



St. Paul's National School Christmas 2020 Newsletter

This year was a year like no other. As we come to the end of it I want to reflect on whatever positives I can take out of it. Never before would I have thought I would be grateful for the freedom to travel beyond 5 kms; to sit in the staffroom; to visit the classrooms; to drop into a shop.....As we move into a new year I want to bring some of that gratitude with me and stop taking things for granted.

In school we are grateful that we are open! We look forward to a time that we can hear the children sing freely; that they can play all their sports; that they can move around their classrooms and the school; that we can welcome parents and grandparents back in.

In August we were tasked with opening the school; keeping it open; teaching the children and, most importantly, addressing their well-being. Well-being means feeling good and strong in our minds and bodies; having energy; getting along with and helping others; knowing our strengths and feeling proud because we are doing our best. It means we can cope with the little problems and disappointments of life. It means enjoying life; being grateful for what we have and accepting ourselves just as we are!

In St. Paul's we have always had the well-being of the children to the forefront of everything we do and I want to thank all the staff for putting so much of themselves into ensuring that, this year, the emphasis is even greater. All things considered we have had a great start to our school year and all of us in St. Paul's want to wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2021!

Happy Christmas!

Morag McGowan



Christmas Shows

As with most things this term we had to do our Christmas shows a little differently. For starters we had to build our stage outside for the performances and as we couldn't invite parents in we recorded each show and uploaded it onto our website so if you haven't already seen them then please check them out! A huge thank you to John, Mr Duffy and Mr Harte for EVERYTHING they did to bring this about. Mr O'Sullivan's 6th Class get into the festive mood above. More photos inside.



Christmas Panto

As a special Christmas treat for the children we arranged to stream the Helix Panto— 'The Sword in the Stone' to each of the classes. The children wore their jammies and had popcorn and some chocolate. In the picture above we see children from Mr Duffy's 2nd Class.

Prize	Sponsored by	Winner
Ladies City Style Bike	Little Sport Bikes	Aoife Gallagher/Robert Hanly
Hand Made Children's Rocking Horse		Edel Wyer/Michael Wyer
€150.00 One for All Voucher	Spar Foodhall (Abbey St Lwr)	Lisa De Souza/Fagner De Souza
€150.00 One for All Voucher	Spar Foodhall (Abbey St Lwr)	Elaine Treanor/Cathal McGlinchey
€100.00 One for All Voucher	REA Grimes	Emma Grall
€100.00 La Bucca Voucher	Parent Donation	Susan Andrews/Alan Dickenson
€100.00 Blanchardstown Voucher	Neogen Creative Delivery	Sharon Clarke/Eddie Clarke
Hand Made Children's Play Easel		Yvette Fitzpatrick/Cormac Fitzpatrick
Wine and Goodies Hamper	Parent Donation	Angela Meehan/Kevin Meehan
Aura 7 Tablet	Devtech	Marcella Callaghan/Stanley Callaghan
€60.00 La Bucca Voucher	La Bucca	Orla Connolly/Neil Connolly
€50.00 'Wax Room' Voucher	Parent Donation	Laura Willoughby/Scott Willoughby
€50.00 'Forever Amber' Voucher	Parent Donation	Aisling Corcoran/Fegus Corcoran
€50.00 'As you Like It' Voucher	Parent Donation	Caroline Dalton/Fiachra Dalton
€50.00 La Bucca Voucher	Total Ironmongery Solutions	Denise Sherry/Dean Sherry
€50.00 Uniform Voucher	Call Us Ltd	Geraldine Sheridan/Les Sheridan
€50.00 Uniform Voucher	Call Us Ltd	Aine Murphy/Andrew Murphy
Box of Wine	Emerald Photography	Pearl Hyland/Chris Hyland
Novello Voucher	Total Ironmongery Solutions	Lynn Eivers/Christopher Eivers
Christmas Treats Hamper	Parent Donation	Niamh Robinson/Damien McCarthy
AC Cleaning Voucher	AC Cleaning	Marian Sheehy/Pat Sheehy
Hamper	Parent Donation	Claire Corr
Pandora Ring	Parent Donation	Cliona Doyle/Conor Doyle
€20.00 One for All Voucher	Parent Donation	Emir Crowley/Fergal Crowley
€20.00 One for All Voucher	Parent Donation	Sarah Burke/Philip Burke
€20.00 One for All Voucher	Parent Donation	Geraldine De Bonis/Franco De Bonis
€20.00 Eason Voucher/Hamper	Parent Donation/ Melt Ashbourne	Joanne Keane/Daniel Keane
Wine and Chocolates		Helena Whitston
Wine and Chocolates		Grandparents of James Nugent Smith
Wine and Chocolates		Laura Duncan/Ryan Kelly
Wine and Chocolates		Niamh Petrone/Carmine Petrone
Wine and Chocolates		Mark Cowley

Santa Dash

Thank you to Ms Dennehy for organising our Santa Dash. As you can see the children had great fun!



SVDP hampers

This year we had 50 Christmas hampers, thanks to the items you sent in, for SVDP to distribute to families in need. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Christmas Raffles

We would like to thank our Parents' Association for arranging a free childrens raffle. Each child was included in the draw and there were four prizes for each class. 1st prize was a €15 book voucher, 2nd price a €5 Melt voucher and there was a selection box for third and fourth prize. Congratulations to all our winners. We were also delighted to have a Christmas raffle which was sponsored by the generosity of parents and some of our suppliers. We really appreciate your support. The winners are listed on the next page and also feature on our website.



Ms Prendiville's Class

I kept a little piece of the newsletter to make sure I can properly express my gratitude to everyone this Christmas. We have had a great start to the year and it is all due to everyone working so well together for the good of the children.

I want to thank you, the parents, for trusting us with your children. It was an anxious time for everyone but it has been wonderful to know that we have your trust, cooperation and support.

Thank you to the children who have adapted to all our changes without any difficulty at all. They have been fantastic throughout and have had such a happy, positive outlook that they have really cheered up our days.

I want to thank all the staff. For all the wonderful events which they put in place and which you can see in this newsletter, but more importantly for the love, dedication and commitment which they show to your children. From messages of hope on the doors to the Advent alphabet to quiet moments of reflection in the hall to quiet chats with children who need a bit of extra time. They always go the extra mile.

A special thank you to John and Paola who work away quietly behind the scenes to keep us all happy and safe. Finally, a huge thank you to Yvonne and Mrs Ward. Between the two of them they keep everything, and everyone, going with their hard work, kindness and calm. We'd be lost without them.

Room 25 and 26 getting into the festive spirit



Christmas Shows and School Choir

All our Christmas shows are on our website. As always, they are very special. Different, but good! Don't forget to check out the virtual choir too. Well done to Ms Conroy for bringing it together and for organising the outdoor entertainment for the past two days. As the choir say....someday soon we all be together....and we look forward to it, but for now, enjoy!



Ms Kellegher's 5th Class getting ready to watch the panto.

Santa Visit

We got a huge surprise when Santa decided to take time out of his busy schedule to drop in to say hello. Even the social distancing didn't curb the children's delight! Santa had a small gift for each child and wished everybody a healthy, happy Christmas. We are very grateful to Santa and to his friendly driver for popping in.



Christmas Reflection

Children in classes from third to sixth participated in a candle lit reflection where the children were encouraged to be mindful of the true meaning of the Christmas message. The reflection centred around the idea that gifts do not have to be expensive or bought in a shop to be special and that it is more important to show love and kindness to those we care about.



This December, classes from 3rd-6th have been recognising the importance of kindness. Giving the gift of kindness is a huge part of St. Paul's, so the children were invited to cut out a snowball and write down a kind act that they have done for someone or that someone has done for them. We then put them all together on a collective kindness poster titled 'There's snow thing better than kindness'