

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017



www.mqpglenravel.com

DATES TO REMEMBER		DECEMBER 2017
Thursday 30 November	Pupil of the Month Assembly Girls' Indoor Gaelic Football Tournament	
Sunday 3 December	PTA Christmas Bingo 1 – 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall	
Monday 4 December	Christmas Concert Tickets on Sale, from 10 a.m.	
Tuesday 5 December	Parent Survey Return Date	
Wednesday 6 December	Cross-Country Race II @ Ulster University, Coleraine Christmas Lunch	
Friday 8 December	School Closed: Feast of the Immaculate Conception	
Sunday 10 December	Carol Service @ 7 p.m. in the Church	
Tuesday 12 December	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal	
Wednesday 13 December	Christmas Concert Matinee @ 1p.m. in the Parish Hall	
Thursday 14 December	Christmas Concert @ 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall	
Tuesday 19 December	Open Morning @ 11 a.m. in Cargan	
Wednesday 20 December	Christmas Advent Service / Pupil of the Month Assembly	
Thursday 21 December	Pantomime (Rapunzel) at The Braid Pupils Finish @ 12.15 p.m. No School Bus, No Lunches	
Friday 22 December	School Closed @ noon, Non-Uniform Day No School Bus, No Lunches	
Monday 25 December – Friday 5 January (inclusive)	Christmas Holidays	
Monday 8 January 2018	School Re-opens / Primary 6 Mr McKenna Swimming Continues	
Tuesday 9 January 2018	Cross-Community Twinning programme (Y6)	

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Our Christmas shows this year will be on:

Wednesday 13 December @ 1 p.m.

Thursday 14 December @ 7 p.m.

Both shows will be in the Parish Hall.

Tickets will go on sale **Monday 4 December**. Price £3.

Two tickets will be allocated for each child for the evening show.

Any additional requests will be placed on a waiting list.

Last year many of the grandparents enjoyed the matinee show and benefited from it just not being as busy as the very popular evening performance. All of the pupils will get to see their younger brothers and sisters perform at the dress rehearsal.

If you require assistance with wheelchair access for each performance, please contact the school.



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 singing at the Parish Carol Service on:

Sunday 10 December @ 7 p.m.



PTA

It's back! The Family Christmas Bingo takes place on **Sunday 3 December from 1 – 3 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. The bingo was really successful last year and everyone enjoyed it (there were fantastic numbers!).



Parental support in organising the event would be very welcome. We will meet at 12.45 p.m. in the Parish Centre in order to prepare for a 1 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 can be found on the website.

Last month the PTA organised Women's Health meetings and we would like to thank the committee for their important contribution to the Glenravel community.

ROAD of HOPE

Thank-you very much for the generous donation of **117** shoe boxes to our Christmas charity – Road of Hope.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas lunch will be on **Wednesday 6 December**. Y1/2 in Cargan, Y3-7 in the Parish Centre. Games and activities have been organised for after lunch and the Christmas jumpers/hats/headbands can get their annual outing. Please inform the school if there are any dietary needs. School will finish at the usual times on this day.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP)

The school has a plan to manage all of its curriculum, pastoral care, finance, accommodation, staffing and community plans. This is called a School Development Plan. Pastoral Care is a very important part of our work. In the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) area of the curriculum the children focused on Road Safety and Anti-Bullying during November. This work continues throughout the year but we raised the profile of it during November.

ROAD SAFETY The children focused on road safety in early November, given the change in daylight at this time of year. The school held a Hi Viz Day to promote the importance of being seen. In conjunction with Glenravel and District Community & Residents' Association we also held a competition to create a slogan for a Hi-Viz vest, which will be provided for every child in the school. The winning slogan was Be Bright Be Seen (more details to follow).

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK This year's theme for Anti-Bullying Week was:

All Equal, All Different, All Together.

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

Foundation Stage (Y1-2): It is good to share. Sharing makes you happy. The children were read the story *The Rainbow Fish* which had an important anti-bullying message, this was followed by wonderful, colourful paintings of rainbow fish.

Y3 used hand templates to record how they were both similar and different. Their display of hands together is very powerful; Y4 pupils through art and *buddy chats* learnt that although we share things in common, it is our differences which make us special and unique;

Y5 read Michael Morpurgo's *Who's is a Big Bully Then?* which highlighted the correct way to deal with a bullying scenario – "Don't try to sort things yourself, TELL AN ADULT!" Y5 are also looking forward to promoting this message at this month's Pupil of the Month Assembly.

Y6 created a Friendship Tree and worked together on agreeing what bullying looks like;

Y7 used the slogan *'treat others how you would like them to treat you'* to identify bullying behaviours through drama.

Please check the website for more information on the children's work during Anti-Bullying Week:

www.mqpglenravel.com



P1 ADMISSIONS 2018-19 & OPEN MORNING

The Education Authority will publish information about applying for a place in Primary 1 on 29 November. Application forms for admission to Primary 1 in September 2018 will then be available in the school. Forms, with an accompanying birth certificate, should be returned to the secretary by:

noon on Wednesday 10 January 2018.

An Open Morning for parents will be held in Cargan school on **Tuesday 19 December @ 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.



SURVEY

This month we will be surveying our pupils, staff and parents to help us find out about your child's experience of school, behaviour and anti-bullying. It is very important that we listen to our school community, in order to help us create a positive ethos and future for Mary Queen of Peace PS. We surveyed parent and pupil opinion during the last school year when we were deciding on the new uniform, Healthy Eating Policy and establishing a Morning Club. We will (as we did last year) report the findings to you and keep you well informed about school policy.

A Parent Survey has been included with this month's newsletter and an envelope provided so that you can make an anonymous return to the school. The closing date for the return of the survey is: **Tuesday 5 December 2017.**

The children will also be surveyed at the same time.

Our School Council were involved in designing the Pupil Survey.

PANTOMIME

This Christmas we will, as a whole school, attend the pantomime -

Rapunzel: A Tangled Tail on:

Thursday 21 December 2017 @ 10 a.m. in The Braid .

Glenravel and District Community & Residents' Association have kindly paid for a ticket for every child in the school and the Principal will provide a treat bag for every child.

Transport to the show will be £4 per pupil.

The children will finish school **@ 12.15 p.m.**

Y3-7 Cargan pupils should go directly to Cargan school in the morning and be collected from Cargan after the show.



SCHOOL SPORT

The school cross-country team started the sporting year with the girls winning the Causeway & District Team Race (Round I), while the boys' team finished in a very strong fifth place. There were many more schools who joined the competition this year, so the competition is getting harder. Next up Round II in Coleraine. In GAA, the boys had two teams in Cumann na mBunscol's SW Antrim Indoor Football Competition at the Antrim Forum. Our teams did really well.

Next up the girls, who will be defending their title!

