

St. Peter's Newsletter



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Christmas at St. Peter's



December 2019

A note from the Principal...

As the first term draws to a close, I want to thank all the staff, pupils, parents and community members for making this huge transition of leadership and management as seamless as possible. To detail all we have achieved over the past term would be fruitless as I hope you've seen all the hard work going on clearly over the past few weeks and months.

I want to remind all parents who wish to enrol their child for 2020 to do so immediately as we will have our open day on Thursday, 6th February, 2020.

Any parents who wish to view a copy of the Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment can do so on request by coming into the office.

On behalf of the school community, I want to wish you all a Happy and a Peaceful Christmas and good health and happiness in 2020.

R. Ryan



Senior Infants' News.

December has been an exciting month in Senior Infants. We've been learning all about how the Post Office works, so if you get the chance, perhaps you could pop in for a visit! We've loved rehearsing for our carol service together and learning festive songs and poems. We've also been busy creating beautiful Christmas artwork, including decorations for our Christmas trees! We've been chatting about different Christmas traditions, and how Christmas is celebrated around the world. This month, we've also had the opportunity to perform our violin skills for our families. We've been lucky enough to have some special visitors to our classrooms- our elves Jingle, Coco, and Eddie!! We're sure they will report back to Santa how good we've all been! We've finished up our term with football coach, Mark, but will continue with sport on Tuesdays and Thursdays as normal. We would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year for Term 2!

Junior Infants' News:

Keeping up to speed with our phonics this Christmas, we have been learning the song 'Christmas Alphabet', which helps us connect sounds (CHRISTMAS) to words.

Well done to all our little stars this week during our Nativity Play called "Angel Express". They should be really proud of themselves. Hollywood - WATCH OUT!!

Finally, we would like to wish all our Junior Infants' parents and families and very Happy Christmas.

Christmas Alphabet

C is for the **candy** trimmed around the Christmas tree,
H is for the **happiness** with all the family,
R is for the **reindeer** prancing by the window pane,
I is for the **icing** on the cake as sweet as sugar cane,
S is for the **stocking** hanging on the chimney wall,
T is for the **toys** beneath the tree so tall,
M is for the **mistletoe** where everyone is kissed,
A is for the **angels** who make up the Christmas list,
S is for the **Santa** who makes every kid his pet,
Be good and he'll bring you everything in your
Christmas Alphabet!



First Class News:

Ms. Beirne

This month first class have been doing lots of fun activities in the lead up to Christmas. We have been making and decorating our own Christmas trees in class. We have made some beautiful penguins and learned all about their lives in the Antarctic. We have also made different kinds of Christmas decorations. We have been working with money in maths and we have been using different coins to make up various prices. In English we have been learning our new reader words and continuing with our stories. We have been reading lots of Christmas stories and we have been very busy doing activities in our Christmas annuals. We had a great day at the Cake Sale where we got to sample lots of tasty treats that the boys and girls brought into school as well as raising money for two very worthy causes.

Ms. Mullane

December has been a very busy and fun month in Miss Mullane's First Class! Our elf Buddy has visited us all the way from the North Pole and he has been up to a lot of mischief. This month, in Maths, we started learning all about Place Value and Money. The children practised buying toys from the toy shop and the shopkeepers were very generous preparing change! We have really enjoyed exploring the topic of 'Winter' this month. We loved learning about Arctic animals and how animals and people have to adapt to survive during the Winter. In Gaelige, we have been busy learning all about 'Caitheamh Aim-sire'. One of our favourite things we did this month was have a popcorn party to celebrate earning our ten yellow cards! We also really enjoyed dressing up in our Christmas jumpers and trying tasty treats from the Bake Sale. Thank you to all the parents who contributed in making it such a successful day. Miss Mullane has read us lots of Christmas stories like 'The Grinch' and 'A Christmas Carol' J For Art, we made colourful winter snowmen, Arctic penguins and fluffy Eskimos which decorate our hall. We have loved learning our festive songs and really enjoy performing them, especially, the 12 Days of Christmas!

H.S.C.L. News

A note from H.S.C.L Coordinator Marie Claire Vaughan- 089-4259216

I would like to say a huge thank you and congratulations to all our amazing parents and pupils who made our recent bake sale a massive success. A whopping €1887 was made on the day which will be divided between our two charities, Trocaire and Cystic Fibrosis Ireland. I also want to thank all parents who took part in classes and different events in term 1. I look forward to working with you and seeing more of you in the new year. Wishing all our parents and children a very happy and peaceful Christmas, Marie Claire.

Second Class News:

Ms. Oliver

This has been a very fun month in 2nd class. Our elf arrived in our class and has been getting up to lots of mischief! We have been writing Christmas acrostic poems. We have also created some lovely stories about polar bears, snowmen and elves. In Gaelige, we have been learning about An Geimhreadh (winter) and An Nollag (Christmas). We learned some lovely poems called "Fear Sneachta" and "Daidí na Nollag" In maths we have been learning all about fractions and time (o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to.) We have been getting so good at it, we even know the digital times! Some songs we have been singing are "12 Days of Christmas" and "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas." In History we played with toys from the past (marbles, jacks, cards, ball and cup, sticks, spinners etc) and even got to interview our parents/grandparents about games/toys they played with in the past. We have also been learning all about the Arctic (weather, animals, Inuits and igloos.) We also had our Violin recital which was a fantastic opportunity to show off just how great we have become. The bake sale was a great success last Friday and I'd like to say thank you to all the families who baked and bought cakes on the day. Hope you all have a merry and restful Christmas and a brilliant New Year!

Ms. Gilmartin

We were very busy this month in second class We have been learning all about time this month. We are having great fun telling the time on an analog clock and telling the time on a digital clock also. We have also been very busy preparing for Christmas in second class. We had a fantastic time making our very own 3D Christmas trees and Christmas bells. We are also really enjoying learning about how Christmas is celebrated in other cultures and in countries all over the world. We have learned lots of new Christmas dances and songs in music. We also worked very hard all term in violin class and proudly demonstrated our violin skills in our Christmas Violin concert. All the boys and girls have worked really hard this term and are looking forward to a well-deserved break.

Third Class News:

Mr. McConigley

This month we have been looking at fractions and decimals in Maths and finding ways to explore their importance in everyday use e.g. eating a pizza, telling the time/speed limit, using money or baking a cake etc. In Gaeilge, we explored the topics of Éadaí (Clothes) and An Nollaig (Christmas). We gained lots of new vocabulary, which we used in our lessons throughout.

Christmas played a topical theme this month. Our class talked about 'The Story of Christmas' and illustrated some lovely Nativity scenes, which are displayed in the foyer this week. We also wrote our own booklets summarising the story in our own words.

We read and discussed 'The History of Christmas Traditions' and explore the similarities and differences of how 'Christmas is celebrated around the World' in SESE. Christmas narratives and acrostic poetry were also drafted and written.

We painted beautiful winter scenes in Art. We designed winter hat decorations using wool (fabric and fibre). In addition, we moulded some clay to create snowmen Christmas tree decorations.

Our *Bake Sale* and *Jumper Day* in aid of Trócaire & Cystic Fibrosis Ireland was a great success. I would like to thank everyone who baked/helped out in making the day memorable for all. Finally, I would like to wish everyone a *lovely Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Ms. Kelly

Our class have been busy during the month of December. Our theme for this month has been 'Feasts and Festivals'- which we have explored during English, Gaeilge, SESE SPHE class and Art class. During Gaeilge we have explored the theme of Eadaí- designing our own funky outfits. We have also focused on the theme of Nollaig and are learning 'An Dru-madóir'.

In the lead up to Christmas we have learned about Advent. As a class we designed our own Advent tree. Each bauble on the tree has a different message of kindness to be completed by the boys and girls in 3rd class. We love finding out what our task of kindness is each day! Christmas art has been in full swing and we have been busy creating snow globe mosaics, Christmas tree decorations, and our own personalised elves.

We had our violin performance on Monday the 16th. It went so well and we want to say a HUGE thank you to Ciara for all her hard work. The bake sale and non-uniform day was a huge success in our class- thank you for all the lovely baked goods brought in.

Fourth Class News:

Ms. Hand

Things are becoming very festive here in fourth class. We have been learning lots about Christmas traditions around the world. Many of us have been sharing our experiences on how we celebrate Christmas in our home countries. We have also been singing festive songs, our favourite one being 'Feliz Navidad'.

The past few weeks have also been spent discussing Advent and preparing for Jesus' birthday. We have our own Advent calendar in the class, which we look forward to opening each morning.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Ms. H. Horan

December has been an action-packed month for our class! We spent a very enjoyable morning in an art workshop with Magda (Elena's mom). The morning flew by as we experimented with a variety of materials and colours. We also paid a visit to the library where we played some Harry Potter related games and chose books from the enormous selection available. We've had fun with Christmas crafts, stories and carols too along with our end of term tests!



Ms. Holohan

Fifth Class News:

This month we were very busy preparing for our school bake sale and craft fair in aid of Trócaire and Cystic Fibrosis Ireland. The bake sale and craft fair enabled us to put all the that we had been learning about kindness into practice. All the children were very excited about playing their role and doing their part to help those in need. Through the level of eagerness around the room, to create a variety of objects to sell, it was evident that the children were so happy to be helping those less fortunate at Christmas time and all year through. After “the long wait”, on the morning of the fair all the children confidently sold cakes and crafts allowing them to practise their selling and money skills while calculating change. Our media studies on the John Lewis ads proved to be very inspiring in the lead up to the cake sale. Each child picked their favourite John Lewis ad and gave reasons for it being their favourite and stated why they liked the message that the ad sent out.

Ms. Hughes – written by by Holly Dillon

We are really looking forward to our Christmas break. We have been working very hard this month and are looking to putting our feet up and spending some time with family. We have finished our IT with Eoin. Using the theme of Animal Classifications which we explored in Science we made fantastic Ebooks. We created some Christmas art. In Maths we have been learning all about decimal fractions and lines and angles. Last but not least we have been singing some Christmas Carols and having so much fun.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Sixth Class News:

Ms. A. Horan

December has been a busy month in 6th class. We worked in groups of five and made beautiful winter, snow villages. Everybody worked really cooperatively and we recycled lots of old cardboard boxes. The villages looked really pretty when they were finally completed and we were really proud of our work. We studied really hard for our Christmas tests and did lots of revising. We really hope we did well. We were sad to finish the GAA training with Mark this term but we have learned lots of new skills in Gaelic football. We have also completed 6 weeks of IT training with Eoin and we are all experts in using ‘Book Creator’. We hope to use these skills in the new year creating lots of cool projects. The Bake sale in aid of cystic fibrosis and trócaire was a great success and all the pupils got involved in baking and donating to charity. We wish everybody a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas!

Ms. Carroll

In December, we have been revising and studying hard for our Christmas exams. We had exams in English, Irish, Maths and S.E.S.E. Most of us were very pleased with our results. In art, we did some festive activities; we decorated a photo frame for a class photograph taken on the 'Christmas Jumper' day and we decorated some Christmas tree ornaments. In music, we have been using the Dabbledoo Music Programme and exploring the clock using the school's new musical instruments. We particularly like the boom whackers! We also put together our own versions of some well-known Christmas songs; we worked in groups singing and using the instruments and there was also a bit of audience participation! In history, we have been studying Native Americans and we used Book Creator to put together some extremely informative books based on the Native Americans. We also completed our first STEAM project (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths); we made models of totem poles and Ms. Carroll was extremely impressed with this work and the way in which the students worked together.



Quote of the Month

**“It’s not what’s under the Christmas Tree,
It’s who’s around it”.**

Dates to Remember:

20th December 2019	-	School Closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays.
6th January 2020	-	School will re-open at 8.50a.m. SHARP
30 th January 2020	-	Ceremony of Light in St. Peter’s Church at 7p.m.
7 th February 2020	-	Confirmation Ceremony in St. Peter’s Church at 11.00a.m.
13 th February 2020	-	Confession Ceremony in St. Peter’s Church at 7.00p.m.
17th—21st Feb, 2020	-	Spring Mid-Term Break
24th Feb. 2020	-	School re-opens @ 8.50a.m. SHARP