



# ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

## December 2021



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### *Christmas greetings*

Here we are entering the Christmas period already. It seems as if we are going at warp speed and September, October and November have gone by in a flash. Our staff have been very busy getting our whole school decorated and it is looking lovely and festive.

So much so that yesterday morning when Caroline opened the school she got the eerie feeling someone or something was watching foyer. Remembering that same feeling this time last year she knew exactly who it was - our old friend the 'Elf on the Shelf'. Being a friendly soul, Caroline said, "Good morning," blessed herself and hurriedly went about her business. She knows that Elf is always on the look out for good girls and boys to report back to Santa so she is definitely not taking any chances and being on her best behaviour for the next three weeks. Thankfully, our girls and boys have no such worries because in school they always follow our school vision of 'Letting their Light Shine' every day by trying their best to do and be their best in all that they do. Hopefully, they are exactly the same at home....

*On behalf of our Board of Governors,  
Principal & Staff, have a peaceful, safe and  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS.*

### **FAITH**

makes all things possible.

### **HOPE**

makes all things work.

### **LOVE**

makes everything beautiful.

MAY you have an abundance of all three and more every day in December.

God Bless you and your loved ones.

### **SVDP Collection**

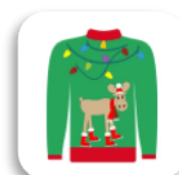
Our annual SVDP charity collection began on Tuesday. Again this year there are two ways to make a donation. Non-perishable food stuffs are being collected up until Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December and can be left in the school porch at any time. Alternatively, if you prefer to make a monetary contribution, donations can be sent in the envelope provided on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December for a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day 2. From previous appeals, we know we can depend on the kind generosity of our whole school community to support this local charity.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

### **Pupil Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day**

One of the highlights of our school year is the children's Christmas dinner party. It will be held this coming Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. All children are encouraged to wear their own clothes with Christmas/festive jumper/hat/ribbons etc. to add to the atmosphere. (Please do not buy anything new) If you haven't done so already we ask that you book online (both paying and free school meals) via School Money to avoid disappointment.



Pupils will have an **EARLY FINISH** after Christmas dinner;

P1 – P4 collection 12.30 – 12.40pm

P5 – P7 collection 12.50 - 1pm

## **Time-line for new P1 and P7 to Post Primary Admissions**

### **Applications for Admission to Primary One**

Monday 10th January 2022 at 12noon:

Applications open via online portal:

[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk). (Admissions)

Friday 28th January 2022 at noon Applications close.

Thursday 28th April 2022

Parents receive notification of outcome of applications via online portal.

### **Applications for Admission to Post-Primary School**

Tuesday 1st February 2022:

Post-primary applications open at 12 noon via online portal [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) (Admissions)

Wednesday 23rd February 2022 Post-Primary applications close at 4 p.m.

Saturday 21st May 2022

Parents receive notification of outcome of applications via online portal.

**More information and support will be available in due course.**

### **Wraparound Provision**



8 - 9	Breakfast Club	£1.25
2 - 3	1,2,3 Club	£1.25
3 - 4	Homework & Activities	£2.25
4 - 5	Late Class & Activities (snack)	£3.25

Our Wraparound Club is going from strength to strength. As numbers have increased it is preferable and advisable to book in advance via School Money to avoid disappointment.

**PLEASE NOTE – BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE WILL FINISH ON FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER to enable a deep clean of the room for re-opening safely in January.** We are sorry if this causes any inconvenience for the last two days of term.

## **Advent**

Advent marks the start of the Christian year. It is the four weeks before Christmas, beginning on November 30 or the nearest Sunday to it. This is the Church's New Year's Day. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. This is the time for Christians to prepare for celebration of the birth of Jesus and look forward to the time that Jesus will come again.

### **Advent Wreath**

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple color symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting.

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also purple to symbolism preparation for the coming king.

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This color is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.

The **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent pure light and victory.





## Coding Club



Our very successful Coding Club came to an end after eight weeks of critical thinking and problem solving. Thank you to Christopher from Glow Group who tutored the boys and girls and ignited their passion for coding. Good news is he will be back again for a new block after Easter.



## Music

It is great to hear the progress our Primary 7 class are making during their Garageband sessions with Barry Murphy from the EA Music Service. They will soon be ready for the Philharmonic Orchestra.



## Primary Enterprise

Next Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December our Primary 7 pupils will be at the Quays Shopping Centre in Newry selling their crafts for Christmas. As part of the programme it teaches them the ideology of setting up and running a business. Their classroom is like a scene from Santa's workshop but their hard work and effort will definitely pay off. Make sure to call over and see them (that means buy something) and wish them well.

photo

## December Prayer

### Light up our lives

Christ, come into our world of darkness  
Light up our lives with your coming.  
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth  
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world  
And to share the hope of your birth that each  
Advent brings.  
Amen.



*Sr Bridgetta Rooney*

## Child Safeguarding Team



Please be familiar with our Child Safeguarding Team.

Mrs Brennan – Designated Teacher for SG  
Mrs Garvey – Deputy Designated Teacher for SG  
Mr Trainor – Principal SG  
Fr. Clyne – Chairperson Board of Governors  
Mr D. Carbery – Designated Governor for SG  
(Full Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy available on school website.)

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

A very Happy Birthday to all our children who have their birthday during December. Birthday buns for November were thoroughly enjoyed on Tuesday just past and December birthday buns will be enjoyed on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>. Yum!



## Nut Allergy



In the interests of Health & Safety we ask our parents/ carers/ pupils not to allow any break/ lunch items that may contain nuts.

We do have children in the school who have a nut allergy and as you may be aware if there are any foods with nuts at all, this may prove very serious for this them. Therefore any food item which has a chocolate trace to it is unacceptable as there can often be nut traces contained therein.

Recently one of our younger pupils brought in a Snickers bar for a break. Please be informed that our staff will have no hesitation in confiscating any food item deemed a risk to nut allergy safety. This will be returned to a responsible adult at the end of the day.

Thank you for your considerate support with this request.

## Dates for Your Diary

Fri. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec - Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day  
EARLY CLOSURE P1-4 12.30 -12.45  
P5-7 12.45 - 1.00

Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec - SVDP Foodstuffs ends

Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec - Non-uniform & Christmas Jumper Day 2 for SVDP (Monetary donations)

Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - Last day for Breakfast Club and After School Care

Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec - Early Closing @11:45am  
Christmas Holidays (no dinners or after school wraparound)

Thur. 6<sup>th</sup> Jan - Term 2 begins

## Information for parents and carers



Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please don't send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms such as:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell

If your child does not have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they or members of your household do not need to self-isolate. Your child can attend school if fit to do so.

Contact tracing and self-isolation procedures have recently changed, so here's what to do in particular cases.

### My child has COVID-19 symptoms

- Book your child a PCR test as soon as possible.
- They should isolate until they get their result. If it is negative they can carry on as normal and return to school as long as they are well (no fever for 48 hours).
- If it is positive they should isolate for 10 days. You will receive further information by text message and a contact tracing call from the PHA.
- You should advise your child's school or nursery that they have tested positive.

### Someone in our household is positive

- Everyone in the household should book a PCR test as soon as possible and again for the 8th day after their exposure. Anyone who tests positive should isolate for 10 days.
- Adults who are fully vaccinated do not have to isolate while they're waiting for the results. Adults who are not fully vaccinated should isolate for 10 days regardless of their test result.
- Children aged 5-17 who are not vaccinated should isolate until they get their results. If the result is negative they can come out of isolation and return to school.
- Children under the age of 5 are advised to take a PCR test but they do not have to isolate while waiting for results.

Contact tracing will be done by the Contact Tracing Service at the Public Health Agency (PHA). They will call from the number 028 9536 8888 – save the number in your phone so that you recognise it and please answer if they call.

You can book a PCR test online via [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119 if you can't go online.

