

December



Dear Parent/ Guardian,

We are delighted to have completed the first term in St Pat's N.S, and have enjoyed the recent seasonal occasions that make Christmas so memorable and special. Thank you for the support and cooperation you have shown throughout the term as we worked in partnership to enhance the children's learning and development.

I would like to sincerely thank the staff for their hard work, dedication and consistent efforts to maintain a fun and happy learning environment for the pupils.

Thanks to the Parents' Association who have given their time to contribute to the work of the school. The input of the P.A makes a significant contribution to the vibrant character and atmosphere of our school. A special thanks to the whole school community for supporting the school fundraising events, in particular, the Halloween Fair and Christmas Card fundraiser. Thank you also for supporting the the St Vincent de Paul food collection and the Christmas Jumper fundraiser in aid of local charity, ARC Cancer Support Services.

We would also like to acknowledge the support and work of the school's Board of Management. Thanks to the board members for their enormous commitment, and giving generously of their time and expertise to support and enhance the essential work of the school.

Christmas is a time for looking forward and also a time for reflection. 2024 was an exciting year for our school, marking the transition to coeducation, and the opening of a third specialised class. These were big milestones for our school, and it's been wonderful to see everyone settle so well into school life.

Christmas is an incredibly special time when we celebrate hope. It is also a special time for all of us to spend time with our families. It is a time when we remember those who we have loved and lost, and those who are ill or struggling. We hope that the New Year brings hope to all.

We wish all our school community a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas.
Beannachtai na Nollag agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir

Reminders about upcoming enrolment:

1. The specialised class for Autism is currently full. However, applications for spaces that may become available for September 2025, will be accepted from 6/1/2025. Please see the Admissions policy and application form on the school website for further details.

2. Applications for a place in a specialised class for pupils with DLD (Developmental Language Disorder) for September 2025 will be accepted from 6/1/2024 – 28/2/2024. The applications for the DLD class are led by the child's Speech and Language Therapist or Psychologist.

Board of Management

The Board met on the 9th December 2024

The Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Oversight Reports were shared.

The Principal's Report, and Teaching and Learning Report were shared.

The Board discussed the plan to survey the school community on the school uniform.

The Treasurer gave an update on accounts.

An update on PA activities was discussed. It was noted that the AGM was very successful and well-attended.

The next Board of Management Meeting is on Monday 13 January 2025.

Attendance Strategy

A reminder that the school gate opens at 8:30am and that school start time is 8:40am. Thanks to everyone for their efforts to be punctual each day throughout the term. We encourage everyone to be on time to join their line in the morning before the bell rings. In the senior building, if pupils are late up to 8:50am, they should arrive at the door beside Ms. Bassett's office, or the front door at Sharon's office. After 8:50am, pupils should arrive via the front door at Sharon's office.

Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) suggests that schools should aim for a 95% attendance rate for each pupil. Attendance returns are completed during the school year. Absences over 20 days are included in the returns, therefore we remind you to please continue to record any reasons for absence on Aladdin. Similarly, if there is an urgent need to collect a child early from school, or for them to arrive late, please record the reason on Aladdin.

Story of the Nativity and Carol service

All classes were busy practicing for the two Christmas events. The Junior School retold the story of the Nativity through words and song. The senior school pupils sang fabulously during their carol service, with the 6th classes giving a special performance of Good King Wenceslas. There was plenty of practice, and everyone made us immensely proud on the day. A special word of thanks to Ms. Gallagher who helped us all prepare, and to John Gleeson for his wonderful conducting!



P.A

Sincere thanks to the PA for their help and support with the Christmas festivities. The P.A coordinated the delivery of the beautiful Christmas cards designed by the pupils. They also organised a visit by Santa, and helped him to distribute the selection boxes he brought with him.

P.A money funded the cost of the magician's visit. Everyone was impressed with Magician Joe's amazing show!

Santa's visit





Magic at Christmas time!



St Vincent de Paul annual collection

We have a long tradition in St Pat's of helping those who are struggling at this time of the year. Sincere thanks to those who sent in donations to the St Vincent de Paul annual Christmas food appeal collection. We had many, many bags and boxes of food items under the Christmas tree, which were collected today for distribution.



Student Council/ An Chomhairle Scoile

The Student Council's charity of choice for the Christmas Jumper Day fundraiser was ARC Cancer Support Services. The fundraiser has raised an astounding €1011. Sincere thanks for all the contributions made. We will be sending a cheque to ARC when we return in January.



Many thanks for your continued support.
Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas,
We will see everyone when we reopen on Monday 6th of January.

Kind regards,
Natasha Bassett
(Principal)

