



St. Joseph's Newsletter December 2022



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Dear parent/guardian,

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well and relaxed before we enter the silly season of Christmas. This will be my last newsletter after almost 23 years of writing them for St. Joseph's - obviously a little sad moment for me personally. I would like to thank you all sincerely for your support towards me and St. Joseph's over the years - it was always appreciated and never unnoticed.

St. Joseph's is a very special school and that is because of the amazing people within it, our children, our parents, our staff and our Board of Management. There are very few schools in the country with such a committed population and thank you for being part of our school community.

I wish you all well in the future and leave you in the very capable hands of Ciara McNickle and Laura Cafferkey who will be acting Principal and Deputy Principal respectively, until the new Principal is appointed by the Board of Management.

In the meantime I will still be here until the day of the school holidays so pop in and say hello or goodbye!

Kindest regards and fondest memories, always.

Ann McQuillan,

School Principal

Carol Service/Concert Friday 16th December at 9.15 and 11.30

Our annual **Carol Service/Concert** is back and we invite you to try to attend to get into the Christmas spirit. We will have **two shows**, one at 9.15am and the other at 11:30am and you will need to select which show you wish to attend. Tickets will be free and will be available in school tomorrow morning. They are limited as we can only accommodate 120 per show. *Two tickets per family* will be available on a *first come, first served* basis from Shirley in the office from **tomorrow morning**. The entire show will last about 40 minutes and please try to stay for it all as the children hate seeing you leave. Please have your actual ticket on the morning of the show.

Helix Panto

Theatreworx, a Performing Arts School based in our school each Thursday and Friday have again kindly sponsored their Pantomime free of charge to us. The show is available live to see in the Helix at the moment but they allow us to see it for free as a goodwill gesture for accommodating them in our school. The children will watch it in their classrooms over the last few days in school. One of our very own pupils Olivia Cunningham is performing in the panto and we will all see her on our video link.

Admissions Policy changes

The Minister has asked us to let parents know that the following statement must be added to all Admissions Policies:

St Joseph's N.S will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 relating to the provision of education to children with special educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a special class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

St Joseph's N.S will comply with any direction served on the patron or the board, as the case may be, under section 37A and any direction served on the board under section 67(4B) of the Education Act."

Sixth Class Nativity Mon 19th Dec at 7pm

Our Sixth classes are doing a Christmas Nativity play with a twist called "Straw and Order" Both children and teachers are very excited about this production and I personally am looking forward to it. It promises to be quite the show and it will run during school for our pupils and after school too as a fundraiser for their 6th class Tour at the end of the year. The children will see it in the days leading up to the show during the school day and the evening performance is for parents and family. The children are very eager to show off their dramatic skills and we hope you can support the event.

PC Cake Sale Friday Dec, 2nd

Our PC Cake Sale was on Friday 2nd Dec and is the highlight of the year for many children - they LOVED it. Some were slightly overwhelmed initially as they had not been at one previously due to COVID, but they soon settled in and enjoyed the whole experience. Thank you all for the donated cakes and toys, books etc as listed on the PC flier.

Carol singing in Parke House

Ms Shiel Nolan takes an after school choir and they have been invited to sing Christmas Carols in Parke House again this year. This was not possible for the past few years due to COVID 19 but they have been requested back again this year as the elderly people love seeing the children. Nothing like childrens' voices to remind us of the magic of Christmas. Thanks to Ms. Shiel Nolan for organising the visit.

Parish Blitzes and Cuman na mBunscol leagues

I'm delighted to say that **Mr Forde** has linked with the two other schools in the town and they are organising Blitzes across many classes and sports over this coming year. The idea is to whet the childrens' appetites for sport and then feed them into the clubs in the town. We want the children to love a sport, any sport or any hobby for that matter. These games will be competitive but each school will form part of every team as we want them to integrate and get to know each other.

We will of course continue to enter *Cumann na mBunscol* leagues for our boys and girls and they will recommence in the Spring term. Our girls participated recently as you saw in last month's Newsletter. We will be looking for parental support when it comes to these matches so please let yourself be known if you can help out nearer the time.

Santa visit Monday 19th December

We hope that **Santa** will visit us on **Monday, 19th December** around 9.30am and know the children will be on their very best behaviour. It is always a magical time and we are all very excited about it. If you are around that morning around 9.30..please come and see him arrive as we all go outside to greet him and it is very special.

Dates for your Diary - *full calendar on website*

Christmas Holidays: Wednesday, 21 Dec at **12 noon** and school re-opens on **Thurs 5 Jan '23**.

Success for all, a happy school - Learning and growing together