



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 2016 Newsletter

It's Christmas time! In a school that means all the good stuff about Christmas...the excitement, the joy, the magic, the happiness and a lot less concern (on the part of the children anyway) for the effort, planning and preparation! Sometimes we should learn from the children and sit back and enjoy the simple things. It has been a very busy term and everyone is ready for a break so take a break and spend more time and energy on the children. Create memories, not overdrafts, and enjoy your time together! Happy Christmas! *Morag McGowan*

### Christmas Plays

Over the past few weeks Parents and their families were invited into the School to see Christmas performances by the children. Junior Infants up to 2nd Classes were shining stars in their nativity plays and children from 3rd classes up to 6th Classes sang like angels at their Carol Service. Thank you to all the Teachers who put in a huge amount of additional work to give the children this opportunity. Thank you to the Parents for providing the costumes. If anyone would like to donate their child's costume we would be delighted to have it.



Ms Hession's Senior Infant Class



Some of Ms Ruane's Junior Infants



Ms Moore, Ms Brennan & Mr Smith's 1st Classes





**Ms Cowley's Class**



**Ms Ruane's Class**



**Ms Mullen's Infant Class**

### Cycle Safety

4th class children were, again this year, invited to participate in a cycling safety course in conjunction with the Meath Sports Partnership and Eurolink. The programme ran in the school for 6 weeks. The emphasis of the course is on safety through control of the bike and awareness of surroundings and the children were guided through the rules of the road, starting and stopping, road positioning, shoulder checking, turning left and right, overtaking and traffic manoeuvres.



### Cash for Clobber

Our recent clothing collection for the NCBI Charity generated €1,239.50 in fundraising for the school.



### Junior Infants

Our new Junior Infants have settled very well into school and by now are almost half way through their first year in St. Paul's. Applications for enrolment for 2017 will be posted in January. Please keep an eye out if you are expecting one. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 27th January at 3pm.

### Baby Joy

We would like to congratulate and welcome back SNA Nicola Gallagher from maternity leave after having a baby girl Aoife in May. Also, Congratulations to Ms Gogan who welcomed baby Colm into the world in August.

### Rainbows

We are delighted to be able to offer the Rainbows programme again this year which began in November and will run until February. This programme has been run in the school before and has been hugely beneficial to the children involved. The programme is run by our teachers and SNAs who have been trained to deliver it. and we thank Ms McMahon, the programme co-ordinator and to the other staff members who provide this much valuable service to the children concerned.

Please support the Ratoath Cardiac First Responders Christmas Tree Recycling Initiative: You can purchase a tag at Conway's Spar, Cunningham's Super Valu, Sweeney's Centra or the Ratoath Community Centre. Please have your tree outside your house by 9am on Saturday 7th January

**Meet our new Student Council**



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

**Ms Cowley's Class:** Robyn Beamish, Dylan Gough, Lily Mae Fahey Clancy, Abigail King O'Gorman, Connor Larkin & Ciaran Pentony. **Ms Ruane's Class:** Ellen Daughton, Sadie Eivers, Luke O'Neill, Brandon Dowling, Harriet Prendergast & Hannah Reynolds **Ms Mullen's Class:** Lydia Jordan, Maya Moran, Bobby Cannon, Finn Higgins, Joe Tormey & Eliza Prior. **Ms O'Doherty & Ms Ward's Class:** Emily Fagan, Michael Murray, Oscar Hennessy, Megan Lane, Sophia Sherry, Nicole Doherty, Ciara Gill, Conor Ginson, Pierce Ryan, Emma Ginley, Cian O'Callaghan, Theo De Bonis & Daisy Kehoe. **Ms Bagnall's Class:** Ava Smity, Emily Shinnors, Conor Andrews, Lee O'Connor, Éila Corboy, Serena Conway, Molly Milner, Bébhinn Ryan, Cian Brown, Amelia Couch, Max Stone and Isabelle Thompson. **Ms Hession's Class:** Aoibheann O'Connor, Stephen O'Brien, Rebecca Kenny, Amelia Coyne, Amy Leeson, Sarah Murphy, Isabelle Hetherington, Louis O'Connell Cowley, John Sherlock, James Pullen, Finn McCabe, Lauren Doran & Cara Murray. **Ms Moore's Class:** Ehren Harris, Ryan Tinnelly, Jamie Fitzgerald, Emily Meehan, Noah Murphy, Grace O'Gorman, Essa Josy, Katie Barker, Eve Brazil, Ross Peppard & Harrison Yardley. **Ms Brennan's Class:** Olivia Ryan, Jamie Winston, Joshua Balmer, Lauren Murray, Alannah Kelleher, Sorsha Lumley, Evie Wardick, Katie O'Gorman & Ava O'Reilly. **Mr Smith's Class:** Nathan Connolly, Gracie Cronin, Conor Dickenson, Brandon Jordan, Luke Raftery, John Fitzgerald, Dylan Doyle, Mia Dowling & Kean Moran. **Ms NiChinnéide's Class:** Killian Murphy, Harvey Cahill, Sadie Prior, Lauren Kenny, Eva Carroll, Finn Clarke, Isabelle Twyford, Ava Hennessy, Amber Lane, Sophie Cooke, Brógan Ryan, Louise Byrne, Rhys Bracken & Michael Ward. **Ms Hamilton's Class:** Harry Hesse Mason, Nicole Byrne, Sáoirse Bracken, Seán O'Sullivan, Alannah Ducie & Marie Phelan. **Ms Egan's Class:** Brendan Twyford, Nathan Roycroft, Lee Cadwell, Josh Kiely, Daniel Foster, Grace Gallagher, Jenna Willoughby, Alice Kinsella, Deividas Matijosaitis, James Nugent Smith, Calum Boucher, Rachael Hyland & Seán Brown. **Ms Moriarty's Class:** Caoimhe Kelleher, Dylan Taylor, Max O'Reilly, Dennis Olaru, Katie Kennan, Molly Murray, Aoife O'Beara, Cian Campbell, Lauren McKenna, Shóna Conneely, Christopher Cannon, Pearse Conway & Eoghan Shirley. **Ms Smyth's Class:** Aoibhínn Gibson, Katie Burke, Max Brady, Alex Knowles, Callum Willoughby, Lucy O'Reilly, Brandon Tighe, Oran Corboy, Darragh Doody, Éinín Murphy & Harry Bogan. **Ms Kennedy's Class:** Mary-Kate Prior, Tarah Coyne, Molly Moran, Lauren Mavimpi Kimbondo, Breeanne Enright, Turlough Mooney, Niamh Colgan, Megan Murray, Emily Pullen, Katie Doherty, Gavin Daly, Liam Larkin & Robert Hayes. **Mr Harte's Class:** Sophie Barker, Harry Carroll, James Kelly, Grace Kelly, Danny Bush, Amy Murray, Adam O'Connor, Jonathan McDonnell, Cara O'Sullivan, Mark Ward, Caroline Byrne, Elsa Johnson, Molly Kearns, Charlie McCue & Conor Godkin. **Ms Bates' Class:** Amy Murray, Megan Fitzmaurice, Ruby Daly, Jonathan Kaya, Aaron Bizzell, Cormac Tormey, Matthew Braiden, Charlie Hodgins, Sarah Forde & Jessica Cronin. **Mr Burns' Class:** Rebecca Ryan, James Burke, Conor Shirley, Oisín Pelly, Mia Foley, Ella Clarke, Seán O'Beara, Charlie Jackson, Erin Leeson, Seán Twyford, Bobby Smith, Analena Stobie & Saul Harris. **Ms Burke's Class:** Daragh Coatsworth, Megan Langan, Corina Wade, Luke Colgan, Sarah Fox, Sarah Berns, Seán Harte, Saoirse Lynch, Morgan Foster, James Cullen, Grace McTiernan, Lee Gallagher, Abbie Coyne & Jacob Mulcahy. **Ms Swanton's Class:** Chris Duruanyawu, Jack Clarke, Eoin Read, Lauren Dolan, Amelie Palmer, Tyler Arkesteijn, Emily O'Callaghan, Abi Hunt, Hannah Murphy & Ryan Dunne. **Ms Broderick's Class:** Katie Smyth, Liam Fraser, Eoghan Keary, Megan Xu-Ran Piao, Sophie Cameron, Aisling Stratford, Robyn Ducie & Amy Kinsella. **Ms Dennehy's Class:** Lucas White, Brandon Doran, Ella O'Reilly, Liam Corbett, Seán Phelan, Zara Collins, Aoife Hyland, Amy Forde, Bronagh O'Sullivan, Charlotte Hue Hurley & Andrew Brady. **Ms O'Sullivan's Class:** Hannah Bailey, Michael O'Hoka, Conor Yardley, Kate Hayes, Niamh Gibson, Helen Jenkins, Eoin Drysdale & Dean Arkesteijn. **Mr Duffy's Class:** Ruairi Braiden, Jack Tormey, David Stobie, Fionn Nolan, Ryan Walsh, Tomás Corbett, Eoin Kane, Adam Leeson, Amelia Campbell, Conor Harte & Kevin Sommerfield Walsh. **Ms Talty's Class:** Sophia Read **Ms O'Connor's Class:** Noah Langan.

### Message From Father Christmas! Ho Ho Ho!!

Merry Christmas! Up here, in the North Pole, we are all talking about the children of St. Paul's! I sent one of my elves 'Jingles' to stay with you before Christmas and he reported that he was very impressed that you have all worked so well in school this year. In particular, he noticed how kind everybody is to each other and told me about the kind hands, kind words and kind feet policy of the school. I also heard how generous you all were with the Christmas shoe box appeals and the hampers for SVdeP. So, I am delighted to report that all the boys and girls in St. Paul's are on the good list and I will be visiting you all on Christmas Eve. I can only visit when you are asleep so make sure you get to bed early! As always Rudolf and the Reindeer will be travelling with me and as we will be visiting many houses that night, a few cookies and carrots left out for us would be much appreciated!!

**Merry Christmas! Santa**



## Christmas Fair

Once again our Parents' Association hosted a Christmas Fair to remember! Preparations began back in October and all the hard work and commitment paid off on Sunday 4th December. We had a tremendous amount of support from our parents and their families and also from people who are not necessarily connected with the school. There were lots of stands including books, cakes, flowers, white elephant and a tuck shop. People could browse and then relax with a cup of tea or coffee in the seating area. Lots of families visited Santa and his elves in the grotto and some of the children availed of the face painting. The event concluded with a huge Raffle with over 85 substantial prizes. Thank you to the many sponsors of these prizes (who are listed at the back of this newsletter) and congratulations to the many winners. The staff of St. Paul's would like to take this opportunity to thank our fantastic Parents' Association and to the volunteers for all their work in creating, and on the day helping out, at this event, to ensure its success. A massive thank you to all the parents who donated cakes, books and unwanted gifts for the white elephant stall. A special note of thanks to Santa who took the time out of his very busy schedule to visit the school and for the time spent with the children. This year the Christmas fair generated in excess of €11,000 for our school.



## SVdeP Christmas Hampers

As in previous years, we decided again to support the SVdeP Christmas campaign which provides hampers to help out families in the local area, who are in need of some additional support at this time of year. We asked the children to each bring in a food item and the response was truly amazing so thank you! We would also like to thank the staff members, because without their help, we would not have been able to produce 48 hampers so quickly. The SVdeP were truly grateful for the huge generosity shown.



## Our Elf Jingles

Jingles arrived back to the school again this year and got up to his old tricks! He did his best to visit most of the children and got himself into the most obscure places. Ms Moore's children arrived back to class to find him swinging from the projector!



## Ratoath College Christmas Village

Children from Junior Infants up to 2nd classes were treated to an excursion up to Ratoath College where the TV students hosted a Christmas Village. It was lovely to see some of our past pupils looking after the children so well.



Meet our Active Committee for this year.



Mr Smith's 1st Class and Ms Bagnalls's S.I. Class

## Assembly

Every Friday the whole school meets in the hall for assembly and each year group, on a rota basis, takes it in turn to perform. 4th Classes performed during December and the video is available to see on our school website. You can check out this performance on [www.stpaulsratoath.ie](http://www.stpaulsratoath.ie).



## New School Website

In October we launched our new and much improved website. Our new look website is very child and parent friendly and is packed full of information, class room blogs and useful information on our school. School policies, enrolment registration forms, access to epayment links and our uniform suppliers are only some of the many features available. Another new feature is a school calendar which is updated on a regular basis to reflect important events in the school. We would encourage everybody to use the site [www.stpaulsratoath.ie](http://www.stpaulsratoath.ie) and we welcome any feedback. We would like to thank Ms O'Toole and Ms Ruane who put a huge amount of work into the building of the site.



## Hallowe'en

There was an eerie spookiness around the school as the children embraced our Hallowe'en celebrations and dress up day in aid of Temple Street Children's hospital! The children dressed up (Thank you Parents!) and were encouraged to bring in €2 each for Temple Street. The hospital were delighted with the cheque for €1,000 and have asked the school to pass on their gratitude. We thank the Parents' Association who sponsored €10 book tokens for the best two costumes in each class.



## Success for our Olympic Handball Teams

On Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, our four Olympic handball teams travelled to Gormanstown to compete in the Meath Championships. All four teams performed to a very high standard. The day consisted of the boys and girls playing a number of matches against local schools. At the end of the day, all four teams (Girls & Boys U-13 and Girls and Boys U-11) sat at the top of their respective tables. We look forward with anticipation to the next round of the championships which will take place in the New Year. We would also like to thank the Irish Olympic Handball Association for organising a very well run competition and all the teachers that coach the various teams throughout the year.



## Golden Boot

Ms. Smyth's Third Class were awarded the Golden Boot award for having the most children who either walked, cycled or scooted to school in the first week of this new initiative to encourage children to travel to school in a green way.



## Congratulations to

Amelia Campbell who represented Meath in the recent All Ireland Cross Country Championship after coming 1st in her County. Amelia came 9th in the All Ireland after a super run. Well done Amelia!!



## Cumann na mBunscol Hurling Final

There was tension, excitement and rivalry in the air as the two teams boldly strode onto the Trim GAA pitch in October. The talk in the St. Paul's dressing room was all very similar "Go out there and play your heart out, whether you're ten points up or ten points down..." The referee threw in the sliotar, blew his whistle and the game began. Both teams fought hard in the first 5 minutes, but it was Rathbeggan who drew first blood, scoring an early goal. Things didn't get any easier for St. Paul's as Rathbeggan piled on the pressure quickly adding on another goal and a point to their tally. Finally a break as the referee blew for half time!



The St. Paul's team got into a huddle. There were certainly some concerned faces, but the team and the coaches all agreed that in the second half they would show Rathbeggan who the real St. Paul's were. Some early chances for St. Paul's went astray from frees and open play. Rathbeggan seemed to have no bad luck as the goals rained down on the St. Paul's team. St. Paul's, who had beaten, and drawn with, Rathbeggan in previous matches, then managed a goal and one point both scored by the Corbett brothers Tomás and Seán.

We could all see how hard the team was working, but unfortunately it wasn't our day as Rathbeggan won the game by 13 points. Tears were shed by our brave St. Paul's warriors as they shook hands with the Rathbeggan players. A tough day on the field and an unlucky score line.

Well done to the boys and their coaches Ms. Bagnall, Ms. Burke, Ms. Ní Mhurchú and Ms. Talty. We are all extremely proud of you!

Written by Ruairí Braiden, Sixth Class.

## Athletics

The boys and girls representing the school on the Athletics team had a very successful day at a cross country event in Bellewstown Racecourse in November. We had four teams, a boys and girls under 11 team and a boys and girls under 13 team. Every athlete ran exceptionally well on a tough and testing course and St. Paul's had success at an individual and team level. We look forward to the next competition in the New Year.



Book week ran from the 14th to the 18th of November.

This year's theme was 'Books from around the World'. It was a packed week with plenty of book related activities to keep all the children entertained. Clifford visited our Junior and Senior Infants again this year much to the delight of the children. A special note of thanks goes out to Clifford for spending so much time with the children. Ms O'Toole arranged for a drumming workshop for 1st and 2nd classes and Jackie Burke, the author of 'Secrets of Grindlewoods' books, to give a talk to 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes. We finished the week off with dress up day. Thank you to the parents and children who bought books at the book fair. The school benefited to the tune of €4,700 in books for our library.



## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

At Christmas time we try to emphasise the real meaning of Christmas and reflect on those who are not as fortunate as we are. This year the school were delighted to support two very worthy Christmas shoebox appeals, offering the choice between an old favourite Teamhope and, this year a more local cause, the 'Dublin inner City helping Homeless'. Items such as hats, gloves, scarves, underwear, sweets, chocolate, Christmas cards, roll on deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shower gels etc were suggested as box fillers. We had a tremendous response resulting in 334 shoeboxes for Teamhope and 165 for the Dublin City Helping Homeless. Thank you so much for your support. The volunteers collecting for both initiatives were astounded at the generosity shown.



## Santa Visit

Santa dropped by, during a very busy time for him, to check in with the children before Christmas Eve. We are very grateful to him and too his elves for taking the time to visit our school.

