toilets: We need to ask adults not to accompany any children into the toilets here in school. *If a child needs to use the toilet adults must wait at the bench outside Sharon's office.* This is a Child Protection measure.

Textparent: *If you have changed your phone number recently or you think you may not be receiving our text messages, please contact Sharon in the office. It is important that we can contact everyone via phone call or text.*



Social Media: Once again, we remind you to monitor all activity on Social Media. Messaging can be nasty and hurtful. There is a very useful website which outlines tips

for parents in this regard - www.webwise.ie

After School GAA: Our last after school GAA session for 2017 will be on Tuesday 12th December. GAA will resume again on 16th January 2018.

Dates for your Diary:

Christmas Concerts in School Hall -

19th & 20th Dec

Christmas Carol Service in Church - 18th

Dec at 11.15am

Holidays - School closes on Friday 22nd Dec at 12.15pm for Junior / Senior infants and at 12.30pm for all other classes. School re-opens on Monday 8th January 2018.

We are an Energy workshop on Thursday 14 December for students in 5th and 6th classes. Our new Committee is formed and work continues to keep our school green!

Active Schools' Flag:

Some classes are running regularly at school and are showing huge improvement in their fitness **Healthy Schools** levels. Remember young children need 60 minutes of moderate exercise every day to stay healthy and happy. Are you a 'fit family'? Make a new year's resolution to do some regular exercise together as family. Let's get everyone active for 2018!



Christmas Goodwill: In an effort to help other people at Christmas it has been decided that we will help a local charity this year. Therefore, we are asking families to make a donation of non-perishable food for Arklow Community Action Resource Centre. This Charity helps support over 160 families in the community and surrounds. We will be leaving a box in the PE Hall for donations from next Monday 11th December to Friday 15th December.

Finally, Míle Buíochas for all the support and co-operation we receive in St. Joseph's. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliáin faoi Mhaise.

Máire Daltúin Príomhoide

Merry Christmas