

St. Catherine's Primary School

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WEEKLY NOTE - Monday 10th December 2018

Check us out on our website: www.stcatherinesps.co.uk

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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Junior School Christmas Nativity Production: Mary's Boy Child

Our Annual Junior Christmas Nativity Production which will involve all pupils from Nursery, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 will take place in **St. Patrick's Hall on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December at 7pm.** The Nativity Production this year is called "Mary's Boy Child." This is always a very special event and really puts us all in the mood for Christmas.

Enjoy your wee children!

Arrangements

Each child from Nursery – Year 3 should arrive at St. Patrick's Hall at 6.30pm and enter via the side STAGE DOOR. Staff will be

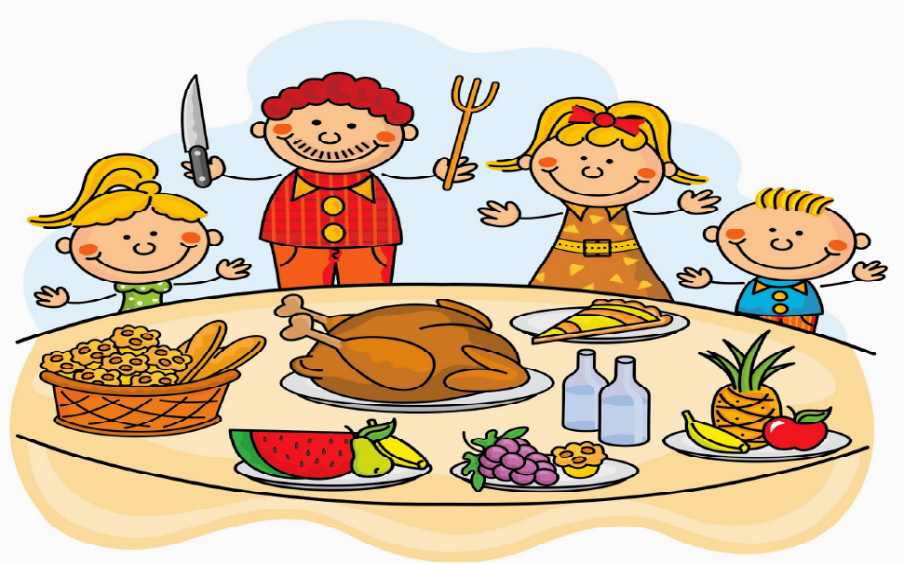


waiting for children upstairs in the Minor Hall. Children should arrive at the hall in their show clothes as outlined by the class teacher. Children should then be collected again from the hall at 8.30pm approx.

God bless you all! Bridget Wilders, Principal

Christmas Dinner

This year our Christmas Dinner (For our pupils) will take place on Friday 14th December across the two sites of St. Catherine's! Every child is welcome to have their Christmas Dinner.



PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO BIG BREAKFAST ON THE SENIOR SCHOOL SITE ON FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER DUE TO KITCHEN STAFF WORKING SO HARD TO GET THE TURKEY READY FOR OUR CHILDREN'S DINNER!

Christmas Jumper Day

This year we will have a Christmas JUMPER Day on Friday 14th December (Same day as Christmas Dinner).

We ask that children wear their casual clothes and Christmas JUMPERS on this day.

We ask that children make a voluntary donation of £1 towards School Funds.



Year 4 Christmas Assembly

This year our most senior pupils in the Junior School, our Year 4 Pupils will host a very special Christmas Assembly for their parents in the Junior School Assembly Hall.

This will be instead of their performing at the Nativity Production in St Patrick's Hall. This will be the second time event for Year

4 in school and both pupils and staff are very excited about a separate event for them in school with a Christmas Theme.

This very special assembly will take place on Monday 17th December in the Junior School Assembly Hall at 1.30pm. Calling all Year 4 Parents to come along and join in this very special event!

The Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit of Giving



Joy to the World!

Every year the staff of St. Catherine's Primary School make this little appeal to parents

Our staff know that you and your child really appreciate the work that they do in educating our children and we know that Christmas is a time of great joy but there is also hardship for some.

To this end we ask that instead of spending money on a Christmas Gift for staff, that you might like to make a small donation to the class teacher in school and this will be invested in two main charitable causes this year.....

1. Trocaire Gifts for those in Need in Developing Countries
2. Help the Homeless in our own Local Area.

This is a voluntary gesture only. We hope that you understand and appreciate the gesture that we are all trying to make in the spirit of giving and generosity.

Thank you!



Strabane Feis



It's that time of year again.....we are a school that places so much emphasis on providing a variety of opportunities for our children's learning. We promote a love of learning in the classroom and beyond for all subjects, sport music and drama too! Feis promotes confidence and aptitude in Speech and Language, Drama and Music in particular. It is quite a skill to get up in front of an audience to say a poem, make a speech, sing a song or play an instrument! Regardless of what level each child can perform at, we acknowledge the effort that any child makes in order to take part in the Feis..... this is overcoming fear at such a young age and promoting a skill that will serve our children well in the future! We encourage all our children from Nursery – Year 7 to take part in the Feis events and teachers will encourage and promote this in school also!

There is a Speech Feis and a Music Feis.

Speech Feis will take place from Thursday 21st February to Monday 25th February.

Music Feis will take place from Thursday 28th February to Monday 4th March.

Cost of Individual Entry to the Feis will be £1.50. The closing Date for entries to the Feis will be Wednesday 16th January.

Sometimes we notice that children do not enter the Feis by the closing date and then when they hear all the children rehearsing for Feis in school, they want to enter then but its too late! We advise that children strongly consider entering by the closing date as they will be guaranteed to enjoy it and join in the fun of it with their class in the lead up to the event itself!

All children who enter the Feis will get a certificate of participation from school..... regardless of the adjudicator's decision in St. Patrick's Hall!!

The poems and songs for the Feis will be sent out after Christmas.

SPEECH FEIS EVENTS

EventYear Groups who can enter

Verse Speaking GirlsNursery- Year 7

Verse Speaking BoysNursery – Year 7

2 Minute Speech Year 6 & 7 Pupils only

Creative Verse Years 5.6 and 7 Pupils only

It is to be noted that various class teachers may also enter an entire class for the Choral Poem Competitions.

MUSIC FEIS EVENTS

EventYear Groups who can enter

Girls' Song.....Nursery- Year 7

Boys' SongNursery – Year 7

Sacred Solo Years 5.6 and 7 Pupils only

It is to be noted that our choirs in school may also enter competitions in the Feis under the direction of the Choir Directors.

More details will follow in the January Weekly Note!





St. Catherine's

Nursery & Primary School

Strabane



GET INTO THE SEASONAL SPIRIT AND JOIN US FOR OUR

Christmas

Jumper Day

FRIDAY
14th DECEMBER

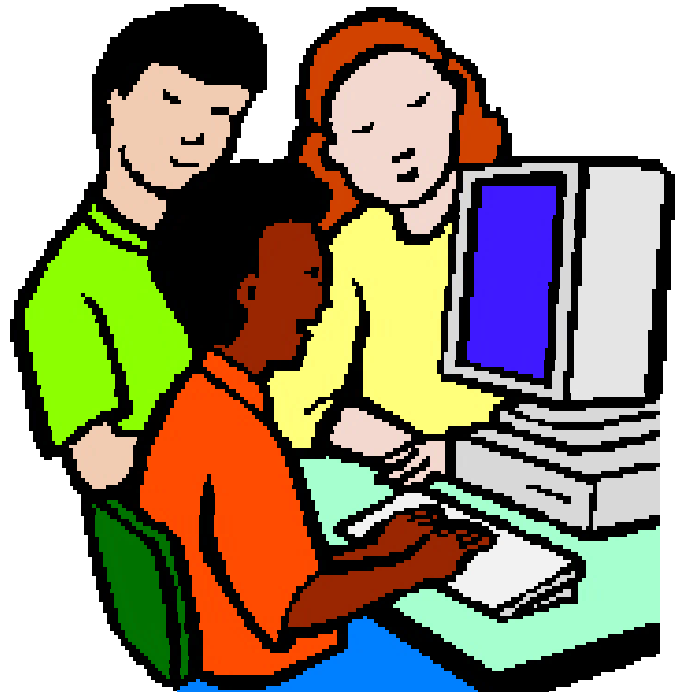
Children donate £1 to school funds

ONLINE DIGITAL ADMISSION PROCESS

For any parent who could not attend the Open Afternoons but have a child due to start Nursery or Year 1 in September 2019, we are offering "Drop IN" Sessions this year as the applications have to be online. If you would like to book a session they run from 7-1-19 until 18-1-19. If you wish to book a session please give Mrs Clare Kelly (Clerical Officer) Senior School a wee ring on 02871 382614 OPTION 1 and she will be happy to book you in!!

Some sessions have been booked already.

You DO NOT have to attend these sessions but if you do the staff in school will help you make your application online there and then and you can be confident that all has been done and breathe a sigh



of relief! Please note that you will need to have the following with you.....

1. YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL username and know your password
2. Your child's birth certificate
3. Your proof of address
4. DSS Income Support Form (Only if this applies to you!)

The Priests Christmas Concert BIG Giveaway!

Many congratulations to all the pupils and parents below who won tickets to "The Priests Christmas Concert". We hope that you enjoyed it!

Ciara Coyle (Year 7 a)
Sophie Simpson (Year 6 b)
Jamie Mc Cosker (NR2)
Emily Corry (NR1)
Ryan Caulfield (Year 5 a)
Tommy Bates (Year 3 c)
Tiernan Reid (Year 4 a)
Aoibh Duffy (Year 4 a)
Kyra O'Neill (Year 2 a)



Prayer of the Month - December

PRAYER FOR ADVENT



*Jesus, we are waiting with joyful hearts
to remember and celebrate the wonder of your birth.*

*You came into the world as a helpless baby,
but already you were holding within your tiny, beating heart
a beautiful hope for mankind: a sacred dream
in which we live together in peace, love, and truth.*

*Throughout this time of waiting, may we do our very best
to turn your sacred dream for us into reality, so that at Christmas,
we can offer you a present for your birthday,
fashioned out of peace and perfect love.*

Amen

Year 4 Do This In Memory Programme

The dates for the masses for the Do This in Memory Programme are as below. We look forward to seeing all our Year 4 Pupils and Families at these very special masses.

FIRST
HOLY



COMMUNION

DATE

16/12/2018
26/01/2019
03/03/2019
14/04/2019
11/05/2019
23/06/2019

THEME OF MASS

3rd Sunday of Advent
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Feast of the Body and Blood
of Christ (Corpus Christi)

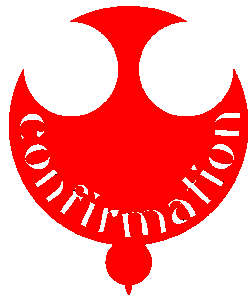
TIME

12 Noon
6.30pm
10am
12 Noon
6.30pm
10am



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

25th May, 2019



Confirmation Preparation for Year 7 Pupils and their parents

Our children this year will be confirmed by Fr Boland P.P.

In preparation for this very special sacrament our children and parents are warmly invited to attend three masses dedicated especially to focusing on Confirmation Themes.

The dates and times for these masses, preparation and Confirmation itself are :

Venue	Mass Theme	Day/Date	Time
Church of the Immaculate Conception	Enkindling the Spirit	Saturday 12th January	6.30pm
	Moved by the Spirit	Sunday 3rd February	10am
	Called by Name	Sunday 17th February	12 Noon

Practice for Confirmation for Pupils and their Sponsors
(This is NOT a preparation Mass)

Thursday 7th March 7pm

Confirmation Day Saturday 9th March 11am





SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS

School will close at 12 Noon on Friday 21st December. School will reopen again on Monday 7th January for all pupils.

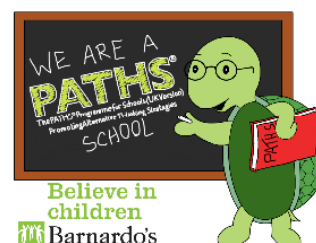
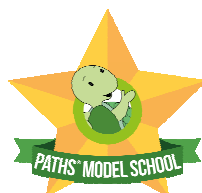
We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, parents, families and friends of St. Catherine's a truly special, happy and holy Christmas and a bright, joyful and peaceful New Year 2019!



PATHS Programme in St. Catherine's (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

PATHS Quote of the Month - December

***Mirror, mirror on the wall, Give a compliment
and that's not all, Make it nice, make it kind, A
deserving person is easy to find.***



St. Catherine's PTFA Christmas Raffle for PUPILS ... TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Our PTFA will be hosting a raffle on each school site. Tickets are 20p each. The raffle will take place just before the Christmas Holidays in December!

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL GRAND DRAW
THIS YEAR ONLY PUPIL RAFFLE**

Junior School Raffle:

This year we have PINKIE the Unicorn who wants a good home!



We also have a Teamster 3 Level Tower Garage with cars!

Senior School Raffle

We have a Large Gumball Machine



We also have an Air Hockey Game

Raffle will take place on FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER!!