



St. Josephs Primary School Macroom

Christmas Newsletter 2014

Dear Parents

Wishing you a happy Christmas and every good wish for the coming year.

Carol Service



We have started the Advent season and we are looking forward to Christmas. We have our Parish Carol Service on Sunday 14th December at 7 pm in the Parish Church. The girls from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes will be taking part in it.

New Classrooms

We are very happy with how our new classrooms are progressing. The roof and window should be installed by Christmas. Thank you for your co-operation with our new entrance and exit arrangements. Please continue to support our fundraising.

We will have a raffle at our Christmas Concert for our Building Fund. We also have school Christmas cards available at €5 a pack.

School Band

Pupils in the school band will visit St Colman's Hospital and Care Choice Nursing Home to provide some Christmas music and carols for the residents on the 15th of December. The tenors and treble recorders also practice after school on Thursday with Ms Buckley.

CRAFTed Project



We are delighted that Ms Kelleher's Fourth Class pupils is included in this project. It is an exciting opportunity to work with crafts people and produce an artistic piece for display in

school, in addition to gaining a valuable learning experience. We start this project in the New year in conjunction with the West Cork Education Centre.

Christmas Concert

You are welcome to our school concert on **Thursday the 18th of December** at 11.00am.

- **JUNIOR INFANTS** Ms. Cronin's Ms Twomey's
- **FIRST CLASS** Ms. Kelleher & Ms Dennehy
- **FIFTH CLASS** Mrs O'Callaghan
- **SIXTH CLASS** Ms Cooper's

The school band will open the show with some Christmas tunes. The Junior Infant classes will perform their items followed by the Senior Classes. The rest of the classes will have their Concert around St Patrick's Day. Santa will also be visiting us before the holidays.

Lift-off to Literacy

We have introduced Lift-off to Literacy in our school starting with First Class and then Senior Infants. It is an intensive programme of Reading and Writing. It runs for 6 weeks, for 1 hour a day, 4 days a week. Pupils engage in a number of "stations" where activities are tailor made to their own level of competency. Children are divided up into small groups. The aim of Literacy Lift-off is to make pupils constructive learners. It teaches them 'how' to problem-solve independently. You can read more about it in our School Blog. We have invested in PM+ Readers to facilitate this programme with the help of funding from the Mercy Solidarity Fund.

WOW

We will continue every Wednesday with walk on Wednesday, weather permitting.





Parents' Association

Many thanks to the Parents Association for their fundraising for the school and for their ongoing support. Thanks for organising the production of the children's Christmas cards and calendars. The money raised from the cards will go to our Building Fund.

Super Troopers



Our school has been invited to pilot an exciting new programme called 'SUPER TROOPERS' that has been created by Laya Healthcare. The aim of the programme is to encourage children to learn about a healthy lifestyle and increase their physical activity levels. The children in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th classes have received their 'SUPER TROOPERS' Activity Journal. The journal is full of fun activities to do at home daily. So, please encourage your child with their daily activity.

Children's Choir

Fourth and Fifth Class are taking part in a Children's Choir with other schools in the West Cork area, in conjunction with the West Cork Education Centre. There will be practices next term and we are looking forward to their public performance in the last term.

School Happenings

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes went to the Town Library to hear author Deirdre O'Sullivan talk about her book on the 24th of October. On the 28th of November Fiona Buckley spoke about her book 'Better than Gold'

Sixth Class went to the Lifetime Lab to a Science workshop on Oct 9th. Fifth Class are going to Lifetime Lab on the 5th December. Both classes also won a trip to the Blackrock Observatory on the 14th of November where they experimented with making comets.

The West Midland Theatre company gave a wonderful performance of The Firebird in our school hall on the 11th of November.

Pupils from Fourth Class also took part in the local Library Quiz on the 26th of November. Fourth and Sixth class pupils will attend St. Mary's Secondary School performance of 'Hairspray' on the 5th of December.

Art Competition

Congratulations to Clodagh McDonagh, Caoimhe Buckley and Leah Coakley who won a prizes in the local Credit Union Art competition. They are now gone forward to the regional finals.

Sports

Third Class went for Swimming Lessons to the Castle Hotel. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes will go in April and May. Well done to all the pupils who took part in **Cross Country Running** in the Town Park on the 10th Oct. Girls from Fourth to Sixth Class do a Power hour training every Tuesday after school in St Mary's Secondary School Sports Complex.



Shoebox Appeal

Thank you for your support of the Shoebox appeal in the classes from Third to Sixth. These boxes will go to children in poor countries.

Reminder

Our school uniform is uniform is *grey pinafore, blue blouse, royal blue cardigan/jumper, navy tie/ white/grey/navy stockings or tights, school jacket and **black shoes only** and school jacket.*

School tracksuit and runners to be worn for P.E., Drama and Sport activities and when advised by the Class Teacher. No jewellery allowed except watches and stud earrings.

Gift Giving

We appreciate the gifts you have given to teachers and staff over the years. However with so many families experiencing difficulty at this time we would prefer that gifts were not given to teachers and staff or other pupils as it can put pressure on families.

School re-opens on Monday 5th January 2015.

