

by buying the cakes or raffle tickets. It's on Friday week in the hall from 10am. Classes come in usually one at a time and it's lovely to come in to see them. Santa will also be with us and your child will get a chance to visit him in his 'special Grotto'. Classes will be allocated specific times but it may run a little behind. Call in and see your child on the day – it really is a lovely experience!

Administration of Medicine

Please be aware that we have updated our Administration of Medicines Policy. It is felt that children who are not well enough to play with their peers should not be in school. School staff should never be asked to administer 'un-prescribed medicines' and may agree to administer prescribed medicines AFTER the Board of Management has sanctioned approval of same. You must write to BOM requesting administration of prescribed medicines otherwise you must administer it yourself or teach your son to self-medicate. For more details please see the 'Administration of Medicine Policy' in the School Office.

Collecting Infants at home time, 1.30pm

ALL Infants are to be collected ONLY from the Infant Playground (where they line up each morning) with immediate effect. We had an incident whereby a Junior Infant left the school grounds to make his own way home yesterday. Luckily, he was found perfectly unharmed. He was not particularly alarmed but his teacher, all of the staff and his parents were! Please collect only from their playground unless it is a very wet day, when they may be collected from their classroom.

Holidays

Dec 14: Parents Council Cake Sale

Dec 18th: Carol Service in the church at 12 o'clock

Dec 21st: School closes at 12 o'clock for 2 weeks and re-opens on Mon, 7th Jan

Success for all, a happy school
Learning and growing together

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St. Joseph's Newsletter



December 2012

CAROL SERVICE: TUESDAY, 18th Dec @ 12 O'CLOCK.

(please note change of date)

WSE update

Our recent Whole School Evaluation was a 'very positive report' for our school as one of the Inspectors said to us. The Inspectors were particularly impressed with our wonderful boys, the calibre of our teachers and our excellent Board of Management. Our Parents Council is not affiliated to the National Parents' Council so they did not meet them formally but if they had they would be similarly impressed. We were all exhausted afterwards but left with a very positive feeling and very affirmed in our work.

The parents' questionnaires, (50% of our parents randomly sampled) were very positive overall and we almost blushed! One little area that arose was that parents would like more information in relation to RSE (Relationship and Sexuality Education). We will be embarking on this programme, as we do each year, immediately after Christmas. You will get more information prior to commencing the programme.

FAMILY MASS THIS SATURDAY AT 6pm: Theme of Advent

Library Books

Have you any of the following books not being used as our boys are dying to get their hands on them as follows: **Beast Quest**, **Horrid Henry**, **Michael Morpurgo**, **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**, **Anthony Horowitz**, **History**, **Geography**, **Sports** or **nature books**, **Previous (or current) editions of Guinness Book Of Records**. Our boys love their Library books and are 'hungry' for more – please support us and donate books.

Congratulations to Mr. Coulston and our boys in winning the Hurling Final.

Fourth & Fifth Class celebrating Christmas in the Square on Saturday

Our boys for Fourth & Fifth classes entertained a crowded square last Saturday afternoon when they sang their hearts out! They were absolutely brilliant and made us all very proud, especially me! Special thanks to Ms. Shiel Nolan and Mrs. Divilly who organised the boys. The local businesses, equally impressed, took the time to write to congratulate us as follows:



Child Protection and cyber bullying

We are conscious of trying to protect all our children. We do our very best to protect your son's access in relation to the internet. Sadly, cyber bullying is now a fact of life and we urge you not to allow your child unsupervised access to the internet. Be aware that **children under 13 should NOT have a 'facebook' account.** If your child has a social media account like 'facebook', 'Youtube', 'Twitter' etc, ask him for his password and user name. If he does not give it to you then you know something untoward may be going on. 'Why won't he give it to you?' is a question you may need to ask yourself?

School Extension 2014/2015

Our BOM signed off on the tenders for the Design Team for our new school extension on Wednesday, 23 October in Tullamore. This means the Design Team has been appointed and an initial meeting is scheduled to take place prior to Christmas. This is very exciting news for our school as we are due to get an 8 classroom extension, which will be a similar building to the Girls School.

MOBILE PHONES – Please send in all 'old' phones to help us collect for an iPad for our boys. We have 71 and we need 220. **PLEASE SUPPORT** this appeal.

Attendance and punctuality

The Inspectors were concerned that our Attendance was 'dis-improving' and that we need to look at it as a whole school. They maintain that if a child is **absent more than 2 days per month**, on average, that this **is too much**. We acknowledge that children can get sick and therefore may be unavoidable. However, we would really appreciate a note to explain the absence as we have to record the reason given for the Department. Children with Journals have special slips that should be completed at the back.

The Department particularly want us to monitor the '**Monday and/or Friday**' **absences**. We will personally be in touch with you early in the New Year if this pattern is emerging. Children frequently absent will be reported to the National Education Welfare Officer.

While we are always delighted to see your son at any time of the day, we would like him to be as punctual as possible. We are urged to monitor pupils who attend school **LATE on a REGULAR basis**. It is a very poor life skill and we wish to encourage good practises for life. Please encourage your son to **attend daily and on time at 8.50**, the latest. We acknowledge that sometimes children can be late but this should not be a usual occurrence.

Parents' Council CAKE SALE

This is one of the highlights of the Parents Council each year and the boys absolutely love it! Please support it generously by providing cakes, your time or financial support