

St. Catherine's Primary School

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WEEKLY NOTE - Monday 18th December 2017

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



StCatherines PrimarySchool

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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!

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!

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!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SGN Natural Gas

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!

Blood Donation

The next Blood Donation Sessions will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Derry Road, Strabane on Tuesday 26th December from 11am-4pm and Wednesday 27th December from 1.45pm-4pm and 5.15pm-8pm.

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!

DVD OF OUR ANNUAL SCHOOL NATIVITY

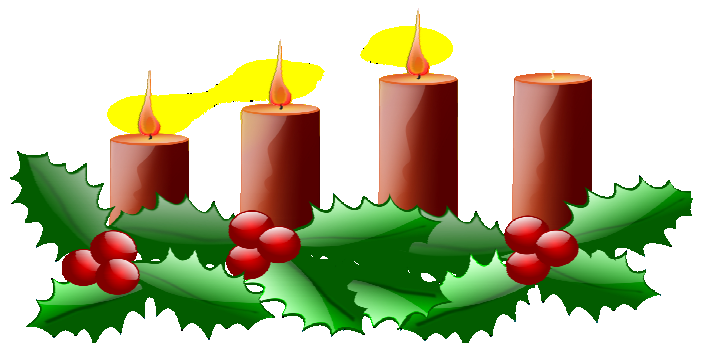
Our School Nativity Play is being professionally filmed. These DVD's will be available to buy as a souvenir before Christmas. If you would like to pre order your copy at a cost of £5 please complete the pre order slip in this note.

Christmas 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!





SENIOR CHOIRS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Week beginning Monday 18th December

MONDAY 18th December 2017: Emergency Services Carol Service

- Children should meet at St. Catherine's SENIOR Site no later than 5.45pm
- Bus is leaving at 6pm sharp
- Carol Service is taking place in St. Columb's Cathedral Derry at 7pm.
- Children should wear their FULL WINTER UNIFORMS (Black shoes and white knee length socks for the girls)
- Children should be collected at 9.15pm approx. from the SENIOR Site. If anything changes we will text you to let you know.

WEDNESDAY 20th December : Christmas by Candlelight Service

- Children should arrive at the Church of the Immaculate Conception no later than 6.45pm.
- The Carol Service will begin at 7pm.
- Children should wear their FULL WINTER UNIFORMS (Black shoes and white knee length socks for the girls)
- Brass / Strings Players should bring their instruments.

Many thanks, Mrs Deery.

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

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!



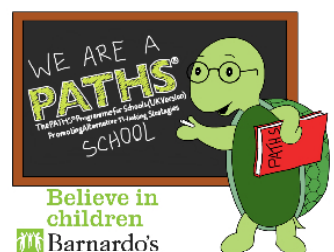
Joy to the World!

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
Strabane Christmas Fayre Senior & Show Choir (Combined) 3	Panto Derry Years 5-7 Pupils 4	Panto Derry Years 1-4 Pupils Santa Grotto 5 Nursery	6	7	Walk, Cycle or Scoot to School Day 8	2
10	Christmas Craft Workshop Parenting NI Free workshop 11	Junior Nativity Senior & Show Choir (Group A) 12	Junior Nativity Senior & Show Choir (Group A) 13	Day Centre Senior & Show Choir (Group B) 14	Melmount Manor Senior & Show Choir (Group C) Christmas 15 Dinner	Year 4 "Do This In Memory" 4th Sunday of Advent 6.30pm 16
17	Carol Service Derry Senior Choir Only 18	Grand Christmas Draw Year 4 Assembly 19	Christmas By Candlelight Senior & Show Choir (Combined) 20	Christmas Holidays - School Closes 12 noon 21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



School Nativity DVD Pre Order Form

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

Signed: _____

Parent/Gaurdian of: _____

Class: _____