



# St. John the Baptist PS

Bunscoil Eoin Baiste  
Newsletter / Nuachtlitir

November / Samhain 2019



Warmest congratulations to those pupils elected to our School Council and Eco Council by their peers for the academic year 2019-20. We are looking forward to their active participation in school life. Well done also to our new House Captains and Vice-Captains, our Peer Mentors, Librarians and Playground Friend Leaders, all of whom are playing an important role and making an invaluable contribution. You will be able to follow their progress on our school website.



A sponsored walk to the People's Park took place for all pupils in P3 - P7 on **Friday 18th October**.

Pupils in P1-P2 completed their walk around the church carpark.

Thankfully the weather proved favourable on the day and everyone was able to participate.

A total of £2,596 was raised and will be used to help defray costs towards our PE curriculum and to purchase some resources for use during break and lunchtime play. We are most grateful for your continued support.



## Attendance Awards

We are continuing to promote positive attendance in school and have listed the recipients of our '**Best Class Attendance Awards**' for the months of **September** and **October** in Foundation, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two for your attention:

### September

Foundation Stage ~ **R1/2 Bean Uí Lorcáin**

Key Stage One ~ **P3 Mrs Beatty/Mrs Breen**

Key Stage Two ~ **P5 Mrs Robinson**

### October

Foundation Stage ~ **R1/2 Bean Uí Lorcáin**

Key Stage One ~ **R2/3/4 Iníon Nic Ruairí**

Key Stage Two ~ **P6 Mr Quinn**

## Parent/Teacher Meetings

Sincere thanks to all those parents who attended recent Parent/Teacher Meetings on 25th October.

This was an ideal opportunity to share information and monitor learning with a view to helping all pupils progress.

If you were unable to attend on this occasion we would strongly encourage you to contact your child's teacher to reschedule an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

## Hallowe'en 'Dressing Up' Day

**Thursday 24th October**

The children had great fun on this occasion and everyone looked fantastic in their costumes. A huge thank you to all our parents for supporting this activity.



**Well done to those members of the Running Club who participated in the Flahavan's Primary Schools' Cross Country League in Lurgan Park on Friday 4th October. A big thank you also to all the mums who had the unenviable task of washing rather muddy kits!!**



## First Penance

First Penance will take place on **Wednesday 27th November** in St. John the Baptist Church at **6pm**.

This is a very special occasion for all our P4/Rang 4 pupils and their families.

We ask you to keep all the children in your prayers as they prepare to receive this very important Sacrament.

## Confirmation

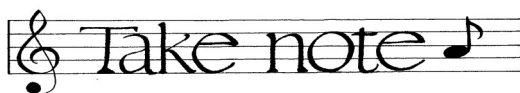
Please note the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in St. John the Baptist Church on **7th March** at 3pm.

For pupils in Rang 6/7 Cóineartú will be celebrated in St. Malachy's Church, Armagh on **13th March** at 5pm.

## Coats

In view of the time of year and change in temperature we would ask that all pupils come to school with a warm coat. Children are encouraged and advised to wear their coats at break time and lunch time and we would ask parents to reinforce this message at home.

Please ensure also that all coats are clearly labelled with your child's name. Lost coats can be very difficult to identify without a name tag. On occasion, pupils may take home the wrong coat, therefore it is important to check this regularly. If by chance your child does take home another pupil's coat please return it to the school so that we can return it to its rightful owner. Thank you.



Congratulations to our school choir who, together with the choir from Edenderry P.S., performed at the official opening of **Portadown Wellness Centre** on 7th November.



Congratulations to Mr Quinn's P6 class who, together with their friends from Edenderry P.S., performed for parents and pupils as part of the All Set Programme in Edenderry P.S. on Tuesday 22nd October. Thanks are also extended to Mrs Murray and the staff of St. John the Baptist's College who facilitated some of the practice sessions for this performance. Well done P6!

## Anti-Bullying Week



Along with many schools across Northern Ireland the pupils of St. John the Baptist will be participating in Anti-Bullying Week, which runs from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**. Sincere thanks are extended to our School Council for their efforts in leading many of these activities.

Anti-Bullying Week is co-ordinated by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF).

This year's theme '*Change Starts With Us*', provides opportunities for pupils to engage in a range of discussions and activities and to know that by making small, simple changes, the cycle can be broken and a safe environment created for everyone, where everyone is heard.

## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

The above policy is available to download from our school website. Should anyone wish to access a hard copy please contact the Principal.

### Flu Vaccination

Please note due to shortages of the flu vaccine the School Nursing Team will now visit the school on **Tuesday 10th December**. Forms will be collected by the Nursing team early Thursday morning (14th November).



Congratulations to all those pupils who have achieved Star of the Month awards.

**Well done also to all those pupils who achieved Accelerated Reader Awards.**



## Key Stage 4 Consultation—

### St. John the Baptist's College

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the response document to the above consultation. All responses left in school have been returned to CCMS.

### Prayer Services

As mentioned in the September Newsletter a number of Prayer Services will be held in school throughout the year to which parents/guardians are invited. Please note the list of dates below.

If for some reason any of these dates need to change we will notify you of these changes as soon as possible.

**21st November ~ Primary Seven 9.30am**

**28th November~ Primary Three 9.30am**

**16th January ~ Rang a hAon/Dó 9.30am**

**23rd January ~ Primary Five 9.30am**

**30th January ~ Primary Two 9.30am**

**13th February ~ Primary Four 9.30am**

**27th February ~ Rang a Cúig/Sé/Seacht 9.30am**

**12th March ~ Primary One 9.30am**

**26th March ~ Primary Six 9.30am**

**2nd April ~ Rang a Dó/Trí/Ceathair 9.30am**

### Parent Questionnaires

We are requesting your help with the completion and return of questionnaires which will be sent home with pupils. Please know your co-operation and support with this exercise is most appreciated.



### Reindeer Food

In order to ensure Rudolph and his friends are well looked after on Christmas Eve our School Council will once again be producing and selling Reindeer food priced at **50p**, the proceeds of which will be donated to a charity for the Homeless. Further details about this initiative will be issued by the Council.

Let's make sure Rudolph and his reindeer friends are well fed this Christmas!!



### Christmas



This year the Foundation Stage classes will be presenting a Christmas Concert in the school hall.

Primary 1 & 2 will stage their performance on **Tuesday 3rd** and **Wednesday 4th December**;

Rang a hAon /Dó will perform on **Thursday 5th December**.

**All performances will commence at 10am.**

Information regarding these performances will be sent home with pupils by the Foundation teachers.

### Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner will be served on **Thursday 12th December**. There will be an earlier closure on this date with pupils in **P1—P4** and **Rang 1-7** going home at **1.15pm**.

Pupils in **P5—P7** will leave at **1.30pm**.

Please remember to collect your child/children at this time.

Pupils may wear Christmas jumpers, Christmas hats, decorative hairbands etc. to add to the festivities on this occasion.

### Christmas Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service will be held on **Tuesday 17th December** in St. John the Baptist Church at **7pm**.

We extend a warm invitation to parents, extended family and the wider Parish community to join us to celebrate this occasion.



**School Choir** ~ Our school choir will be entertaining shoppers at **Rushmere, Craigavon** on **13th December** at **11am**. If you have time, please come along and show your support!