

ROAD OF HOPE SHOE BOX APPEAL

This year we collected an amazing total of 198 shoe boxes for boys and girls in Eastern Europe. The children in Key Stage 2 made a human road to transport the boxes from the assembly hall to the waiting cars. It was a sight to behold! Many thanks to everyone who generously donated a present this year.

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME

On Friday 9th December, P7 participated in a Dragons' Den competition as part of Junior Entrepreneur Programme. Each group presented their product along with costing and marketing to a panel of dragons. The dragons were: Declan McBride, PopNotch, Stella Glasgow, Glasgowbury, Ms Coyle and Miss McNicholl. All the dragons were very impressed with the creativity shown by P7. There is an abundance of budding entrepreneurs in St. Mary's.

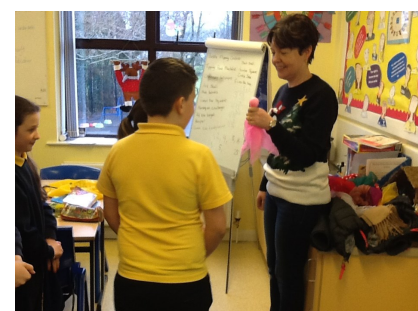
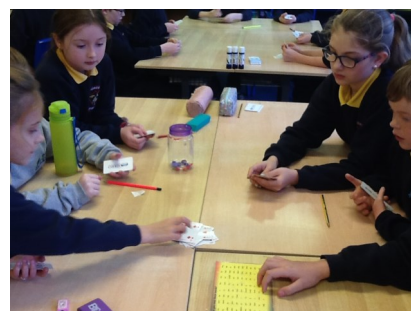


The winning entry chosen by the Dragons was Bottle Top Art. The winning team were: Conor, Tara, Katie, Dara and Charlie. The children will now create artwork using bottle tops to be sold in the new year. The children will start production shortly and the artwork will be available to purchase in due course!

Congratulations and Good Luck P7!

IRISH LESSONS IN P6 and P7

P6 and P7 have had the opportunity to continue to learn Irish during this term under the direction of Bernie Gray. They have learned how to count to 20 in Irish, the colours, items of clothing and the meaning of some of our local place names. Both classes have thoroughly enjoyed their learning. Thank you Bernie!



NEW HARP PRESENTED TO ST. MARY'S

David Foster from The Friends of Music came to our Beginning of Year Mass after which he presented the new harp to the school. The harp was hand built by Michael Billinge. Michael, along with Seamus O'Kane, undertook to replicate the famous Ballinascreen harp made 300 years ago by Cormac Ó Ceallaigh for the TV Programme 'Banríon an Cheoil'. Our new harp is strung in brass and its design is based on the design of our famous Ballinascreen harp. The new harp has been named by Michael as 'The Mac Cormac Harp'. We are grateful to the Friends of Music for providing us with such a treasure.



St. Mary's Primary School
would like to wish everyone
a happy and peaceful Christmas.
See you all in 2017!



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 2016



EXCITING LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOMS

PRIMARY 1

In P.1 we have been working in partnership with the Nerve Centre, Derry to develop their film and animation skills. We used iPads to animate our favourite nursery rhymes.



PRIMARY 2

In the P.2 classroom we are using practical resources to aid our understanding in all areas of the curriculum. We are working hard, looking, learning and listening.



PRIMARY 3

P3 used 'LEGO MOVIE MAKER' to make the 'Dancing Santas' come to life in their very own movie!



PRIMARY 4

Primary 4 visited the Church of the Holy Rosary as part of their preparation for their Sacrament of the Eucharist. Whilst there, they looked at the features of the church.



PRIMARY 4 AND 5

Mrs Mc Cartney and Mrs Conville's classes had great fun searching for mini-beasts together in the school garden and in Susan's Trail as part of this term's topic. There was great group work, co-operation and fantastic enthusiasm. Well done to everyone!



PRIMARY 5 AND 6

In this term, P5/6 have been learning about Electricity. We have counted the number of appliances we have at home and school. We then put this data in a graph. As well as this we have made electrical circuits using batteries, bulbs and switches.



PRIMARY 6

The P.6 children participated in a competition organised by our local popcorn manufacturer, Pop Notch. We produced beautiful autumnal trees using dyed popcorn. We presented our pictures to Grainne from Pop Notch who was very impressed with our imaginative and creative ideas.



PRIMARY 7

On Thursday 20th October P7 went to Susan's Trail to identify some leaves. We found a variety of leaves, such as ash, hazel, beech, birch, alder, holly, willow and rowan. We worked in small groups and used iPads to take some pictures of the leaves on the trees. We used keys to identify each leaf.



Litter Pick in 'Moykeeran Plantin'

On October 26th, P7 completed a litter pick as part of Eco-Council project. There will be more litter picks throughout the school year. Thank you P7, Eco-Council and Mr Brunton!



DOOR OF MERCY

Each class visited the Door of Mercy before it was closed at the end of our Church Year. The children knelt and prayed for mercy to be granted onto them and others in our world.

Anti-Bullying Week

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors launched Anti-Bullying Week on 14th November with a host of new and exciting initiatives. The message of 'Together We Are Stronger' was heard and adopted by everyone in St. Mary's. Well done to everyone involved!

Digital Leaders

We are excited to have started a brand new 'Digital Leaders' council. We are looking forward to developing ICT throughout our school. There is lots of training and events planned for this year. We will be focusing on 'Film and animation' skills and e-safety. Follow our progress on our school website or on twitter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 5th January—School Reopens for Term 2
- Friday 6th January—Swimming commences for P6 pupils
- Mid-Term Break 13th-17th February
- Sunday 12th March—Confirmation
- Saturday 20th May—First Holy Communion



Preparations for Christmas

During the season of Advent: P3, P5, P6 and P7 helped us to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas by leading us in prayer at Assembly. P3 began our preparations on 24th November when the first purple candle was lit on our Advent Wreath. We lit our second purple candle on 1st December followed by the pink candle on 8th December. We concluded our preparations on 14th December when we lit the third and final purple candle. We were joined by Father Madden at our fourth and final assembly where we all received an Advent blessing from him. Each assembly was accompanied by the talented musicians and choir members in our school. Thank you to Fr. Madden and everyone involved in helping us to remember the meaning of Christmas.

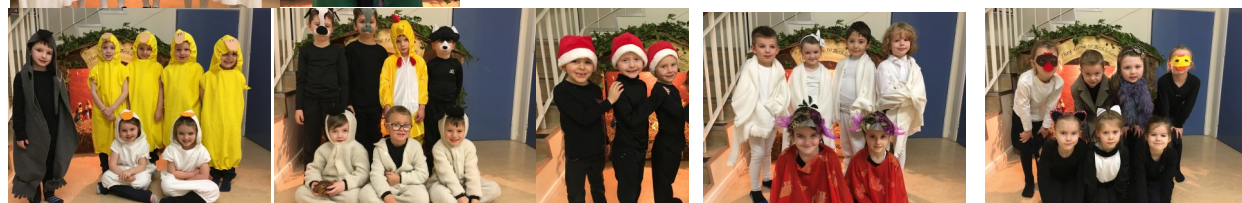


PRIMARY 1 and 2 CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Whoops A Daisy Angel
The Ugly Duckling Meets The Children of Lir



A massive thank you is extended to everyone involved in both of these productions. The acting and singing talent amongst these children is fabulous and the future is certainly bright for St. Mary's! Watch out Broadway!



Christmas Jumper Day



Friday 16th December saw the arrival of snowmen, reindeer, 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. Here is a selection of jumpers on show. Not to be outdone, the staff pulled out all the stops too!



P4 and P5 SPONSORED CHRISTMAS DANCE

Thank you to the boys and girls of P4 and P4/5 who completed their sponsored Christmas Dance in the Hall on Friday 16th December. These children have raised a huge amount of money as part of our Christmas fundraiser. A special work of thanks is extended to Mrs Conville and Mrs McCartney for providing the children with the wonderful choreography.



P6 and P7 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The final strand of our charity fundraising attempts was the annual Christmas Bazaar organised and hosted by P6 and P7. A total of **20** stalls were set up in the hall with each year group being invited to participate in games and activities in order to raise money for our worthy causes. Well done P6 and P7 for organising a super charity event! The final total of all our fundraising will be announced very soon! Thank you to everyone who baked buns and cakes and donated items for sale and raffle. It is much appreciated!

