******CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EDUCATION AT ST EUGENE’S PS.**

A copy of this newsletter can be downloaded from our website [www.steugenesps.com](http://www.steugenesps.com) at any time. We encourage our parents, grandparents and extended families to ‘like’ and ‘follow’ our Facebook and Twitter accounts to be kept up to date with all our exciting news at St Eugene’s PS.

Newsletter 04

December 2020

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October 2020

 **December Diary Dates:**

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| **Tues****1st**  | School Nursing Team – Flu Immunisation  |
| **Tues** **8th**  | Dress Rehearsal Christmas Show |
| **Thurs****10th** | Christmas Show Performance (Filming) |
| **Fri****11th**  | Non-Uniform Day CHRISTMAS JUMPERSFundraising for St Vincent De PaulChristmas Draw  |
| **Wed** **16th**  | Christmas Dinner (£2.60 due in by 11th Dec for children who pay)Reception stay until 2:15pm to enjoy celebrations |
| **Fri****18th**  | SCHOOL CLOSES AT 12PM(No lunch or dinner) |

**FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME**

Flu immunisation for our P1-P7 pupils will take place on the 1st of December 2020. The School Nursing Team will administer flu immunisation by nasal spray. Only those children with parental consent with receive the Flu immunisation.

**CHRISTMAS DRAW**

This year our Christmas draw will go ahead but in a slightly different format. We will sell lines instead of tickets to avoid passing paper tickets between home and school. **Lines will be priced at £2 each, or 3 for £5**. If you would like to purchase lines, please send all money in a clearly marked envelope to your child’s teacher. The prizes are as follows:

* 1st Prize – Medicare Hamper worth over £100
* 2nd Prize - £20 Lemonade Voucher
* 3rd Prize - £20 RK Menswear Voucher
* 4th Prize - £20 Voucher for The Hatch
* 5th Prize - £20 Voucher for A Cut Above
* 6th Prize - £20 for SK Beauty
* 7th Prize – Wine Hamper
* 8th Prize – Jameson Whiskey & Chocolates combo
* 9th Prize – Yankee Candle Gift Pack
* 10th Prize – Prosecco & Chocolates Combo
* 11th Prize – Christmas Teddy
* 12th Prize – Jigsaw
* 13th Prize – Jigsaw

These prizes have very kindly been donated by members of our school community. Our Friends of St Eugene’s group have purchased the voucher prizes to help support some of local businesses who have supported F.O.S.E in the past. All money raised from the draw will go directly into school funds, however, we ask that you do not put yourself under financial pressure to enter. We understand that these are difficult times for many in our school community and providing for your own family needs must take priority. The draw will take place on Friday 11th of December, we will use a random number generator and the prize will be awarded to the person with the corresponding line. We hope to record the draw to post on social media.

**CHRISTMAS SHOW**

The Dress Rehearsal for our Christmas Show will take place on Tuesday 8th of December. Children will then perform on Thursday 10th of December and Mr Eugene Quigley has been booked to record the performance. Children will attend school on Thursday 10th wearing the necessary items for under their costume (teacher’s will communicate what is needed prior to the 10th). Mrs Cawley makes all of our costumes, therefore, you do not need to buy anything new. If you wish to apply make-up or face paint on the morning of the 10th, please feel free to do so. **DVDs will be sold at £5 per copy and a form will go out to parents and carers this week to establish how many copies each family require**.

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

Children can come to school on Friday 11th of December in their own clothes and are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper (if they have one). This year we will be raising money for Saint Vincent de Paul as are unable to collect for a food hamper due to Covid-19 restrictions. We ask that if at all possible children make a donation to SVP for wearing their Christmas jumper. SVP kindly donated a sum of money to our school earlier this year to benefit the well-being of our children and we would like to support the charity in return.

**SCHOOL MILK**

Mrs Gallagher will be ordering milk for January and February on the 11th of December. If you would like your child to take milk during these two months please telephone Mrs Gallagher before the end of next week, she will then advise you on the payment. **If you no longer want your child to take milk it is important to let Mrs Gallagher know so that you are not billed for January and February.**

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Our Christmas Dinner will be served on Wednesday 16th of December. If you would like your child to have dinner on this day, please send payment of £2.60 on or before Friday 11th of December. Please note if your child is entitled to free school meals you do not need to send any payment. This will be a non-uniform day and we invite our pupils to get into the Christmas spirit by wearing their Christmas jumper again. Children in Reception will remain in school until 2.15pm on this day to take part in the celebrations.

**CHRISTMAS KINDENESS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Mr Gormley’s class would like to connect with the elderly members of our community this Christmas by sending a card and small decoration. This year Christmas may be even lonelier than any year before due to the Covid-19 restrictions, particularly for older people living in our village. The Victoria Bridge Community Group will very kindly assist with the logistics of this project.

**HOMEWORK**

Our homework arrangements are currently working well for pupils, parents and staff. Remember that we are operating on a rotational basis of an ‘A’ and ‘B’ homework pack. Children will receive their homework pack for the week on a Monday and must not return it to school until the Friday morning, where it will be quarantined over the weekend. The following week the children will receive their ‘B’ pack and follow the same system. *It is important that children remember to return their homework folder each Friday as failure to do so causes operational issues with this system.* The last written homework will be on Thursday 3rd of December to allow our children the time to focus on learning their lines for the Christmas Show. Class teachers may opt to keep reading and other practical homework running beyond the 3rd.

**RELAX KIDS & SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE**

Given the times that we are in, we are feeling incredibly blessed to be able to continue to offer a School Counselling Service to our boys and girls. If you filled out a slip for your child to see the Counsellor, please rest assured that your child’s name has been added to our waiting list and they will be called as soon as possible. Miss Gormley and Mr Gormley’s classes have been learning relaxation and coping skills during Relax Kids since the beginning of term. Mrs Connolly’s class will avail of Relax Kids in the New Year.

**ENGAGE PROGRAMME**

The Engage Programme has now commenced and parents/carers will know if their child is involved. The programme is led by Miss McAnaw, who is in school each Friday withdrawing groups for Literacy & Numeracy support. This is a fantastic scheme and we know that the children will benefit greatly from the additional support.

**ATTENDANCE**

We understand that children may be absent from school more than usual due to restrictions around Covid-19, children and/or members of their household presenting with a new continuous cough, a temperature above 37.8, or loss of sense of taste and/or smell should book a test as soon as possible. Children should not attend school when they or any member of their household have symptoms or are waiting on test results. In the event that your child, a member of your household or a close contact of your child tests positive, you must inform the school straight away (if over the weekend please do this using Facebook Messenger, Seesaw or by emailing Miss Gormley lgormley873@c2kni.net) . Your details will be kept confidential and we will never name a child or member of staff to anyone other than the PHA. All members of our community will be notified of a positive case via text. Those who have been identified as being in contact with the infected person from our school community will receive guidance on what to do next, such as isolating and/or seeking a test. It is important to keep Miss Gormley informed so that she can advise you about returning to school. Please remember that we are following DE guidance and must continue to do so to protect our children and staff.

**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL**

In an effort to reduce paper and stay in line with the DE guidance to reduce items moving between home and school we are moving towards digital communication. You will be aware that our text service is now running and that this has been used to alert you to updates and documents on our school website. You will find our latest policies and school holiday dates in the ‘files’ section. Newsletters and correspondence can be found on the home page or in the ‘news’ section. Our social media accounts and Seesaw App complement our website by showcasing the work that goes on within our school. Remember that due to Covid-19 staff are not permitted to engage in face to face meetings with parents but will happily discuss any issues with you via telephone appointment arranged through Mrs Gallagher.

**AN END OF TERM NOTE**

May I take this opportunity to thank all of our stakeholders for their support throughout this term. This has been one of the most difficult terms in the history of education and I am incredibly proud of how well we in our school community have navigated it. I would like to thank our dedicated governors and staff, pupils and parents and all those involved in our circle of learning for all coming together to keep our school going during such difficult times. We have been successful in giving our children an as close to normal school experience as possible and nothing proves this more than seeing all the happy faces skip through the doors each morning. I would like to wish you all a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas. Please continue to follow all Government restrictions in relation to Covid-19 and all being well schools will reopen safely on **Tuesday 5th of January**.

God Bless

Laura Gormley