

**Diary Dates**

Tuesday 11th December – Christmas Shows @ 10am & 7pm

Thursday 13th December – Christmas Dinner in school (see note below)

Thursday 13th December – Last day of 2.15-3.15 After Schools

Friday 14th December – Mass for staff & pupils with Fr Canning in the school hall

Wednesday 19th December – Whole School Trip to the ‘Peter Pan’ in Derry

Friday 21st December – Christmas Holidays – School closes at 1pm

Monday 7th January 2019 – School reopens for Term 2

**Christmas Shows**

Our pupils are all busily preparing to perform two shows on Tuesday 11th December…one at 10am and a 2nd show at 7pm that same evening.

P1-3 pupils will perform our Nativity, **‘Born in a Barn’** with the help of Miss Gormley and the Foundation Stage Staff. P4-7 pupils will perform **‘Aladdin Trouble’**. As ever, these shows promise to be great entertainment for parents and also an exciting time for all pupils involved. We look forward to welcoming parents, grandparents and friends of St Eugene’s to either (or both!) of the shows. **(TICKETS ON SALE FROM THE OFFICE)**

Pupils will be required to return to school on Tuesday evening, no later than 6.15pm. **In advance of that, all pupils should be collected from school by 1.00pm on Tuesday afternoon.** Any parent attending the morning show may (if they wish) take their child/children home once the show is over (approx. 12.30). Meals will be served as usual on Tuesday.

**Peter Pan**

Of course, this is Pantomime season and everyone in St Eugene’s will be getting in on the act on Wednesday 19th December when the pupils and staff travel to Derry to see ‘Peter Pan’ at the Millennium Forum.

The show will commence at 10.00am and in order to allow enough time for travel, parking and for pupils to be seated, our bus will leave the school at 9.00am.

Please ensure that your child/children is/are in school in good time on this morning.

**Success for St Eugene’s!!!!!**

****We would like to express our deep gratitude to all of our school community following our recent success at the Families First Winter 2018 Awards where we collected Best Rural School, Best School in a Community and Best Principal.

This success would not be possible without the input of our entire school community…. pupils, staff, parents, governors and the local community and we hope that everyone who voted recognises that the awards are recognition for our entire school community…. so Thank YOU.

A special mention to Marietta McNulty who was responsible for nominating our school. Without Marietta’s nomination, the judges would not have had the chance to recognise our work.

**Christmas Draw Prizes**

A Christmas Draw will take place at each of the two Christmas Shows on Tuesday 11th December. This is our major fundraiser for Term 1 and therefore your support is greatly appreciated. Cloakroom Tickets will be sold at the shows. As ever, we will be delighted to accept any donations for prizes ahead of the draw – a big thank you to those of you who have already contributed something as a prize.

**Christmas Dinner Money**

Christmas Dinner for pupils and staff will take place on Thursday 13th December. This is always a lovely occasion for staff and pupils alike. If you would like your child to attend the Christmas Dinner, please complete the slip attached and return this (along with the payment of £2.60) to the school no later than Monday 10th December.

**Friends of St Eugene’s PS**

Our support group of parents and members of the wider school community have created a fantastic school calendar for 2019. This includes artwork from 3 of our pupils as well as the school holidays for the year and will be an essential item to have in each of your homes. We encourage all families to purchase one at the very reasonable price of £3.50, or if buying for the extended family too…3 for £10.

All money received will help the Friends Group establish a fund to invest further in other events this year. Remember that the ultimate aim of this group is to support our school in providing for your children. Please support this wonderful venture.

**Christmas Holidays**

School will close on Friday 21st December @ 1pm for our Christmas Holidays. Dinners will be served on this day. All pupils should be collected no later than 1pm, but can be collected from 12.30pm if they are not staying for dinner.

**School reopens to pupils on Monday 7th January 2019 and Breakfast Club will operate from this date.**

**Advent Mass**

Pupils and staff will join with Fr Canning to celebrate an ‘Advent Mass’ in the school hall on Friday 14th December @11am. This will be a lovely opportunity for Fr Canning to talk to the children about the importance of the Advent season and the message of Christmas as well as giving pupils a chance to pray and sing together.

**Milk Money**

Milk Money for Term 2 can now be paid (**total for the term is £11**). Last term we asked that this be paid up front to ensure that we were able to order the correct amount of Milk. You were very supportive of this as parents. This has reduced the amount of milk going to waste. If you wish for your child to have milk during Term 2, please pay this on or before Tuesday 18th December 2018.

***We will only be able to order milk each week for those who have paid.***

**SVP Appeal** Our Value of the Month for December is Charity – and of course at this time we aim to help those in need and so our annual SVP appeal returns. We are currently collecting items to make a nice hamper and all donations will be gratefully received. A box has been placed in the foyer for pupils and/or parents to leave items.

**Two Castles Boxing Club (Newtownstewart)**

We are delighted that the Two Castles Club will be visiting our school on Wednesday 9th and 16th January 2019 for a ‘taster session’ for our P4-7 pupils. This session will involve NO BOXING or PHYSICAL CONTACT. The session will last for 1 hour and will engage our pupils in non-contact, gymnastic exercises, balance, fitness and fun. All activities will be delivered by fully qualified Ulster Boxing Coaches.

**Book Fair**

The Scholastic Book Fair visited St Eugene’s last month and proved to be a great success, with many of our pupils purchasing something to take home. The Book Fair has helped raise the profile of reading amongst our pupils and this is just great to see. Thanks to your generosity in purchasing items, (the Book Fair raised £431.50!!) the school will soon receive £215.75 in Scholastic rewards, which we can use to spend on Literacy materials to enhance those that already exist in the school – thereby giving back directly to our pupils. Thank you everybody and Well Done!

**After School Activities 2019**

We have discussed our After School Activities for the new year with our pupils through their Pupil Council Representatives and we hope to offer some additional activities in 6 week blocks. In order to facilitate these however, we may need to charge a small amount to cover tutors, materials etc

As far as possible, the school has (before) and will try to (again) supplement some of the costs but this is not always possible. We also need the clubs to be well supported in order to make them viable and would appeal to parents to encourage children to attend as often as possible.

Further information in the January Newsletter.

**Tin Whistle**

There will be 1 further Tin Whistle session this term with Mr Devine on Tuesday 18th December. Tin Whistle will resume again in 2019 on Tuesday 8th January. Cost is £1 per session and please remember that this is a compulsory activity as part of our music curriculum.

**Swimming**

There will be no swimming on Friday 14th/21st December, as the leisure centre is closed for maintenance and staff training. P5-7 pupils will have 3 further swimming sessions in January and this will bring swimming lessons to an end for the year. Friday 25th January will be the final session.

**Hairstyles**

We have noticed a few children coming to school with their hair down and whilst this looks lovely, unfortunately our uniform policy states that ‘*Children with longer hair should have this tied back, tied up or plaited’.*

Please be mindful of this advice. We appreciate your support in relation to our Uniform Policy.

**EMERGENCY CLOSURES**

We are now entering that period in the year when snow can become a factor in school. Should any adverse weather (such as heavy snowfall) impact upon the school then a decision to open or close will be made by considering these factors…

Can pupils and staff access the school building safely? Can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency? In an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school? Is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils? Are there enough members of staff able to make it to work for a suitable pupil: teacher ratio?

Such decisions are not taken lightly and we inform you our parents as soon as we have made an adequate assessment of the situation.

We will continue to use social media and our text message service to keep parents informed if closures are necessary.

**Prayer of the Month – December**



*Prayer before Communion*

Lord Jesus, come to me,

Lord Jesus give me your love,

Lord Jesus, come to me,

And give me yourself.

Lord Jesus, friend of children,

Come to me.

Lord Jesus, you are my Lord

And my God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Amen