



# St. Mary's National School

## NEWSLETTER

### December, 2017



## Nollaig Shona



**Advent** has begun and we are once again preparing for the birth of our Saviour. The school Carol Service will be held in the school hall on **Wednesday, 20th December at 11.30am**. All parents/guardians are very welcome to attend. Classes are busy putting the finishing touches to their Christmas plays, and Christmas Carols. Individual classes will inform parents of upcoming performances.

'Grandparents Day' will be celebrated on Friday, 26th January with Grandparents of the third class pupils invited to morning Mass in the Parish Church at 9.30am. followed by a visit to the classrooms and a cup of tea/coffee in the School Hall. Thanks to the Parish Council for organising the refreshments.

### School Book Fair

**The Book Fair** was again an outstanding success and many thanks to all the parents who supported the fair. The total amount spent at the fair was €4105 and the school received a voucher for books for €1030. This will be divided among the classes in need of books.

### Temple St....Halloween Dress Up !!

A total of €425 was raised. Thanks to Ms. Shauna Stapleton for organising this worthy cause.

### Clothes Collection

Thanks to all the parents who contributed to the clothing collection. A total of €384.75 was paid to the school. All monies received will go to school funds.

### Christmas Shoeboxes:

As always the response to the shoeboxes was absolutely brilliant. 141 shoeboxes were completed and this is due to the generosity of parents.

### 'PAWS; Dog Shelter - Food Appeal

Thanks to all who contributed to the appeal by sending dog food or making donations of blankets & dog accessories, it was so generously supported.

### Gymnastics:

Gymnastics class has now finished and the children really enjoyed this activity.

### Recorder Lessons:

Ms. Kenny will resume classes after Christmas to finish at Easter.

### Golf:

To promote junior golf locally at the new Paul McGinley golf academy Mount Juliet, Sean Cotter PGA Professional visited the school and introduced the pupils of 3rd and 4th class to the basic rules of golf.

### Bringing Some Christmas Cheer:

Members of the school choir will visit the patients of St. Columba's Hospital and Day Centre on Thursday, 21st December to sing Christmas Carols.

**The Credit Union** has finished in the school for Christmas and will re-open on Tuesday, 9th January.

### Board of Management Note

School begins at 9.30am every morning and ends at 3.10 pm every afternoon. The school will not be responsible for children outside school hours. Parents are asked to have their children on time for school every morning. **SLOW DOWN !**

Parents/guardians are asked to slow down when driving in to the school at start and finishing times. Please observe the parking restrictions and do not park in Maudlin Court.

### Notes for Absenteeism

The school rules/guidelines require that written notes for pupils' absence be submitted to the class teacher on the child's return to school. A note in the diary is sufficient.

**Please have children in time for school - be in the class line when the morning bell rings.**

### Christmas Shows

**Junior Inf (all) - Wed. 20th Dec. @ 1.30pm**  
**Senior Inf R4.- Mon. 18th @ 1.15pm (sharp)**  
**Senior Inf R5 - Mon 18th @ 1.45pm**  
**First Class R6 - Tues 19th @ 12 Noon**  
**First Class R7 - Fri. 15th @ 2.15pm**  
**Second Class R8 - Fri. 15th @ 11.45pm**

### Sports:

A great year so far for the boys football team. Following some great performances in the league the boys reached the semi-final where they put up a brave display against St. Canices. In the country cup, the boys had strong wins against Castlecomer and Carrickshock before a semi-final victory against Gowran! The boys can now look forward to a Country Cup final in the coming weeks. Well done boys and thank you to all parents for your support so far.

### Girls' Football Leagues:

The girls football culminated in a quarter final play off against St. Canices who unfortunately proved too strong on the day. Great credit is due to all the players who gave their time to come to training and matches. Thanks also to you, their parents for your time, encouragement and facilitating lifts as it would not be possible to do this without your co-operation.

**The Lunchtime Leagues** had a very exciting finish, two excellent semi finals with narrow wins on both sides resulted in a Dublin Vs. Kilkenny final. Kilkenny were unstoppable on the day - a bright future for Kilkenny football!. Thanks to all the children for giving up their break and playing in all conditions. Great improvement was seen.

### School Calendar:

**December** : The school will close on Friday, 22nd at 12.30pm. for Christmas holidays.

**January**: The school will re-open on Monday, 8th..

**February**: School will be closed on Wednesday, 14th, for Parent/Teacher Meetings School will close on Thursday, 15th & Friday, 16th for Mid-Term Break.

School will re-open on Monday, 19th.

**March**: School will be closed on Monday, 19th for Public Holiday (St. Patrick's Day). School will close on Friday 23rd at 12.30pm for Easter Holidays.

April:

School will re-open on Mon. 9th.

**First Communion 12th May**  
**Confirmation 16th June.**

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Parents please Remember to notify the school office if :

- your contact details have changed.
- You wish to make an appointment for a meeting with the class teacher.

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**Recycle those batteries. Don't forget to recycle those batteries over the Christmas holidays.**

*A Happy and Peaceful Christmas to pupils, teachers, school staff, parents and extended families.*

