

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

December 2018



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DATES TO REMEMBER		DECEMBER 2018	
Monday 3 December	Tickets on Sale for the Christmas Concert		
Tuesday 4 December	Advent Confessions		
Wednesday 5 December	Cross-Country Race II in Roe Valley LC, Limavady		
Thursday 6 December	Christmas Lunch		
Friday 7 December	Y7 Visit to St. Patrick's HS		
Saturday 8 December	PTA Christmas Bingo in the Parish Hall 3 – 5 p.m.		
Monday 10 December	Final Term I Swim		
	Curriculum Updates Go Live on the Website		
Wednesday 12 December	Christmas Concert Matinee @ 1p.m. in the Parish Hall		
Thursday 13 December	Christmas Concert @ 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall		
Friday 14 December	Open Morning in Cargan @ 10 a.m.		
Wednesday 19 December	Principal's Breaktime Treat		
Thursday 20 December	Pupil of the Month Assembly (Y7 Mrs McAlister)		
Friday 21 December	School Closed @ noon, Non-Uniform Day No School Bus, No Lunches		
Monday 24 December 2018 – Friday 4 January 2019	Christmas Holidays		
Wednesday 2 January 2019	On-Line Applications for Admission into P1 Opens @ 10 a.m.		
Monday 7 January 2019	School Re-opens / Primary 6 Swimming Continues		

OPEN MORNING



An opportunity to see the Primary 1 & 2 classrooms and meet the staff.



APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION to Primary 1 in September 2019 will be available on-line at the Education Authority's website www.eani.org.uk from 2 January 2019. Applications will close on Thursday 31 January 2019.

The Education Authority has changed the process for admission to primary school. This year they will make applications available on its website www.eani.org.uk from **2 January 2019**. Applications will close on **Thursday 31 January 2019**. We will explain the new system at the Open Morning and given that there will be a large number of children starting school in September 2019, we recommend that you attend the Open Morning.

CARGAN GARDEN

Thank-you to Tony Lamb, Brendan O'Boyle and Raymond Scullion for their fantastic work in Cargan school's garden and to our parents, for their continuing generosity. Check the website for photos and a special film!

CONCERTS

This year the Y1 & 2 classes will perform the Christmas play on **Wednesday 12 December @ 1 p.m.**



and **Thursday 13 December @ 7 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Tickets will go on sale on **Monday 3 December (9 a.m. M'town, 2 p.m. Cargan)**. Price £3.

We have a new programme for children's performances on stage in Mary Queen of Peace PS. Y1 & 2 will perform this year's Christmas Show; next year (Christmas 2019) it will be Y3 & 4. This will start a 2-year cycle for Christmas Shows. Key Stage 2 (Y5-7) pupils will get their opportunity to perform on the stage with a musical show in the springtime. A musical will be performed every two years.

PTA

The Family Christmas Bingo takes place on **Saturday 8 December from 3 - 5 p.m.**



in the Parish Hall. The bingo was really successful last year and very well supported. Parental support in organising the event would be very welcome (meet at 2.30 p.m. in the hall to prepare for a 3 p.m. start).

Our Hallowe'en Disco was a great success and a particular thank-you to our DJ – Ryan Wiseman.

Thanks also to Orla Wilkinson who has finished her two-year office as Chairperson of the PTA. We really appreciate your support and are very grateful to you for establishing a PTA in our new school.

Best wishes to Lisa Tonderys who is our new PTA Chairperson.

SCHOOL SPORT

The school sport season is up and running with action in Gaelic games and cross-country. The boys' indoor Gaelic football team were third in their competition and the girls are next up to play. In the cross country league the boys' and girls' teams lie third in their respective competitions. We also had a boy who finished first in the individual race – well done! Next race: **Wednesday 5 December**.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

It has been another busy term for after school clubs: Gaelic Football, ICT Coding, Needlecraft, ECO School, Cross-Country, Silver Surfers and Multi-Skills. Check the website for upcoming clubs in Term II and more photos from our After School Programme.



FUNDRAISING

For the three weeks leading up to Christmas we will have a special Christmas **Half the Pot** fundraiser. Please buy one of the children's **Half the Pot** envelopes (cost £1) and write your name & tel. no. on the front of the envelope. The seller will return the envelope to the school. Every Thursday in December we will have a draw, with one lucky winner taking half the weekly pot! Fundraising, in this very difficult time, is essential for the school. We will use this money to help the school buy a new Maths Scheme. Good luck everyone!



CURRICULUM

Mary Queen of Peace PS has a 3-year School Development Plan (SDP) to manage its curricular, pastoral care, finance and accommodation priorities.

Reading has been a significant curriculum priority:

1. *Learning how to read.* We held a Y1 Parents' Reading Workshop during November to provide guidance on how we teach reading in school and how parents can help their child learn to read. Y2 have mastered this first step and as emergent readers we have also provided a booklet to help parents support their child with their next reading step.

2. *We want the children to read more.* Already, in the first three months of term, the Key Stage 2 (Y5-7) pupils have read **8,585,789 words** and **1,362 books** in their Accelerated Reading programme (as of 27.11.18). Well done everyone.



3. *We want the children to read better.* When the children are in their guided reading groups we want them to engage with, understand and appreciate the text better.

We do this at three levels:

Word Level e.g. spellings and sounds in their reading.

Sentence Level: grammar e.g. learning about apostrophes.

Text Level where the pupils appreciate the story and its meaning. This has been a particular feature of our work.

The children could, for example, compare/contrast a character from the book they are reading now to a character in a book they read earlier in the term, research using a non-fiction book or even turn a story into a play.

Communication with Parents

We want parents to know what your child is doing in school. Through notes from school, the newsletter and the website we have been keeping you updated. This year we have a number of new initiatives to keep parents in touch with what your child is doing in school and how you can support their learning at home.



1. Starting this term, each class teacher will upload photos to the website to show what the class has been doing in their curricular work. Later in the school year we will provide another update. You will find this information by logging on to the website and clicking on the Our School tab, search for Our Classes and find your child's class. This will go live on **Monday 10 December**.

2. At the beginning of each school term, class teachers will provide parents with a Curriculum Newsletter (beginning January 2019) which will inform you about the theme the children are studying that term; information on what the pupils will be doing in Maths and English; as well as other relevant curriculum information e.g. days when the children are doing PE/swimming.

We hope that the Curriculum Newsletters will keep you informed about what your child is doing in school and how parents can support their child at home.

MENU

From the start of Term II (January 2019) the dinner menu will be published on-line, on the school's website, only.