

ROAD OF HOPE SHOE BOX APPEAL

The generosity of our school community knows no bounds! This year we surpassed ourselves once more and collected a staggering 204 shoe boxes for boys, girls and elderly people in Eastern Europe. Marie and Anne were amazed by our total when they came to collect our shoeboxes. The children in Key Stage 2 made a human road to transport the boxes from the assembly hall to the waiting cars. Next year the ladies might need to bring a van to transport all of our shoe boxes to the depot! Many thanks to everyone who donated a present this year.



INNOVATIVE LEARNING AT ST. MARY'S!

Accelerated Reader

Children in Key Stage 2 use Accelerated Reader programme to develop their reading skills and make progress in all areas of reading. The programme itself gives our teachers information about each child's reading practice and allows them to make informed decisions about the child's future learning. The programme is extremely popular with all our children with many of them reaching and surpassing their targets on a regular basis. During the summer, our school joined forces with Draperstown Library and Workspace to ensure our children could continue to use Accelerated Reader. Thanks!



A selection of children who used Accelerated Reader in the library. Workspace donated £250 to support its use in the library.



P.5 using Izak 9. In this task the children had to arrange the multiples of 3 in ascending order.

Izak 9

We have been using an amazing mathematical resource to promote problem solving in every class. This resource is called Izak 9. The children work in small groups to complete each challenge using 9 cubes. Each cube has a different mathematical image which the children select and use to complete the challenge. They work through each activity using "Plan, Do, Review". The children have two interactive characters leading them in their challenge: Abacus and Helix. Izak 9 creates a fun and interactive learning experience for our children in their mathematical learning.

Iconography with Primary 7

P.7 are in the process of completing iconography workshops with two iconographers from The Irish Association of Iconographers: Grainne and Clare. Each child will complete an icon of their chosen Confirmation saint in time for their Confirmation. We plan to exhibit the children's work at a later date. We would like to thank Grainne and Clare for sharing their expertise with the children so far. We are waiting patiently to see their finished work!



OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE PRESENTED TO St. MARY'S

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparition at Fatima, Fr. Madden presented our school with a beautiful statue of Our Lady on International Day of Prayer. P.6/7 led us in prayer at an assembly to mark this special event. We would like to thank Fr. Madden for our statue and for consecrating our school to Mary. We will treasure it forever along with our memories of the day.



St Mary's Primary School would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas. See you all in 2018!



Visit our website www.stmaryspsdraperstown.com or follow us on Twitter @StMarysBscreen for more information on what is happening in our school.



ST. MARY'S P.S. DRAPERSTOWN

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2017
Learning, Caring, Sharing Together



EXCITING LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOMS

PRIMARY 1

Christmas arrived in style in the P.1 classroom as the children have been learning all about it. They have used ICT to capture their Play Based Learning activities. They also brought in toys from home which they showed to their friends.



PRIMARY 2 and 3

The children in P.2/3 have been learning all about Space. They used junk materials to make space rockets.



PRIMARY 3

This term P.3 have been learning to measure area using non standard units. The children used multilink cubes to measure the area of their exercise books.



PRIMARY 4

As part of their Minibeast topic the children embarked on a minibeast hunt in our school grounds. They found an array of minibeasts which they collected and classified.



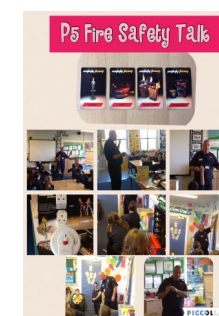
PRIMARY 5

The children in P.5 completed their third year of road safety training in partnership with N.I. Infrastructure. They put their newly acquired skills into action on a walk with James from Stepping out with Scooter.



PRIMARY 5 AND 6

Terry from NIFRS visited the children to educate them on how to be fire safety aware and what to do if there is a fire at home or in school.



PRIMARY 6

P.6 visited Domino's Pizza in Magherafelt as part of their Mighty Microbes topic. During their trip they learned about food hygiene, food preparation and the role of yeast as a raising agent. They also got to make their own pizza!



PRIMARY 7

The children in P.7 have been studying the work of French Impressionist Claude Monet. They explored the techniques used to paint his beautiful water reflection scenes. They then created their own interpretations of winter themed reflection paintings.



Blooming Ballinascreen

During the month of November P.7 planted daffodil bulbs in our parish with the help of their parents and grandparents. This initiative is being led by the Eco Committees in our local schools. We look forward to seeing the daffodils bloom in Spring. Thank you everyone!



European Day of Languages

Mrs McCartney, P.4 and our New-comer children hosted a wonderful timetable of events to celebrate European Day of Languages. They launched the event with a special assembly and concluded it with a special European themed dinner. Events like these continue to promote our inclusive and diverse community.



Anti-Bullying Week

Once again we had a fabulous week of activities to promote the message of "All Different, All Equal, All Together." The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors were creative in their ideas on how to ensure St. Mary's remains a bully free zone. Each class completed individual and whole class posters as well as making friendship chains and creating resources for our outdoor trail. Well done everyone!

Keep up the good work!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 5th January—School Reopens for Term 2
- Friday 12th January—Swimming commences for P6 pupils
- Mid—Term Break 12th-18th February
- Sunday 29th April—Confirmation
- Saturday 19th May—First Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

During the season of Advent P.3, P.5, P.6 and P.7 helped us to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas by leading us in prayer at Assembly. P.3 began our preparations on 30th November when the first purple candle was lit on our Advent Wreath. We lit our second purple candle on 7th December followed with the pink candle on 14th December. We will conclude our preparations on Tuesday 19th December when we will light the third and final purple candle. We will be joined by Father Madden at our fourth and final assembly where we will all receive an Advent Blessing from him. Each assembly was accompanied by the talented musicians and choir members in our school. Thank you to everyone involved in helping us to remember the meaning of Christmas.

Week 1—Primary 3



Week 2—Primary 5



Week 3—Primary 7



Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 15th December saw the arrival of snowmen, Santas, elves and Christmas trees to our school. There was an array of colour and sound in our Assembly Hall as lights on jumpers flashed and twinkled whilst bells rang out in merry tunes. We used this event to raise money for NSPCC who visited our school in November and led two assemblies on how to stay safe. As well as this, they worked with Primary 6 and 7 in their classrooms.

PRIMARY 1 and 2 CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Whoops A Daisy Angel
A Christmas Variety Concert



The month of December has been particularly busy for the children in P.1 and 2. They have been busy rehearsing for their special Christmas performances and what a show they put on! The stage is a wonderful platform to showcase the talent we have here at St. Mary's and our teachers certainly know how to get the best out of each and every one of them! Congratulations to everyone involved!



SCHOOL COUNCIL FOOD BANK

The school council launched their inaugural food bank during the month of December. Each class was asked to bring in a certain item of food and donate it to help those who may experience food poverty this Christmas. The response from each class was excellent as per usual. The school council members will present the donated food to Julia from St. Vincent de Paul at our third Advent Assembly. Thank you to every family who took the time to donate to those who are less fortunate in our own local community. Without your support these initiatives would not be possible.



P.6 and P.7 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The eagerly and much anticipated annual Christmas Bazaar occurred on Friday 15th December in our school hall. As always it was a fantastic event with every child in P.6 and 7 taking part in the event. A total of sixteen stalls were set up in the hall with the remaining classes invited to come along and purchase sweets, cakes, buns and participate in games and activities. Well done P.6 and P.7 for all your hard work! You are all fabulous role models for our younger children!



Open Night

On Wednesday 29th November we opened our school doors to showcase our school life and learning to new and existing parents. There was a brilliant turnout on the night as we welcomed preschool children and their families. It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces in our school and welcome new families who are interested in sending their child to St. Mary's in September 2018. Enrolment forms are available from the school office and we look forward to seeing you all next year! Here is a sample of what we have to offer and some snaps of our star attraction—Santa and Pickles!

