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# St Mary's Primary School Newsletter

www.stmaryspsmelmount.com

## ROAD OF HOPE APPEAL

A huge thank you to all the boys and girls who provided a shoe box present for the Road of Hope Appeal. Yet again there has been a fantastic response from the St Mary's School community with 535 shoe boxes collected. A video of the children loading the collection van is now available to view on the school website. Thank you all for your generosity.

## ANTI -BULLYING WEEK / ODD SOCKS DAY

St Mary's pupils took part in Odd Socks day on 12th November to celebrate differences and raise awareness of Anti Bullying week. A pupil contribution was collected on the day for Strabane Down Syndrome. Thank you to all the boys and girls who made a donation to this very worthy cause.

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# P1 AND NURSERY CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Well done to all our Nursery and Primary 1 children who took part in the Christmas Nativity Shows. The Children from Ballycolman and Melmount Nursery performed "The Star That Couldn't Twinkle" an original production written by Mrs Conlan. It was performed for the children in the Junior and the Senior School and then their parents on the 10th and 11th of December. The Primary 1 children performed their play "The Sleepy Shepherd" for their parents on 5th and 6th December. There were some fantastic acting and singing performances from the boys and girls, thank you to our Nursery and P1 teaching staff and classroom assistants for all their hard work in preparation for the shows.

*Above: Ballycolman Nursery children backstage.*

*Below: Melmount Nursery children backstage*

*Below: Primary 1 children performing for the senior school pupils*

# FOYLE HOSPICE CHEQUE PRESENTATION

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our coffee morning on the 26th September in memory of former staff member Philomena Brennan. Last week Ailbhe Temple from Foyle Hospice was presented with a cheque for £1350 from Philomena's husband, Robert and our Head Boy Dara and Head Girl Cassie.

Foyle Hospice
Together we care

## SANTA VISITS ST MARY'S!

The children in St Mary's Primary School got a big surprise this week when Santa took some time out of his very busy schedule to pay a visit to the boys and girls. Santa spoke to the Nursery Children after their nativity shows last week then returned to the school to see the Primary School children. Santa was checking that everyone was going to try their best to stay on the nice list before Christmas. The boys and girls also received a selection box from Santa.

## ST MARY'S SENSORY ROOM AND RAINBOW ROOM

A huge thank you to St Mary's PTFA for providing the funds to create our new Sensory Room and Nurture Room. Thanks also to Orchard Glass, McGeehan Upholstery, Vincent Logue and Mary McMenamin for providing materials. Not forgetting our wonderful staff Mrs Duncan, Miss McIntyre, Mrs Logue and Mrs Roarty who designed the rooms. The rooms are an excellent resource to focus on our pupils social and emotional development.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

One of the highlights of the Christmas season- the annual Christmas pageant took place on Monday 16th December in St Mary's Church. Well done to all the boys and girls who took part. Well done to the P7 children who retold the Christmas story and to all the children who sang their Christmas carols A special word of thanks to Miss Keenan, Pageant director, our school Orchestra led by Mrs McGranaghan, Mr McGarrigle and Miss Haughey who provided the musical accompaniment.

## BEST OF LUCK TO MRS DEVENNEY AND MR MCMAHON

St Mary's will say goodbye to two valued members of staff at the end of this term. Best of luck To Mrs Devenney who will be leaving St Mary's after 16 years of service. Mr McMahon will be leaving St Mary's on a career break, we hope to see him back soon.
We would like to thank them both for their hard work through the years and wish them both continued success in their future endeavours.

# PTFA RAFFLE

Thank you to the St Mary's PTFA for organising such a fantastic Christmas draw with amazing prizes. The draw was held on Thursday 19th December. Well done to all the prize winners:

1st Prize—iPad: Anne McGlynn
2nd—Nintendo Switch: Tyrone Arnold
3rd—£50 McGoldricks Sport Voucher: Donna Bogle
4th—£50 Wellbeing Voucher: Cormac McLaughlin
5th—Medicare Hamper: Mark Monaghan
6th— £50 O'Neills Voucher: Marie McGonagle
7th—Photo Shoot: Orfhlaith Boyle
8th—Oysters Voucher: Philip McIntyre
9th— Wine and Glasses Sean óg McGranaghan
10th—Fir Trees Voucher: Lisa McDonald
11th—McBrearty's Hamper: Linda Doherty
12th—Mitchells Voucher: Callum Boyle
13th—Friar 2 Go Voucher: Emily Christy
14th—McColgans Voucher: Jayden Casey
15th—Cinema Hamper: Harry Reid
16th—Whiskey: Caroline Hoey-Vaughan
17th—Yankee Candle: Alex Reid
18th—Yankee Candle: Barry Reid
19th—Yankee Candle: Jeri Millar
20th—Santa Figure: Sue McKenna
21st—Studio wash and blow dry: Ellen Arbuckle
22nd—Spray tan—Charlie McCarrigle
23rd—Café Scoop Voucher—Calum Monaghan

## APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY 1

You must apply online for Nursery and Primary 1 admissions for the 2020/2021 school year.

The application procedure opens at **12 Noon on Tuesday 7th January 2020** and closes at **12.00 Noon** on **Thursday 30 January 2020.**

**If you require assistance with completing the online application form Staff at St Mary's will be available to assist you in St Mary's Junior School at 9.00am on the following dates:**

**Tuesday 14th Jan, Wednesday 15th Jan, Thursday 16th Jan**
**Tuesday 21nd Jan, Wednesday 22rd Jan, Thursday 23th Jan**
**Tuesday 28th Jan, Wednesday 29th Jan, Thursday 30st Jan**

**Further information on the application process can be found at**

**www.eani.org.uk/admissions**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Event | Date and Time |
|---|---|
| Christmas Holidays Begin | Friday 20th December 12 noon |
| Spring Term starts | Monday 6th January |
| Closing date for P1 and Nursery Applications | Thursday 30th January 12 Noon |
| P4 First Confession | Wednesday 29th January |
| P7 Service of Light | Tuesday 4th February |
| Mid Term Break | 17th– 21st February Inclusive |
| St Patricks Day Break | 16th — 17th March Inclusive |