

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2016



DATES TO REMEMBER		DECEMBER 2016	
Thursday 1 December	Girls' Indoor Gaelic Football @ Antrim Forum		
Saturday 3 December	PTA Christmas Bingo 3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall		
Monday 5 December	Celebrate MQP: Y1-7 Visit to Cinema		
Tuesday 6 December	Christmas Lunch (Christmas jumpers, hats, hairbands etc.) Christmas Concert Tickets on Sale		
Wednesday 7 December	Cross-Country Race II @ Ulster University, Coleraine Y7 Visit to St. Patrick's College, Ballymena Healthy Break Survey Returns		
Thursday 8 December	School Closed: Feast of the Immaculate Conception		
Sunday 11 December	Carol Service @ 7 p.m. in the Church		
Monday 12 December	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal (for Y4-7) Final Y5 (Mrs Sharkey) Swim		
Tuesday 13 December	Christmas Concert Matinee @ 1p.m. in the Parish Hall		
Wednesday 14 December	Christmas Concert @ 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall		
Friday 16 December	Milk Money		
Monday 19 December	Christmas Advent Service / Pupil of the Month Assembly Principal's Breaktime Treat		
Wednesday 21 December	School Closed @ noon, Non-Uniform Day No School Bus, No Lunches		
Thursday 22 December – Friday 6 January (inclusive)	Christmas Holidays 		
Monday 9 January 2017	School Re-opens / Primary 6 Swimming Begins Open Morning @ 11 a.m. in Cargan		

CELEBRATE MQP

As we approach the end of our first term at Mary Queen of Peace I would like to acknowledge and thank the work of our parents, staff, pupils and governors in creating a new school for the parish. We have achieved so much already by working together. There is still much more to do and we need to secure a new school building for Glenravel.

The children have been magnificent and have settled into their new classrooms and built strong relationships with their teachers and classmates. I am very proud of each and every one of them.

A great deal of planning and effort has gone into helping the children come together, which started last year with the activity days. We followed this up, this school year, with whole school Pupil of the Month Assemblies; activity days



with Ardclinis Outdoor Adventures; seven after school clubs; school teams; a School Council and a Morning Club.

We will finish this term by celebrating coming together as Mary Queen of Peace PS by taking the whole school to Ballymena's cinema on **Monday 5 December** to see Disney's new release **Moana**. The children will also receive a snack box (drink, popcorn and a mix-up). Please inform the class teacher if your child has any dietary requirements. The trip is being financed by the Celebrate MQP programme in conjunction with the National Lottery.

Malachy Conlon
Principal

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Our first Christmas show at Mary Queen of Peace will be a Y1/2 Nativity play, followed by a Y3/4 Christmas play.

The children will perform their plays on:

Tuesday 13 December @ 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Wednesday 14 December @ 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Tickets will go on sale **Tuesday 6 December**. Price £3.



PTA

Thank-you for the fantastic response to the Mary Queen of Peace PTA Christmas Card fundraiser. We received a total of 150 requests for cards.

We will also have our first family event - the Christmas Bingo on

Saturday 3 December @ 3.30 p.m.

in the Parish Hall. Everyone loves bingo and we know the children really do!

Parental support in organising the event would be very welcome and we will meet at 2.45 p.m. in the Parish Centre in order to prepare for a 3.30 p.m. start. This is a chance to show your support for the school, in a very practical way, and we would welcome your involvement. If you can help out please let Mrs McConway know. Details of all PTA events and meetings can be found on the dedicated section on the school's website.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas lunch will be on **Tuesday 6 December**. Y1/2 will have their lunch in Cargan, while Y3-7 will have lunch in the Parish Centre. Games and activities have been organised for after lunch and the School Council suggested Christmas jumpers/hats/headbands and we think that's a great idea! Please inform the school if there are any dietary needs. School will finish at its usual times on this day.

ADVENT PREPARATIONS

Our preparations for Advent will include the parish Carol Service, Advent Confessions and a School Advent Service at the final Pupil of the Month Assembly.

We are looking forward to our School Choir making its first public performance at the Parish Carol

Service on: **Sunday 11 December @ 7 p.m.**



ROAD of HOPE

Thank-you very much for the generous donation of 123 shoe boxes to our Christmas charity – Road of Hope.



BOOKS to CELEBRATE OUR NEW SCHOOL

Every child in the school will receive a beautiful hardback copy of the book Land of Saints and Scholars this month, to mark the opening of Mary Queen of Peace PS.

Thank-you very much to the parish for this gift.

DESIGN the SCHOOL TEAM KIT COMPETITION

Congratulations on our Design a School Kit Competition winners: Conn Fyfe (Y7) & Joseph McKay (Y6). We will have two school kits because we will need them both for all of our school teams.

The School Council choose the winning design from the 164 entries. Congratulations!



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This year's theme for Anti-Bullying Week was Together We are Stronger.

The children focused on different aspects of the Anti-Bullying theme during the week:

Foundation Stage: good and bad behaviours in friendships;

Y3: diversity in the classroom and working with partners;

Y4: Sammy's Shoes, bullying as a result of special needs;

Y5: the qualities of a good friend;

Y6: hurtful behaviour and the impact on people's emotions;

Y7: saying positive things to each other.

Y7 also performed a whole school assembly on the anti-bullying theme which has been uploaded to the website.



P1 ADMISSIONS 2017-18 & OPEN MORNING

Application forms for admission to Primary 1 in September 2017 are available from the school secretary. Forms, with an accompanying birth certificate, should be returned to the secretary by **Wednesday 11 January 2017**.

An Open Morning for parents will be held in Cargan school on **Monday 9 January @ 11 a.m.** This is a great chance to see the Primary 1 & 2 classrooms, meet the staff and see all the great work that is going on in our Foundation Stage.

HEALTHY EATING SURVEY

Please complete the Health Eating Survey and return to your child's teacher by **Wednesday 7 December**.

GAA PRESIDENT

Aogán Ó Fearghail visited Mary Queen of Peace PS as part of Con Magee's Centenary Celebrations.

We were very proud of the children and this community for the way in which we welcomed our distinguished visitor.

Our school website has photos of the visit.

