



# Christmas Newsletter



We have come to the end of the first term. The children have been working very hard and at the moment we are all preparing for Christmas. We have our advent wreath on display in the corridor which tells us how many Sundays there are until Christmas and we are continuing to put symbols on our Jesse Tree every few days. If you are in the school, look at our lovely crib which tells the story of Christmas. We hope to see you on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December for our Open Day or on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December for our Carol Service.

*As well as all the hard work that has been going on in every classroom, here is a flavour of some extra activities that have been going on since Halloween.....*

- All the children have been busy practising for our Carol Service which takes place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December at 10.15am in the school hall.
- Junior infants have been learning about magnets. They have also been very busy making Christmas stockings and Christmas candle holders.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup> November Junior and Senior infants had a visit from Rua, the Squirrel from Leixlip Library.
- The children in Rooms 3 and 4 have really enjoyed swimming every Tuesday.
- The children in Room 4 enjoyed a trip to the cinema for Christmas to see 'Good Dinosaur'.
- In Room 3, we say goodbye to Joana who is moving to a new school after Christmas. We also enjoyed visiting the National Gallery and the Concert Hall recently.
- Most children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class attended mass on December 8<sup>th</sup> in Leixlip Church to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
- 1<sup>st</sup> class have enjoyed having the volunteers coming in for paired reading every week. They really enjoyed the visit by the storyteller from Leixlip Library on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> class had their Enrolment Mass for their Communion in the church on November 7<sup>th</sup>. They also began the 'Do This in Memory Programme'. They too have enjoyed having the HP volunteers helping with paired reading every Wednesday.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> class have been reading the class novel "Rover Saves Christmas".
- The running club organised the first ever Christmas Running Competition on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December which was a great success.
- 4<sup>th</sup> class have been learning about Italy in Geography and the Romans in History. Both classes organised an Italian day where all children did projects on Italy; some made Roman shields; others made the Leaning Tower of Pisa and a mini class pizzeria was set up!

- 5<sup>th</sup> class took part in the Intel Mini Scientist Competition. Lots of hard work was put into each experiment and the judges from Intel were very impressed with the standard of the projects and the children's presentations. A winning group was chosen to go to the Regional Final in Intel.
- A new Green Schools Committee has been formed to begin work on the new theme 'Global Citizenship; Litter and Waste'. This consists of 2 children from every class.
- 6<sup>th</sup> class had their Commitment Mass for their Confirmation on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.
- All teachers held parent teacher meetings in the month of November.

#### PTA News

Thank you for supporting The Book Fair on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of November.  
The PTA Christmas Fair which was held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of November was a huge success.  
The PTA held a coffee morning on 11<sup>th</sup> December which was enjoyed by all.  
Many thanks to anyone who helped at one of these events. We appreciate any help we receive.



#### The Parent Plus Programme

TUSLA, the Child and Family Agency, will be running **The Parents Plus Programme** which is a practical and positive course for parents of children aged 6 - 11 years who want to help their children learn and reach their full potential, develop a close and warm relationship with their children, set rules and establish positive routines in the home, manage difficult behaviour and discipline problems and solve childhood problems in a positive way that helps the child to learn. The course will commence on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2016 10.30am to 12.30pm and will consist of six weeks of parent group meetings which will be run in Leixlip Library. Booking forms are available from the school office.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped the school in so many different ways in the first term – to the volunteers who work in the classrooms for Stations, Maths and Paired Reading and to the members of the PTA, who work tirelessly for the good of the school. Míle Buíochas agus Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.



**The new Board of Management was recently elected. The members are:**  
**David Gantly (Chairperson), John McCormack, Nora Mescal, Yvonne O Mara,**  
**Claire Donnellan, Ronan Murnaghan, Paul Carey and Aoife O' Toole.**

Scoil Mhuire will close on Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12.30pm for the Christmas holidays. School will re-open on Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2016. (Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will be going to the Church on that day to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany).

*Beannachtaí na Nollag agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir. We wish each family a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas from Mrs. Mescal, the staff and pupils of Scoil Mhuire.*

