



St Joseph's Primary School

Carnacaville

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Principal: Mr Christopher McCann Bsc(Hons), PGCE, PQH(NI)



November 2016

Dear Parents & Guardians

1. Halloween Bun Sale & Raffle

A big thank you to all parents who contributed in any way to the bun sale, raffle or auction. We raised a total of **£1200**. This is a tremendous amount of money and it is a marked increase on last year's amount of £1007. Thank you again to everyone involved. Thanks To Primary 7 and Miss Griffin for organising the successful event.

2. Silly Socks For Syria

We had a wonderful display of Silly Socks and Tights in school. This was a simple way for the children to feel they are doing their bit in helping those caught up in the conflict. A number of parents also wore Silly Socks to work today and sent in a donation to school. Thank you for the support. **Silly Socks raised £200** which was forwarded to the Newcastle Supporting Syria Campaign.

3. Christmas Drama (Reception, P1, P2)

We have decided to take a fresh approach to our Christmas Drama this year. This Christmas Primary One accompanied by Reception, and Primary Two will preform a Christmas class assembly in the school hall on **Tuesday 20th December (Rec.&P1)** and **Wednesday 21st December (P2) at 10:00am.**

All parents, grandparents and family members are invited to attend their child's performance. Festive refreshments will be served afterwards. This will allow us to focus on each class and having the new space allows us to comfortably accommodate all family members that wish to attend. We look forward to welcoming all the Reception, Primary One and Primary Two parents in to school for the performances.

4. Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

We have been astounded by your response to the Shoe Box Appeal. It has been very humbling to see the effort made by families in response to the request. The pupils took so much pride in delivering their boxes and seeing the wall of gifts boxes get bigger each day. The charity collected the boxes and left with a total of **142 gifts**. They were overwhelmed by the amount of boxes as the number was way beyond their expectations for a school our size. On behalf of Mrs Fitzpatrick who coordinated the appeal and all the staff, our profound thanks.

5. Annual Christmas Raffle

Christmas raffle tickets will be sent home in the next two weeks. This is one of the biggest fundraising drives the Parent Support Group organises throughout the year. We have our usual bicycle and numerous hotel breaks as part of an impressive line-up of prizes. The draw will take place on ***Friday 16th December in school at 9:30am*** with the children.

A big thank you to all the businesses that support the draw through their generous donations, and to the Parents Support Group under the leadership of Angela Gargan for organising this annual draw.

6. Open Day/ Open Enrolment

Our **Open Day** will take place on **Friday 2nd December from 10:00am to 12:00pm**. If you have a child of school age or are aware of anyone thinking of applying for a place in the school, either Reception or Primary One, please ask them to attend the Open Day or contact the school office for application forms. Forms are available from the school office next week.

Closing dates for applications will be **12 noon 11th January 2017**

As in previous years school will close for all pupils at **2:00pm on Thursday 1st December** to allow staff to prepare for Open Day.

7. Christmas Gifts

We as a staff are very aware of the financial demands on families particularly over Christmas and also of your generosity through the school year towards our fundraising efforts. It is with this in mind that if you and your child intend to give a gift to a staff member this Christmas we would ask you **not** to spend that extra money. If you wish, you can consider your donation to the Shoe Box Appeal as a gift or instead you can make a small donation to **a charity or cause of your choice**. Whatever you decide to do, I suggest you involve your child in the process and explain that the donation is a gift to a good cause on yours, your child's and their teacher's behalf.

Finally, School closes for all pupils on Thursday 22nd December at 12:00 noon and pupils return to school Friday 6th January 2017

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Kindest Regards,

Christopher McCann

It's our time!

