



# St. Joseph's Newsletter

## December 2020



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### Christmas

School Holidays commence: **Tuesday, 22 Dec at 11.40 (families A-K) and 11.50 (families L-Z).**

We would like to wish all of our families and school community a very happy and safe Christmas. The school will re-open on Wednesday, 6th January 2021.

### Christmas Cards

In order to ensure children can safely give Christmas Cards to classmates, this year each class will have a post box for Christmas cards in their classroom. Children wishing to send cards will need to have them in school by Thursday, 17th December. Then, the children's teacher can share them with the children the following week. If children are sending cards it would be lovely if they had one for every member of the class.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to our very own Ms Durkan, who is now an Accredited Sport Psychologist with Sport Ireland Institute.

### Senior Infants—Ms Campbell



Ms Campbell's Senior Infants have been learning all about the Cafe. We have been acting in role as customers, chefs, waiters and cashiers. We have also been making food with playdough, constructing cafes, washing dishes and of course, lots of cafe themed art. We had lots of fun together.

### Principal's Note

As we approach Christmas we continue to incorporate our usual Christmas traditions but due to COVID 19 restrictions some will have to go this year. We are still not allowed sing indoors, therefore the Carol Service will not be happening or the fabulous PC Cake Sale. We will endeavour to do 'our version' of whatever we can to ensure we celebrate the Christmas season with the children. We have lots of treats planned for the children this year in school and we hope they enjoy them, Cake Day, Panto Day and even Santa himself is planning a 'slow' run around the school on Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December (*more info later*). I hope everyone enjoyed the Toy Show certainly the children and myself loved it!

Some of our children and their homes continue to remain quite stressed since COVID 19 arrived. Many schools are trying to incorporate Wellbeing formally throughout their school day in an effort to provide the children with the skills to help regulate their emotions. We are trialling it for the period leading up to the Christmas break to integrate it as daily practise. Many of our classes were already practising each day but we will now practise together across the school **each day at 10am**. We will begin and finish with a Gong/bell followed by some music/sounds for the children and staff to focus on. Each teacher leads their own group due to the difficulty of having something appropriate for both Infants and Sixth classes. Special thanks to Ms. Doyle for leading us in this new practise.

*Maybe you could join in too - I think there is a special energy when we all practise together. Let us know what the children say to you about this practise.*

Little reminder about the 'free flu vaccine' available for all children – wouldn't it be a great Christmas present for our Grandparents to know their grandchildren had taken the vaccine so they could have a safer Christmas together. It's a nasal one and seems quite manageable for children, as far as I hear.

Huge thanks to everyone for continuing to wear masks on the school grounds. From Dec 1<sup>st</sup> we are asked to wear masks in outdoor places where crowds are present. This would mean **wearing a mask when on the school footpaths**. Please do so and let's continue to stay healthy together.

Many of you may not be able to travel home, visit family over the Christmas or may have lost loved ones since last Christmas - our thoughts and prayers are with each of you. I hope that you take time to relax and don't forget to be especially kind to yourself over the holiday period.

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy Christmas.

**Nollag Shona,  
Ann McQuillan  
Principal Teacher SJNS**

### International Men's Day

5th and 6th classes celebrated International Men's Day on Thursday, 19th November with a special breakfast. They explored the importance of promoting "Better Health for Men and Boys". They talked about positive male role models and looking after our physical and mental wellbeing. Here are Mr Higgins and Ms Butler's classes enjoying their breakfasts.



### Christy Ring Cup

St. Joseph's would like to congratulate Mr Forde and the Kildare Senior Hurling Team who won the Christy Ring Cup on Sunday, 22nd November, beating Down. We are very proud of Mr Forde. We were lucky enough to have the cup and some team members visit our school last Wednesday.

