



## **St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School**

### **December 2021 Newsletter**

**Holidays** - School will close at 11am on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December for the Christmas holidays. There will be no buses home or dinners that day. School re-opens on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Staff** - Thank you and best wishes to Mrs Fitzpatrick who taught P7 since the beginning of term. We welcome Mrs Johnston who will be taking the class until the Christmas holidays.

We also welcome Nadine Herbert who is working as a Classroom Assistant for a few hours each morning.

**Christmas Dinner** - will be served on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Price is £2.60. Children may wear Christmas jumpers on this day or alternatively green and red colours.

**Net Ministries Ireland** - will hold their next Confirmation session with P7s on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Craft Fair** - will be held in the school assembly hall on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 11am - 3pm. This Fair has been organised by local businesses. Reminder to sanitise hands and wear masks while in the building.

**Paired Reading** - We have had a great response to the Paired Reading Programme so far with P4 - P7. The success of it comes from children and the support of parents / carers at home. We ask for a big push for this month with the end date of 17<sup>th</sup> December. Keep reading!

**Absence** - We appreciate that the first term has been disruptive with Covid illness and periods of isolation. The onset of flu season has added to this also. We continue to communicate the message that if children are displaying Covid symptoms, they should stay at home until a PCR test result is received. In all other cases we impress the need for children to attend school as normal so that learning can continue and for the wellbeing of all.

Thank you to parents for being alert to Covid and flu symptoms and making decisions so as to protect others in the school. It has been a difficult time for many families.

**A reminder that school begins at 9:10am. Children must be in school by this time.**

**Carol Service** - The parish has asked that we participate in their Carol Service this year. The event will be recorded and posted online on the Aghalurcher website during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> December. Children are learning the carols very well and we thank Karen McElroy for working with us. Once we get a date for recording we will let you know. Children must be present in full school uniform for the recording.

**Food Appeal** - As part of our outreach into the community we are asking for donations of food. Each child will bring in one item of food. All food items will be collected together and we hope to provide twelve food hampers from the primary school and one from the Nursery to present to St. Vincent de Paul. Your generosity will be very much appreciated at this time. A list of food items can be found on the school website.

**Greetings** - Some of the classes will be making cards and letters for residents in Gortacharn Nursing Home and Drumahaw Fold. These will be passed on in the coming weeks.

**Swimming** - P7 will start swimming lessons in the Lakeland Forum on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Cost is £3 per week.

**Daily Mile Santa Run** - Children will take part in this special 'Daily Mile' on 8<sup>th</sup> December. They will be in Christmas jumpers or red/green clothing for the event.

**Sustrans 'Journey to Santa'** - We continue with our Sustrans 'Active Travel' journey in the school. From 6<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> December, children are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school. For all journeys taken, children will receive a tick or stamp in their booklet from their class teacher. Each journey will give a child a ticket so that they can be entered into a prize draw. There will be prizes for each Key Stage. All of the Active School projects help the school in working towards the Sustrans Gold Award which we hope to achieve this year.

**Admissions 2022** - Admissions to Nursery and P1 for September 2022 open on **Monday 10th January 2022 at noon**. The process will close at noon on Friday 28th January. Applications after that will be considered as late applications. The process will take place online on the Education Authority website portal ([www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)). To facilitate parents in making an application, the school can offer assistance in this process. Please call the school Office to make an appointment. Details of our admissions criteria for Nursery and P1 will be available on the EA website from 17<sup>th</sup> December [www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions)  
We are unable to have an Open Morning currently for any prospective parents who would like to look around the school. However, the principal will be available to take calls from

parents who want to discuss their child starting school next September and about any aspect of school life. Details and images of life at St. Ronan's can be seen on the school website [www.stronansps.com](http://www.stronansps.com)

**Survey** - A short survey on the potential of setting up 'Wraparound' Child care in the school building is available on the homepage of the school website. Thank you to those who have completed it to date. We would appreciate if you could take the time to make a response.

**Anti-bullying policy** - A draft policy is available at <https://www.stronansps.com/our-school/policies/>

Thank you to parents who replied to our consultation on this important policy. The link to submit responses will be open again from 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Usual Weekly Activities during December**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Hip-hop Dance (3 - 4pm, P5)
8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup>	Parkour (3 - 4pm, P6)
8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic coaching KS2
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup>	Shine Play Therapy
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup>	Clarinet tuition (P5)
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup>	Speech and Language Therapy
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>	PE (P1 - P4) Four Corner Coaching
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming P7PF

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**On behalf of the Staff and Board of Governors we wish all children, parents and carers a very happy Christmas and Best Wishes in 2022.**