



St. Paul's would like to thank all our Sponsors who were so generous and who helped make our Christmas Fair a great success!



St. Paul's National School Christmas 2014 Newsletter

Welcome to another Christmas newsletter and thank you to Yvonne for all her hard work and patience preparing it (and everything else!) We have many, many events to bring share with you and we hope that you will enjoy a taste of them here. We have had a great first term and have rounded out the term with fantastic shows and plays by all of the classes from Junior Infants to Second and a beautiful, heart-warming carol service and Nativity play with the classes from Third to Sixth. With all of those, and with more hampers and more shoeboxes than ever before it is wonderful to see the spirit of Christmas alive and well in St. Paul's. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and the staff and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2015!

Morag McGowan



Ms Cowley's Senior Infants Class



Ms NiChinneide's Senior Infants Class

Parents and families of Junior Infant Classes up to 2nd Classes were invited in to see the fruits of the hard work put in by the children and their teachers for their Christmas plays. The children performed beautifully to the delight of their families, and each child should be extremely proud of themselves.

Gaelic Football Report

What a wonderful season the girls' football team had. They entered into the Meath league with great gusto and the girls played really well. The teachers who trained them were very proud of the team who, each week, trained with enthusiasm and great dedication to the sport. A massive thank you to the dedicated team coaches Ms Talty, Ms NiMhurchú, Ms Ni Chinnéide and Ms Prendiville. Well done to all!



The senior boys' Gaelic football team have had a very successful campaign in the Meath schools' league. Under the watch of Ms Dennehy, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Duffy and Ms. O'Sullivan, their efforts were rewarded with some great results. After a very competitive round of games, the boys eventually finished in third spot.

What made this achievement even more noteworthy was that they lost narrowly to the eventual winners Stamullen. Over the course of September and October, the boys scored impressive wins over Enfield, St. Declan's Ashbourne and St. Joseph's Navan. With a very young squad the future looks bright. We now look forward with confidence to the fourth/fifth class competition which will be starting before Easter. We wish the boys the best of luck!



Irish Water Safety Award

We were delighted to be awarded the "Primary School Appreciation Award" from Irish Water Safety due to the large amount of swimming that takes place in the school. Each year, every child in the school, from Junior Infants to Sixth Class, is given the opportunity to attend a six week swimming course in the Aquatic Centre. Last year, over 600 children went swimming and they all received PAWS Certificates.



Ms O'Toole, Laoise Murphy, Eve Drysdale and Mrs Ward accepting our award.

Handball

6th Class children have been participating in a handball tournament throughout the latter part of the term and this will recommence after Christmas.

Cycle Safety

A number of our 4th class children signed up for a 6 week cycling safety and skills training course following an invitation to do so by the Meath Sports Partnership. The emphasis on the course was on safety through control of the bike and awareness of surroundings.



Congratulations to the following children who missed no days from school this term

Ms Egan's Class: Amber Wyer, Elena Kinsella, Evie Keane, Isobel Daly, Katie Barker, Lucy McCormack, Robyn Reilly, Darragh Brunton, Ehren Harris, Harrison Yardley, Ross Peppard, Ryan Tinnelly & Tadhg Keenan. **Ms Prendiville's Class:** Caoimhe Dalton, Lauren Murray, Olivia Ryan, Sorsha Lumley, Billy McEvoy, Emmet O'Brien, Harry Kearins, Jamie Winston, Luke Gaffney, Mark Daughton & Sam Grogan. **Ms Kelly's Class:** Aoife Kinsella, Chloe Murphy, Dylan Doyle, Luke Raftery & Rian Jennings. **Ms Cowley's Class:** Alice Kinsella, Eábha Mai O'Brien, Rachael Hyland, Brendan Twyford, Daniel Foster, Daragh Nolan & Seán Brown. **Ms Kieran's Class:** Ava Hennessy, Brógan Ryan, Eva Carroll, Isabelle Twyford, Louise Byrne, Sadie Prior, Sonia Gieros-Tchorz, Brendan Meagher, Darragh Griffin-McEnroe, Michael Ward, Rhys Bracken, Ruairi Pelly and Seán Somers. **Ms NiChinnéide's Class:** Abigail Paval, Ava Doran, Ewa Bialek, Lucy Reynolds, Marie Phelan, Molly Bizzell, Nicole Byrne, Saoirse Bracken, Darragh Mulvaney, Fionn Crowley & Seán O'Sullivan. **Ms Crosbie's Class:** Breeanne Enright, Emily Pullen, Hannah Foster, Katie Doherty, Lauren Mavimpi Kimbondo, Mary-Kate Prior, Megan Murray,, Sophie Coroner, Tarah Coyne, Dylan Wright, Evan Sload, Gavin Daly, Liam Larkin, Robert Hayes and Turlough Mooney. **Ms Ruane's Class:** Aoife O'Beara, Caoimhe Kelleher, Eva Murray, Isabel Byrne, Katie Keenan, Lauren McKenna, Mia Grattan, Molly Murray, Joshua Gill, Max O'Reilly, Pearse Conway, Seán Coleman, Tom McCormack & Vasilica Paval. **Ms McMahon's Class:** Aoibhinn Gibson, Aria Kinsella, Ava Prendergast, Caroline Leavy, Katie Grogan, Katie Burke, Lucy O'Reilly, Evan Sherry, Harry Bogan, Max Brady, Oran Corboy & Ross McNally. **Mr Duffy's Class:** Analena Stobie, Eabha Brown, Erin Leeson, Mia Foley, Rebecca Ryan, Bobby Smith, Conor Daughton, James Burke, Oisín Pelly, Ryan Brunton, Saul Harris, Seán Twyford and Seán O'Beara. **Ms Broderick's Class:** Amy Murray, Ciara Coroner, Eve Winston, Mila Downey, Rebecca Collins, Ruby Daly, Tazim Ibrahim, Aaron Bizzell, Ceilim Ryan, Charlie Hodgins, Harry Dunne, Jack Finnegan and Matthew Braiden. **Ms Bates' Class:** Cara O'Sullivan, Caroline Byrne, Geena Keogh, Grace Kelly, Kate Raftery, Molly Kearns, Sophie Barker, Adam O'Connor, Charlie McCue, Danny Bush, Daragh Grennan, Devin Lynch, Harry Carroll, James Kelly and Seán Caffrey. **Mr McCahey's Class:** Abi Hunt, Caitlin Carrigan, Ciara Doherty, Hannah Murphy, Laiqa Saeed, Lauren Dolan, Sara Paval, Chris Duruanyawu, Darragh Larkin, Eoin Read, Finn Boylan and Oisín Cashman. **Ms NiMhurchú's Class:** Abbie Coyne, Corina Wade, Ella Byrne, Isabella Ruhan, Katie Duffy, Laura Kelly, Lily Nannery, Megan Langan, Saoirse Lynch, Sarah Berns, Sarah Fox, Aaron Kane, Daragh Coatsworth, Hugh Kehoe, Jacob Mulcahy, Luke Colgan, Morgan Foster & Seán Harte. **Ms Murphy's Class:** Aisling Stratford, Amy Kinsella, Aoibhe Caffrey, Eline Lund, Sarah Thomas & Kiran Joseph. **Ms O'Sullivan's Class:** Andrea Styles, Bronagh O'Sullivan, Ella O'Reilly, Rachel Byrne, Andrew Brady, Daniel Barniville, Liam Corbett, Seán Phelan & Sonny Byrne. **Ms Burke's Class:** Grace Lan Conway, Katie O'Neill, Niamh Gibson, Rachel Hue Conway, Shauna Cantwell, Zoe Preece, Conor Yardley, Eoin Drysdale & Seán Corbett. **Ms Dennehy's Class:** Alicia Cunningham, Erin Smith, Holly Byrne, Rebecca Fennessy Manley, Adam Leeson, Alan Kearns, Conor Harte, Eoin Kane, Fionn Nolan, Jack Tormey, Tomás Corbett & Wafiq Quawadamilora Ibrahim. **Ms Curtin's Class:** Ciara Coleman, Elizabeth Martin, Grace Hennessy, Matilda Ruhan, Adam Murphy, Alex Hesse Mason, Christopher Haskins, Cian Crosby, Harry Reilly, Rohan Wardick, Ryan Foley, Samuel Paval, Senan Byrne & Will Lanigan. **Ms Talty's Class:** Aimee Doherty, Karen Mavimpi, Aaron Prendergast, Benjamin Fraser, Joshua Mulcahy, Lucas Longhi, Max Daly & Samuel Carroll. **Mr Burns' Class:** Blessing Duruanyawu, Emma Dunne, Erin Byrne, Alex Fisher, Andrei Paval, Conor Tierney, Jack O'Neill, Killian Stratford, Mark Kearns, Nathan Kelly, Ryan Coroner & Seán Kearins. **Ms Smyth's Class:** Nicole Preece, Regina McDonnell, Ruqaiya Saeed, Cian Byrne, Evan Cantwell, Liam Reynolds, & Matthew Hayes. **Mr Harte's Class:** Ameera Saeed, Claudia McKeon, Katie O'Reilly, Roisin Corbett, Adam Carolan, Karlin David & Mathieu Sevestre. **Ms McCarthy's Class:** Emma Burke, Julia Read, Cian Temple, Conor Wardick, Daniel Barker, Nathan Scattergood, Ryan Doherty & Sam Pidgeon. **Ms O'Connor's Class:** Charlie Cunningham. **Ms Price's Class:** Sophia Read



Message from Santa! Ho Ho Ho!!

Dear Boys and Girls, Thank you for your lovely letters. Mrs Claus and I really enjoyed reading them. My special elf Jingles who stayed at St. Paul's has been talking about you? He was very impressed that you have worked very hard in school this year. Mrs Claus and I are proud of you too! The elves and I have been busy building toys and getting my sleigh ready for the big trip. Mrs. Claus is mending my red suit as I had so many holes in the knees from sliding down all of those chimneys! Can I ask a favour?? Can you leave me out some of your favourite goodies on Christmas Eve as Mrs Claus doesn't allow me any!! The reindeer and I are planning to arrive in Ratoath and the surrounding area just after midnight to deliver your gifts. Please be sure to hang out your stocking and be in bed early. Merry Christmas Santa!



Ms Egan's Junior Infant Class



Ms Prendiville's Junior Infant Class



Ms Kelly's Junior Infant Class

Hallowe'en 2014



The Children of St. Paul's (and their parents) put huge effort into Hallowe'en dress up day! Children were encouraged to bring in €2 in aid of Temple Street. We are delighted to report that €1140 was raised. Well done to everybody!

Baby Joy

Congratulations to Mr Harte on the birth of his daughter Lucy, to Mrs O'Doherty on the birth of twins Tom and Molly and to Mrs Begley on the birth of baby Kate!

Dates for Your Diary

School closes at 1.40pm on 10th February and the 9th June

Confirmation—24th April 2015

First Holy Communion—9th May 2015

Cash for Clobber

Our recent clothing collection raised €900 for the school.

Uniform Box

Please remember that we have a uniform box in school where parents donate 2nd hand uniform items. We do not charge for these items and welcome anyone to call into the office who may wish to take a look.

Parking

We would continue to ask parents to be please be mindful of neighbouring estates and not to park outside the school gates. We have worked hard to get our pedestrian crossing and traffic lights so please respect them. We ask you also not to park in our disabled parking spaces unless you have the necessary permit.

Health and Safety

Please remind your children that they should walk their scooter/bike once in the school grounds for their safety and the safety of others.



Santa Visit to Mr Duffy & Ms McCarthy's Classes



Dr Seuss Book Week 2014

This years book week was inspired by Dr Seuss. The children had lots of opportunities to read with visits to our book fair to browse; and to other classes to read books to each other. A huge thank you goes to Clifford who visited our junior and senior infant classes and played games with many delighted children! The week ended with a dress up day and parents and children put a lot of thought and effort into their costumes. Our book fair was a huge success and we thank Ms O'Toole for organising this yearly event. In addition we thank members of our Parents' Association and the volunteers who came on board to help out each day. The book fair yielded enough money to ensure we can now purchase €4500 of new books for the school library and for the classrooms.



Our Green School Competition Winners

On Friday 10th October 2014 St. Paul's was turned into a beautiful sea of blue. As part of our Green School programme we wanted to have a special day where we could celebrate the gift that is water and remind ourselves about how important it is to save water and not waste a single drop!! Here we have Ms Burke's 4th Class supporting the cause!!

Hampers for SVDP

We were delighted to provide St. Vincent De Paul with 40 hampers to distribute to families in Ratoath, following a request to our children to contribute a food item to the cause. We were overwhelmed by the very generous response and we thank parents for their generosity in supporting this very special cause. We also thank our Parents' Association who contributed a €10 butcher voucher for each hamper. The SVDP are very grateful and the hampers were distributed to families in the week running up to Christmas. Pictured are Ms Crosbie's 1st Class with Ms McGowan and staff members who made up the hampers



Team Hope Shoebox Christmas Appeal

We were delighted with the generosity shown to the TEAM HOPE Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. and as always the children showed their incredible generosity by donating 424 shoeboxes. This year TEAM HOPE is sending the shoeboxes collected from Ireland to children in parts of Eastern Europe and Africa. Please take a look at their web-site for more information. <http://secure.teamhope.ie/csa>



Some of our 2nd Class children with their shoe boxes

Jingles

Our Elf, Jingles, flew into St. Paul's in early December to keep a close eye on our children and report back to Santa each day. Jingles had a great time getting to know the school and visiting each class during his visit. He was delighted to report back to Santa that the children of St. Paul's had lovely manners and were working very hard for their teachers. He hopes to visit the school again next year!!



Jingles arriving at St. Paul's



Children from Ms Prendiville's Class playing with Jingles



Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load
Been a long time, little donkey, through the winter's night
Don't give up now, little donkey,
Bethlehem's in sight

Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way
Little donkey, little donkey, journey's end is near
There are wise men waiting for a sign to bring them here
Do not falter little donkey, there's a star ahead
It will guide you, little donkey, to a cattle shed

Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way



Ratoath College Christmas Village

Classes from Junior Infants up to 2nd Class were treated to a visit to Ratoath College Christmas Village by our Parents' Association. Here we have some children from Ms McMahon's Class



Christmas Fair 2014

Our Christmas Fair was yet again a tremendous success thanks our amazing Parents' Association and Volunteers who put a massive amount of time and effort into the setting up of this now annual event. We are very grateful to all who helped both in the lead up and on the day. We were also blown away with the generosity of Sponsors and Parents who contributed prizes to our bumper Christmas raffle. We had 83 prizes to raffle on the day and this was a huge contribution to the income made at the event. Santa was a big attraction with an ongoing queue of children and their parents enjoying a chat and presenting their wish list!! There was face painting available to the children and parents could enjoy a cup tea, coffee or hot chocolate if they wished. We are very grateful for the cake donations which sold out very quickly and for the 2nd hand books which were very popular. The leftover books were given to Ratoath College and Enable Ireland. The Fair raised circa €9,000 and will be put to very good use next year.



Ms Murphy's 3rd Class



Ms Ruane's 1st Class



Ms O'Connor's Class



Ms O'Sullivan's 4th Class

The children of St. Paul's were visited by a very special man and his helper Elves!