

ST MARY'S NURSERY SCHOOL

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



7th Dec - Our Christmas Concert at 12.45pm

Dates for your attention!

23rd Nov Mr Hullabaloo Panto @ Courtyard Theatre
plus a visit to Santa

3rd Dec Christmas Tree arrival!

4th Visit from BCC's Christmas Elf

6th Children receive Christmas Dinner in School

7th St Mary's Nursery School Christmas Concert

18th Damp The Dodee Day

18th Visit to St Mary's Star of the Sea Primary School's Christmas Concert

21st Non uniform day! School Christmas Party! Puppet Show and Santa - 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

24th December - 4th January (inclusive)

(2nd, 3rd & 4th January are closures for Staff Training)

School reopens for children on

Monday 7th January 2019

Admissions to Nursery School 2019-2020

Applications for next year's Nursery intake are to be completed online and must be submitted by 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31st January 2019. We are having an Open Enrolment Afternoon on Tuesday 11th December from 2.30pm-3.30pm and an Open Enrolment Evening on Tuesday 15th January 2019 from 7.00pm-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 new admissions process.

Principal Release

Mrs Nicola Ward will continue to be the substitute teacher in Room 1 on Thursdays, to release Mrs Hoy for administration duties.

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.

Artwork

All artwork should be collected from your child's pigeon hole daily. 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!

Sponsored Walk for School Funds

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Our sponsored walk raised a fantastic £1,176.20! Outstanding sponsor money would still be welcome!



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 - place in the pouch in your child's classroom. No scarves for health and safety issues. Thank you.

Monkegnastix

We will be having a further two visits this month: Wednesday 5th and Wednesday 12th December.



Elf Visit

Belfast City Council's Christmas Elf will be visiting us on Tuesday 4th December.



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 them 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 Thursday 13th to Tuesday 18th 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 Tuesday 18th 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!



Parent Volunteers

We would welcome any help you could give us. If you could volunteer one morning per week from 9.00-11.00am this would increase the child adult ratios - we would really appreciate your assistance. Please see Mrs Hoy if you are able to help!

Monthly Curriculum Meetings

On the first Wednesday of every month Mrs Hoy is available in the staff room at 1.00pm to discuss that month's curriculum for any interested parents. Please inform Mrs Gault if you are attending for this meeting. This month's meeting is on Wednesday 5th December.

Spend a day in Nursery School

You are most welcome to spend the day with us in Nursery - it's great fun! Please see Mrs Hoy or Mrs Friel if you want to avail of this invitation!

DINNER & EDUCATIONAL FUND

PLEASE ENSURE YOU PAY WITH THE
CORRECT AMOUNT EVERY TUESDAY MORNING,
CASH ONLY PLEASE - Thank you

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 Glori – *Tell Me Something Happy Before You Go To Sleep* etc.

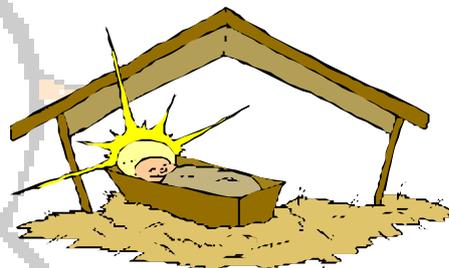
Curriculum Matters

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 themes are "Christmas and The Post Office". 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!!!

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.