

St Gerard's Primary School Parent Newsletter December 2013



Christmas Newsletter

Dear Parents

We have arrived at the end of a very hard working and demanding term. We have seen the school decoration completed and a few weeks ago our hall lines were painted, finishing off work began way back on the first day of term in August. We have welcomed 6 new staff to our team and we are grateful for the contribution they have made to our family. As we look back I would like to thank you for all your help & support in continuing to make our school a family. Through all the Santa fun and Christmas dinner jokes and laughs we at St. Gerard's have emphasized the Jesus Christ story. Christ means, "anointed one". In this age of continuous attacks on our Christian heritage please remind your child of what we are celebrating at this time of year. Have a very merry CHRISTmas and a happy new year.



Health

In the past week I have been informed of a few cases of Threadworm with children in the school. This is easily treated but untreated can spread throughout the family. Please be vigilant over the next few days and check that you and your children are clear. You can find details from your chemist or online as to treatments.

Christmas Fayre

Many Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Christmas Fayre a fantastic success. A special thanks to Miss Manley and the PTA for all their help. One again I'd like to thank John McCrory who contacted Santa for us and of course a big thank you to Santa for visiting us on this special day. The School Fayre and raffles all added up to as fantastic total of £1912.52.

School Nativity Play

Our School Nativity was a wonderful afternoon and evening. Our children performed magnificently and made everyone proud of their efforts as did our teaching and support staff led by Hollywood's own, Mrs. Brown & Miss Cahill,



Christmas Dinner

The children's Christmas dinner was a wild and exciting blast, as you can imagine. Many Thanks to Angie and her team, along with our parent helpers; your time and efforts are greatly appreciated. Hope you all enjoyed tucking into your turkey & steak pie.



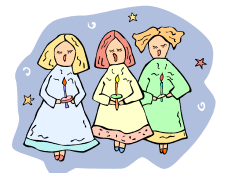
Carol Singers

Our P7 and P6/7 children have been singing carols at Tesco, Morrisons and Hattonlea nursing home during the Christmas period. I hope you had the chance to go along and hear how good our children are. A huge thank you to Miss Manley for liaising with all concerned and allowing St. Gerard's to participate fully in our community at this time of the year.



Choir Competition

Many Thanks to everyone who voted in the Choir competition. Our Choir came 4th in a competition of 10 schools in the final and we are immensely proud of their achievement.



Christmas Parties

Our Parties have gone well with P6, P6/7 & P7 finishing on Thursday 19th December. Santa Claus visited our P1 children at their party.



Mrs. Bell
As you all know we will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Patricia Bell on Friday the 20th January as she will be retiring after many happy years at St. Gerard's. We wish her all the best in the years to come.



Rights and Responsibilities

Many of you have commented about children expressing themselves with confidence regarding "their rights" and we are very proud of the manner in which children have embraced this new development. Please remember to ask children about their responsibilities in relation to their rights, this should calm down some home debates. On a more serious note, Miss Gizzie who has been leading staff and pupils with this initiative, celebrated the children efforts with a Christmas jumper Rights' Day which was on Wednesday 18th December. We had lots of fun and naturally a lot of fashion advice for the coming New Year.

After school club
All after school clubs will be starting up week commencing Monday 13th January

Merry Christmas
Finally can I wish all your family and friends a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.
God Bless.
Mr Conaghan

Thank you to St. Gerard's Staff

Christmas in school is a fantastic time for staff and children but it requires a great deal of work from all the staff. They have worked really hard and I would like to say a big thank you to all our staff at this special time of the year.



Carol Concert

Please try to come along to our end of term carol concert at St. Gerard's Church on Friday 20th January at 10.00am. This will be a fitting way to end our term as we prepare for the great feast of Christmas.



Finishing Time

Please remember that we finish at 2:30pm
on Friday the 20th December and return on 6th January at 8.55am

