

# ST MARY'S NURSERY SCHOOL

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



*8<sup>th</sup> Dec - Our Christmas Concert at 12.45pm*

### Dates for your attention!

- 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Tree arrival!*
- 1<sup>st</sup> Visit to the Ark Open Farm plus a visit to Santa*
- 4<sup>th</sup> Visit from Belfast City Council's Christmas Elf*
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mr Hullabaloo's Jack & the Beanstalk Panto @ Courtyard Theatre*
- 8<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Nursery School Christmas Concert*
- 13<sup>th</sup> Children receive Christmas Dinner in School*
- 18<sup>th</sup> Visit to St Mary's Star of the Sea Primary School's Christmas Concert*
- 20<sup>th</sup> Damp the Dodee Day*
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Non uniform day! School Christmas Party! School finishes at 11.30am that day!*



"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." – George Bernard Shaw



### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

25<sup>th</sup> December - 5<sup>th</sup> January (inclusive)

*School reopens for children on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024*

### Christmas Dinner in School

*Christmas Dinner will be served on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. If you currently provide packed lunches, you will have been given the option to transfer £2.50 for a Christmas dinner to the school bank account by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Please remember to add your child's name to the transfer - thank you!*



## Admissions to Nursery School 2024-2025

Applications for next year's Nursery intake are to be completed online. The online EA Connect portal will go-live at **12 noon on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024** and remain open until **12 noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. We are having an Open Enrolment Afternoon on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 2.15pm-3.15pm and an Open Enrolment Evening on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from 7.30pm-8.30pm. Anyone wishing to apply for a place at St Mary's Nursery can visit our School and meet the staff. If you have any friends or relations with a child due for Nursery School please inform them of the admissions process. Thank you!

## Elf Visit

Belfast City Council's Christmas Elf will be visiting us on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December.



## Artwork

Your child's artwork will be left periodically in their pigeon holes, please check daily. Thank you.

## Tired Tinsel Wanted!

If you have any old tinsel, the children could recycle it on their Christmas decorations! Please leave in the box in the hall. Thank you.

## Road Safety Awareness topics

We have/are covering:

October Holding hands crossing the road

November Wearing bright clothes to be seen in the dark

December Holding our parents' hand in shops (so we don't get lost!) and wearing seat belts!



## Bathing a Bonny Baby

We were delighted to have Felix's baby brother Gabriel bathed in School on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. The children loved watching this!

## School Coats

We have School coats to keep the children snug during outside play. However, please remember to provide a hat and mittens, clearly marked with your child's name to remain in School – please give to Mrs Hughes or Mrs Sheppard to place in the pouch in your child's classroom. No scarves for health and safety issues. Thank you.



### *Bin the bottle/Dump the Dodee*

*Dear parents, after consultation with the Speech Therapists the advice given to parents is to have their children off bottles and dodees ASAP. We will be telling the children stories about Santa leaving extra special presents for big boys and girls who don't use bottles or dodees! If you would like to use this opportunity to encourage your child to do so please join us in a fun way to encourage it!*

*There will be bins available from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December for collection of bottles and dummies - just in time for Santa to collect them! Our official Bin the Bottle/Dump the Dodee Day shall be Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - certificates will be awarded! Please feel free to use this opportunity to encourage your children to give up any bottles or dodees in time for Santa!*



### *Monkeynastix*

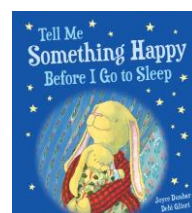
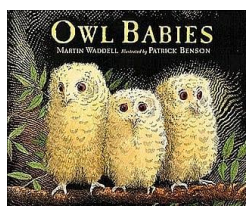
*We will be having a further three visits this month: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> which was rescheduled due to strike action.*

### *Christmas Stocking Fillers*



*If you would like some suggestions for Christmas stocking fillers - a book, a jigsaw, scissors, bubbles and triangular shaped long coloured pencils to promote the tripod grip.*

*Authors who are firm favourites of children are: Martin Waddell - Can't You Sleep Little Bear, You and Me Little Bear, Let's Go Home Little Bear, Well Done Little Bear, Owl Babies, Farmer Duck etc. Jill Murphy - Five Minutes Peace, Peace at Last, A Piece of Cake, All in One Peace etc. Debi Gliori - Tell Me Something Happy Before I Go To Sleep etc.*





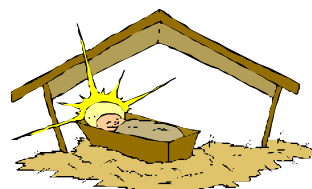
## Curriculum Matters

### Maths for the month:

This month our colours are silver and gold. Please encourage your child to look out for these colours in their environment. Encourage lots of 'star spotting' with peoples' decorations in their windows, in church etc. The shape we will be exploring is the ★.

### Topics for the month:

This month's theme is Christmas. During this month we will be explaining the liturgical and non-liturgical aspects of Christmas. We will continue to discuss the idea of time passing and life long ago when Jesus was a baby. We will also be explaining the idea of God's love all around us at Christmas.



This month there will be a big focus on promoting the magical aspects of Christmas and encouraging lots of fun activities!!!

## DINNER & EDUCATIONAL FUND

PLEASE ENSURE YOU TRANSFER THE  
CORRECT AMOUNT EVERY MONDAY MORNING.

Thank you

### Talking Tip

Help your child develop good language and communication skills with this tip:

Gain your child's attention when you want to talk,  
eg Call their name, ensure they give you eye contact.

You can help your child at home by ...

- 1) Talking to your child about the first Christmas - the birth of Jesus.
- 2) Discussing safety awareness in shops during this festive season.