

# St. Catherine's Primary School

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## SENIOR SITE

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## WEEKLY NOTE - Monday 11th December 2017

Check us out on our website: [www.stcatherinesps.co.uk](http://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk)



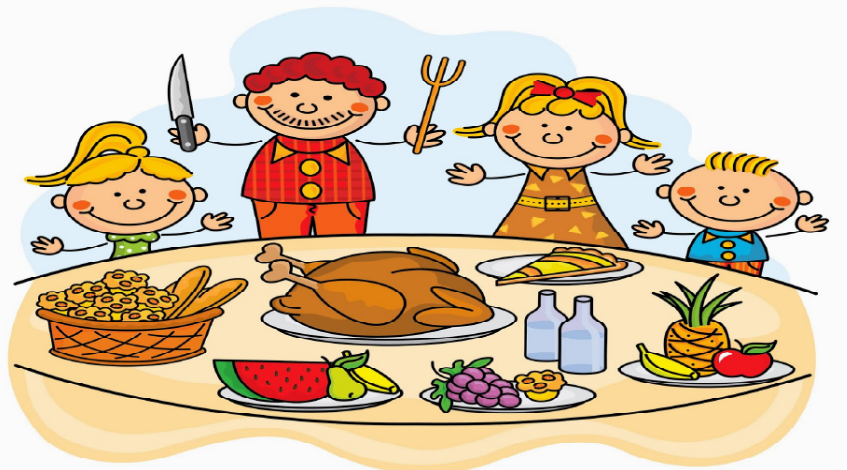
StCatherines PrimarySchool

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St Catherines PS, Strabane

## Christmas Dinner

This year our Christmas Dinner will take place on Friday 15th December across the two sites of St. Catherine's! Everyone is welcome to have their Christmas Dinner.

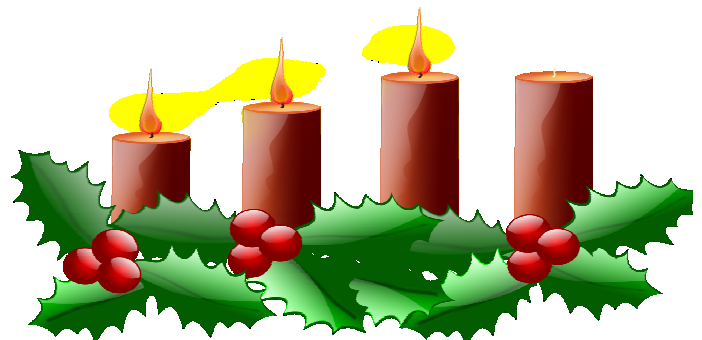


## Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight

Last year we held an absolutely beautiful carol service by candlelight in the Church of the Immaculate Conception during the day in December. This year we plan to share this beautiful Carol Service with you all in the evening of Wednesday 20th December at 7pm.

Our choirs will perform for you and we will share in prayer and carols with our SENIOR SCHOOL pupils on this very special

evening. We hope you can come along and share in this beautiful event!



*God bless you all! Bridget Wilders, Principal*

# 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 1st March to Monday 5th March.**

**Music Feis will take place from Thursday 22nd March to Monday 26th.**

Cost of Individual Entry to the Feis will be £1.50. The closing Date for entries to the Feis will be Friday 19th 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!!

## Speech Feis Events

### ***Event Year Groups who can enter***

Verse Speaking Girls	Nursery- Year 7	Verse Speaking Boys	Nursery – 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

### ***Event Year Groups who can enter***

Girls' Song	Nursery- Year 7	Boys' Song	Nursery – 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!***



# SCHOOL CLOSURES



FOR THE CHRISTMAS  
HOLIDAY  
PERIOD

School will close at 12 Noon on Thursday 21st December 2017. There will be no school lunch on this day. Children can wear their casual clothes on this day.

School will reopen again on MONDAY 8th January.

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 2018!

## Year 4 Do This in Memory Mass

The next Do This in Memory Preparation Mass for our Year 4 Pupils and their families will take place on Saturday 16th December in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at 6.30pm. Look forward to seeing you all there!





# *Grand Christmas Draw*



Our Annual Christmas Draw is taking place this year again with some fabulous prizes. They are listed below. A book of tickets was sent home to every family last week. If you didn't receive any please ask at the school office. Additional tickets can also be obtained from the school offices if anybody wants to increase their chances!!

The tickets should be returned before Monday 18th December.

The draw will take place on Tuesday 19th December.

## **The prizes are listed below:-**

- 1st Prize – Ipad
- 2nd Prize – Bike (Older child)
- 3rd Prize – Bike (Younger Child)
- 4th Prize – Flicker (Older Child)
- 5th Prize – Flicker (Younger Child)
- 6th Prize – Dolans(Shop) Lifford £100 Voucher
- 7th Prize – Christmas Food Hamper
- 8th Prize – Tote Bag (Sweetheart Bags
- 9th Prize – Christmas Candle & Stand  
(Memory Candles)
- 10th Prize – Men's Tie and Socks  
(Raymond Kirk Menswear)
- 11th Prize – Sweet Hamper
- 12th Prize - Sweet Hamper
- 13th Prize – Homemade Christmas Cake  
(Mrs C.Mc Garrigle)
- 14th Prize – Bottle of Vodka
- 15th Prize – Bottle of Wine
- 16th Prize – Tin of Sweets

**If you are not in, you can't win!!!!**





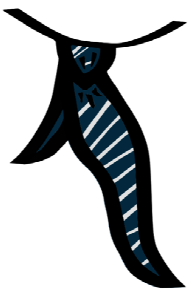


## **STARTING SCHOOL 2018 INFORMATION ALERT**

If you have a child who is eligible to start either Nursery or Year 1 in September 2018, the application forms are now available from either office across our two sites. We will also send a form home with our Nursery Pupils for parents convenience.

We strongly recommend that you get your application forms into school again before Christmas. This is due to the fact

that St. Catherine's will be closed for the Christmas Holidays and is only due to reopen on Monday 8th January again, yet the closing date for the forms is Wednesday 10th January. As we cannot predict weather conditions etc after Christmas it is a good idea to get your completed application submitted before that and you will be worry free!



### **School Ties**

If your child ever loses their school tie, ties are on sale at the school office to replace it!!

Elasticated tie : £4

Full tie : £5

Clip on tie: £6

## **COMMUNITY NOTICE**

We extend sincere thanks to SGN Natural Gas for kindly donating a Christmas Tree for each of our school sites which you will see outside the main doors!

If you go to their Facebook Page @ SGN Natural Gas you will also see some of our children's art work displayed here by the company! Please feel free to like and share!

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# The Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit of Giving

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!





## Junior School Christmas Nativity Production: He Lives in You!

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 12th and Wednesday 13th December at 7pm.

The Nativity Production this year is

called "He lives in you." This is always a very special event and really puts us all in the mood for Christmas.

This Year we have a special guest appearance from Senior Pupils performing a song to the theme of "He Lives in YOU!".... The Lion King Lives on!!

### 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.

### DVD OF OUR ANNUAL SCHOOL NATIVITY

Our School Nativity Play is being professionally filmed. These DVD's will be available to buy as a souvenir before Christmas. If you would like to pre order your copy at a cost of £5 please complete the pre order slip in this note.



# CHRISTMAS CHOIRS

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you sincerely for bringing your children to sing at the Christmas Craft Fair. We were delighted with their enthusiasm and festive cheer!

As the Festive Period continues, there are a number of school and community events that our children have been ask to perform at. The events are outlined below.

We have had to allocate different events to different groups (A, B and C) depending on how many the venue/location can accommodate! The children will be told what group they are in next week.

Finer details regarding groupings/ uniform/ collection times etc will be sent out in advance of each event.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact Mrs Deery!

GROUP	DATE/TIME	EVENT	VENUE/ LOCATION
Senior and Show Choir combined (everyone)	Sunday 3rd December, 1:15pm	Strabane Christmas Fayre	Outside Café Nero, Main Street, Strabane
Senior and Show Choir combined (Group A)	Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December, 7pm	St. Catherine's PS, Junior School Nativity	St Pat's Hall, Strabane
Senior and Show Choir combined (Group B)	Thursday 14th December, 11am	Strabane Day Centre, performance for clients	Strabane Day Centre
Senior and Show Choir combined (Group C)	Friday 15th December, 10:30am	Melmount Manor, Performance for residents	Melmount Manor
Senior Choir only (*Max 50 children. bus will be provided)	Monday 18th December, 7pm	Emergency Services Interdenominational Carol Service	St. Columbas Cathedral, Derry
Senior and Show Choir combined (everyone)	Wednesday 20th December, 7pm	St. Catherine's PS 'Christmas by Candlelight'	Church of the Immaculate Conception, Strabane

# 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 a first 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.

The date of our Year 4 Christmas assembly will be Tuesday 19th December in the Junior School Assembly Hall at 1.30pm. See you there for this very special event!



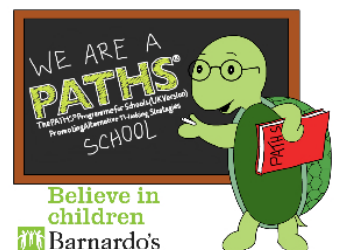
**Joy to the World!**

## **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.***





# **Our Prayer of the Month**

## **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**





# DECEMBER 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Strabane Christmas Fayre</b> Senior & Show Choir (Combined) <b>3</b>	<b>Panto Derry</b> Years 5-7 Pupils <b>4</b>	<b>Panto Derry</b> Years 1-4 Pupils <b>Santa Grotto 5</b> Nursery	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Walk, Cycle or Scoot to School Day 8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Christmas Craft Workshop</b> Parenting NI Free workshop <b>11</b>	<b>Junior Nativity</b> Senior & Show Choir (Group A) <b>12</b>	<b>Junior Nativity</b> Senior & Show Choir (Group A) <b>13</b>	<b>Day Centre</b> Senior & Show Choir (Group B) <b>14</b>	<b>Melmount Manor</b> Senior & Show Choir (Group C) <b>Christmas 15</b> Dinner	<b>Year 4 "Do This In Memory"</b> 4th Sunday of Advent 6.30pm <b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Carol Service Derry</b> Senior Choir Only <b>18</b>	<b>Grand Christmas Draw</b> <b>Year 4 19</b> Assembly	<b>Christmas By Candlelight</b> Senior & Show Choir (Combined) <b>20</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays - School Closes 12 noon 21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

PATHS KINDNESS CALENDAR 2017

re attached a PATHS Calendar for December to this note. Lovely little daily ideas on the lead up to Christmas!

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 Give someone a big Christmas hug!	2 Share a mince pie with someone!	3 Dance around the house to Christmas music
4 Donate a gift!	5 Wish someone a Merry Christmas!	6 Make a Christmas card for a friend	7 Compliment three people	8 Do something that makes you laugh!	9 Leave a kind note to your teacher	10 Sing a Christmas song with a friend
11 Visit someone who might be lonely at Christmas	12 Check in with someone about how they're feeling	13 Tell a Christmas joke to make someone laugh	14 Let someone go ahead of you in a queue	15 Do a chore for a family member	16 Feed the birds	17 Pick up litter while out for a walk
18 Donate a toy to charity	19 Draw a Christmas picture for someone	20 Bake Christmas cookies with a loved one	21 Share your toys	22 Leave a scarf outside for someone who might need it	23 Make a Christmas decoration with a friend	24 Write a list of what you're thankful for
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!						



# School Nativity DVD Pre Order Form

I would like to pre order my copy of the School Nativity DVD.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Gaurdian of: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_