

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ST. MARY'S JUNIOR BOYS SCHOOL.

NOLLAIG SHONA

Christmas Newsletter

19/12/2019

Dear Parents,

Nollaig Shona, Happy Christmas from all in St. Mary's Junior Boys School. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and wish you the very best for 2020. We hope the new year will be as successful as the year past. On a personal note I would like to say a special thanks to the staff and to you, the parental community of St. Mary's Junior Boys school for making me so welcome since I commenced the role as Principal of this wonderful school in September. It has been great to get to know the pupils and wonderful to see so much hard work going on all around the school. There is a beautiful, happy and respectful atmosphere here and it is a credit to all. Well done and thanks again.

We will be closing for Christmas holidays on Friday 20th December at 12:30 and reopen on Monday 6th January 2020.

John Gunnell, Principal

Best Wishes

We wish Ms. McLoone and her family well as she commences her maternity leave and to Ms. Noreen Shanahan who will leave Sonas at Christmas to take up a new post in Upperchurch. Thanks to Noreen for her commitment and hard work in our school in her four years here. Appointments of teachers to these posts will be made in the coming days and we will inform parents of pupils in these classes of the names of their new teachers as soon as the appointments are made.

Communications:

Remember to keep an eye on the school website <http://www.stmarysjuniorboysnenagh.com/> and our Twitter [@stmarysjuniorb2](https://twitter.com/stmarysjuniorb2) to find out the latest happenings in our school.

Please remember to inform us if you change mobile number, it is very important that we have your up to date contact details in for communications and in case we need to contact you urgently. Thanks to all who have submitted email addresses, which will be used for communications and for electronic payments when set up for the next school year. If not already done so you can send on your email to the school email address or by filling in the form at the link on our website (located on the news/newsletter page).

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It has been a very busy first term in our school. Here are some of the highlights:

Ms Madden's Junior Infants have had such a busy first term settling into their new school. One of the main highlights this term was our Autumn Walk, where we collected items such as acorns, chestnuts and leaves. It really was active learning at its best. Aistear is proving to be very popular in our class. The boys particularly enjoy engaging in the role play area and really brought the Doctor's Surgery to life in our class. We are finishing up this term on a high by performing our Christmas play 'Ralph the Reindeer' for our families and friends. The boys have put in a lot of work learning songs and practising their lines for the play and it is sure to go down a treat.



Ms Moloney's Junior Infants have had a fantastic first term in St Marys JBNS. Some highlights from our term;

Our Aistear themes included "The Doctor's Surgery" & "My Family, My Home". We had fun learning through play & developing Oral Language skills. We also enjoyed art lessons linked to our themes. For Science Week we teamed up with 1st Class for science experiments. We thoroughly enjoyed "Maths Week" games in the hall & Liam McCarthy's visit to SMJB was a day to remember.



It has been a very busy term so far in **Mr. O'Dwyer's Senior Infants**. In September we maximised our opportunity for getting out and about and enjoyed an Autumn nature walk around the church grounds. We learned a lot about the shape of various leaves and the different types of fruit and nuts that appear.

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Coming up to the Halloween break we were exploring the theme of the home/ kitchen during our Aistear play sessions. This was a fun and tasty way to learn lots of new vocabulary and skills.

We furthered this learning experience with pumpkin carving and bun decorating before the midterm.



Despite the poor weather in the winter months, we made sure to keep active and enjoyed our PE sessions each week including two brilliant whole -school Active Days based around Orienteering and Athletics during October and November.

December was dedicated to preparing for our Christmas Show 'The Sleepy Shepherd' which we performed on our last week of our parents and friends.



This term in **Mr. Prout's senior infant room** we have enjoyed many great activities. The boys have been working very hard in Literacy Lift Off, with the help of Miss Bradshaw and

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others. We were lucky to have been invited to watch plays in our school and at the convent school. We also look forward to doing our own play later in the school year. In the picture below we have the Green School committee members from our class, Sean and Andi. They are presenting Marcel with his prize for winning the colouring competition to promote awareness for the next green school topic, Travel. And Santa even came for a visit!



In **first class** we have had a busy few months which culminated in last week's beautiful Christmas Mass. The boys put in a lot of hard work and can be really proud of their performance.

They have had active days, maths games and maths trails, Halloween costumes and had great fun playing snap apple and spider races. Art started as painting Autumn squirrels and moved onto winter polar bears.

We decorated our class Christmas tree and made Santa faces but the highlight for the boys was a recent visit from the main man himself. On the literacy front, we have started a new guided reading programme which the boys are really enjoying.

Please follow our first class blog on the school website and twitter which shows pictures of work and activities carried out throughout term 1.

<http://www.stmarysjuniorboysnenagh.com/first-class-blog>

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Ms Harrington's 1st class had a very busy term preparing for our Christmas Mass in the church. We learned lots of new songs and we really enjoyed the big performance last Wednesday.

We are really enjoying our new Reading programme 'Guided Reading' . We are reading 4 new books every week with Ms Harrington and Mrs Walshe. We are becoming fantastic readers. We have all agreed that we will continue to read some books over the holidays.

Santa also came to visit 1st Class during the week. We got a huge surprise!! Don't forget to leave him out some low fat milk boys!!

We have been learning all about Winter this month. We wrote some great Acrostic poems and made penguins too.

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We are very excited for Christmas. We have been learning all about the Christmas story, Christmas traditions in other countries, doing lots of Christmas art and reading lots of Christmas books.

Have a great Christmas everyone!



In **Sonas**, Ms. Shanahan, Christine and Kathleen our two SNAs have really enjoyed working with such friendly, funny and kind children. The children have become great friends!

There is talking, often singing and always laughter in our classroom!

We had a very SCARY Halloween in Sonas!



The children made a Super Effort and coloured in a Green Schools colouring competition!

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We walked over to Nenagh library and heard a magical Christmas story!



The children are really looking forward to Santa! Santa's Elf is in our classroom.

Buddy the Elf is either making a mess, having a party or sleeping in the quiet room. Who knows where he will turn up next? We wish you all A Very Happy Christmas!

Ms. McLoone's Sonas ..Everybody has settled in really well in our Sonas class since September.

The boys have been busy this term with lots of different activities. Some of our favourite activities are playing with musical instruments, looking at story books, making jig-saws and listening to songs and rhymes. The boys loved taking part in the latest Active School Day and were very excited when Santa came to visit our classroom.

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Christmas is a very exciting time!! .. especially in **Ms. Galvins Language Class** where we've been creating some lovely art work and have been busy writing out letters to Santa.



Elsewhere around the school, we are working to renew our **Active School Flag**. We had great fun for National Fitness Day in September & last month we focused on the Athletics strand. The boys have been doing "Active Homework" the night they have PE & we are grateful to parents for their continued support. Yoga starts for Senior Infants & 1st Class in January & we are looking forward to the upcoming "Active Days".

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Christmas mass

On December 11th our first classes and language class took part in the 10 o'clock mass in St. Mary of the Rosary Church.

It was lovely for our pupils to be part of such a special celebration along with their families, friends and members of the local community.



Green schools

Our new Green Schools Committee are hard at work as they strive to achieve our 4th flag for the theme travel. Well done to all the children who made decorations for the "Reduce, reuse

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and recycle decoration competition" run by Tipperary County Council.



Thank you all for your continued support of our school. We wish you and your families a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2020.

School will re-open to all pupils on Monday 6th January.