

**Reception/P1 Pupils**

Do you know of any pupils in the local area who are perhaps old enough for Reception Class (children who have turned 4 since 2nd July 2017 or due to turn 4 soon), or any pupils currently at nursery or Playgroup and due to begin school next September?

The time for pupils to apply for places in Primary School is approaching soon. We would appeal to you to please let any parents know about our fantastic school and/or ask them to get in touch to arrange a visit and meet the staff and pupils. Or – let us know about any pupils who may be considering St Eugene’s for their child.

**Diary Dates**

Tuesday 12th December – Christmas Shows @ 10am & 7pm

Thursday 14th December – Christmas Dinner in school (see note below)

Thursday 14th December – Last day of 2.15-3.15 After Schools

Friday 15th December – Mass for staff & pupils with Fr Canning in the school hall

Monday 18th December – P6 & 7 pupils will be visiting Strabane Academy for ‘Cinderella’

Tuesday 19th December – Whole School Trip to the ‘Jack & The Beanstalk’ in Derry

Wednesday 20th December – Christmas Holidays – School closes at 1pm

Thursday 4th January 2018 – School reopens for Term 2

**Christmas Shows**

Our pupils are all busily preparing to perform two shows on Tuesday 12th December…one at 10am and a 2nd show at 7pm that same evening.

P1-3 pupils will perform ‘A King is Born’ with the help of Miss Gormley and the Foundation Stage staff. P4-7 pupils will perform ‘Cinderella Rockerfella’. 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.

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.

**‘Jack & The Beanstalk’**

Of course, this is Pantomime season and everyone in St Eugene’s will be getting in on the act on Tuesday 19th December when the pupils and staff travel to Derry to see ‘Jack and The Beanstalk’ at the Millennium Forum. On the day, we will have an earlier than usual lunchtime so that we can be in Derry in time for the show at 1.15. Please be at the school for no later than 4.00 to collect your child(ren) afterwards.

**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.

**Christmas Draw Prizes**

A Christmas Draw will take place at each of the two Christmas Shows on Tuesday 12th 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 Holidays**

School will close on Wednesday 20th 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 Thursday 4th January 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 15th 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.

**P5-7 Titanic Trip**

Our P5-7 pupils are looking forward to an exciting trip to the Titanic Exhibition Centre in Belfast on Tuesday 9th January. The pupils will have a tour of the centre, visit the SS Nomadic and take part in a workshop called ‘Exploring The Depths’. If you have yet to pay your child’s trip money (£15), please do so as soon as possible.

**Best Wishes!**

We wish Danny Gallagher the very best of luck in his new venture at RK’s Menswear in Strabane. Why not make use of your 20% off voucher (sent home with the children) and get down to Danny before Christmas?

**Well Done Victoria Bridge!!**

We extend the warmest of congratulations to the entire community of Victoria Bridge on being awarded Runner-Up in the recent IPB Pride of Place Awards. I’m sure you will all agree that the Victoria CCF have made such a positive impact upon the village, through their hard work and dedication. We can all be so proud of the achievement. Maybe next time the village will go that one step further!

**Welcome**

Welcome to Miss Demi Ward and to Mrs Jillian Quinn both of whom have joined our staff recently as part of their childcare training.

Both ladies will assist the learning in Miss Gormley & Mrs Connolly’s classes and will also help out in the After School Class from 2.15-3.15.

**After School Activities 2018**

The following After School Activities will be available in Term 2, commencing the w/b Monday 8th January…

Monday – Sports with Danny Gallagher 2.15-3.15 & 3.15 – 4.15 (free)

Wednesday – P4-7 Athletics with Mr Gallagher 3.15-4.15 (£1 per session)

Thursday – P4-7 Mindfulness Colouring Club with Miss Gormley 3.15-4.15 (£1 per session)

All funds collected will be reinvested directly in pupils – none of the activities are for profit.

(More details will be provided when pupils return to school in January)

**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 £509!!) the school will soon receive just over £250 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!

**Milk Money**

Milk Money for Term 2 can now be paid (total for the term is £12). 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. Term 2 milk can be paid before Christmas or at the latest by Friday 5th January 2018. ***We will only be able to order milk each week for those who have paid.***

**Tin Whistle**

Tin Whistle with Mr Devine has now come to an end for the term. This will resume again on Tuesday 16th January 2018

**Swimming**

There will be no swimming on Wednesday 13th/20th December, as the leisure centre is closed for maintenance and staff training. P5-7 pupils will have 2 further swimming sessions in January and this will bring swimming lessons to an end for the year.

**Attendance**

We are continuing our drive to improve the attendance of our pupils. Each month we distribute certificates to those pupils who have enjoyed 100% attendance for the month. 100% attendance means that a pupil has attended **all day** for each day, as attendance is marked in the morning for the session before lunch and **again in the afternoon** for the second part of the day (this is standard practice for all schools as advised by DE). If a pupil goes home early in the afternoon for example, then they are absent for this session, likewise, if a pupil arrives late into school after registration closes, then they are ‘absent’ for this session.

**Attendance Challenge**

Mr Gallagher’s ‘Yellow’ Team are currently leading the Attendance Challenge having had the most ‘attendances’ on average for the months of September and October. Mrs Connolly’s ‘Blue’ team took the award for November and remain in 2nd place overall alongside Miss Gormley’s team. Extra play this month for Mrs Connolly’s team!

**Notification of Absence**

If your child is going to be absent (for example due to illness) it is important to let Mrs Gallagher in the office know by phone on that morning, or alternatively send in a note when your child returns to school. If the illness/absence is continuing for a longer period of time, we would ask that a phone call is made, rather than waiting to submit a note when your child returns to school.

**SUSTRANS**

Thanks to Sustrans, we have received free ‘Hi-Vis’ Vests for all of our pupils. These can be used when pupils are travelling outside of school – to the Post-box at Christmas for example!

We will also shortly receive a ‘reflector’ for each and every pupil. Pupils will be able to take these home and use them on any journey, making it easier for them to be seen on footpaths, or crossing the road.

**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?

**School Prospectus**

Our School Prospectus has recently been updated. If anyone would like a copy of this, please contact the school office.

**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



**Christmas Dinner Money**

Christmas Dinner for pupils and staff will take place on Thursday 14th 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 below and return this (along with the payment of £2.60) to the school no later than Tuesday 12th December.

I would/would not (delete as appropriate) like my child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to attend the Christmas Dinner

\_\_\_\_ (tick) I have enclosed a payment of £2.60

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_