

# St Mary's Primary School Newsletter



EVERYONE AT ST MARYS PRIMARY WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Everyone.

It has been a very busy but enjoyable first term at St Mary's Primary School. The pupils and staff through all their hard work have made a very smooth transition into the new school. It has been a pleasure to engage with the boys and girls and watch them interact with each other and witness them settle into their new learning environment. I wish to pay tribute to all staff for their on-going commitment and dedication.

We have had an eventful run up to Christmas with the children participating in a number of activities within school and in the local community.

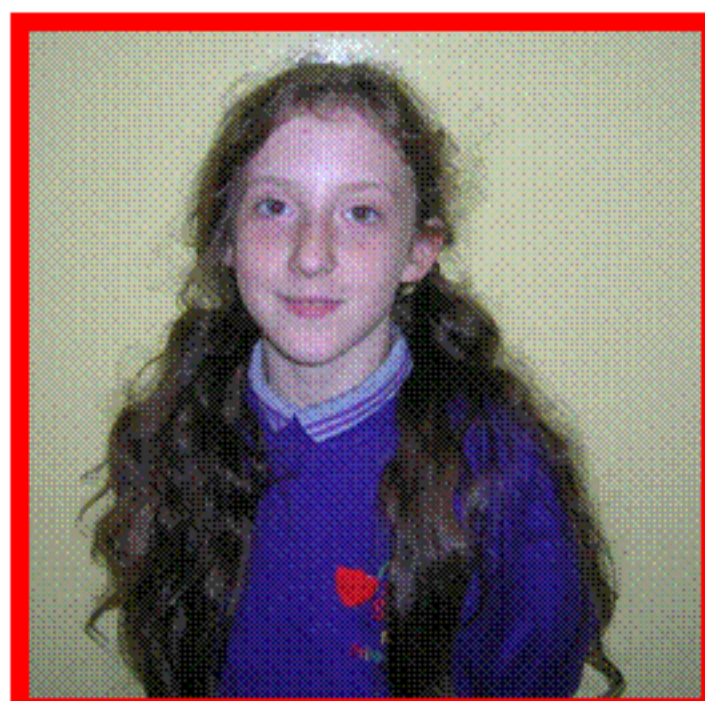
In preparation for receiving the sacrament of confirmation our year 7 pupils celebrated their Mass of Commitment on Sunday 25th November 2012. More recently the Nursery and Primary 1 children have been very busy preparing for and performing in their Christmas plays, while the pupils in the senior school played a prominent role in the Christmas Pageant on Monday 17th December. My sincere thanks to all participants, a special word of thanks to Miss Geraldine Devine and Mr Michael Bradley for the musical accompaniment and Fr Michael Doherty PP, our school chaplain who works tirelessly for our parish schools. The Christmas Pageant is always the highlight for me in depicting the true meaning of Christmas.

On behalf of St Mary's Staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in this our transition year and wish each and every family a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I look forward to working with you in 2013.

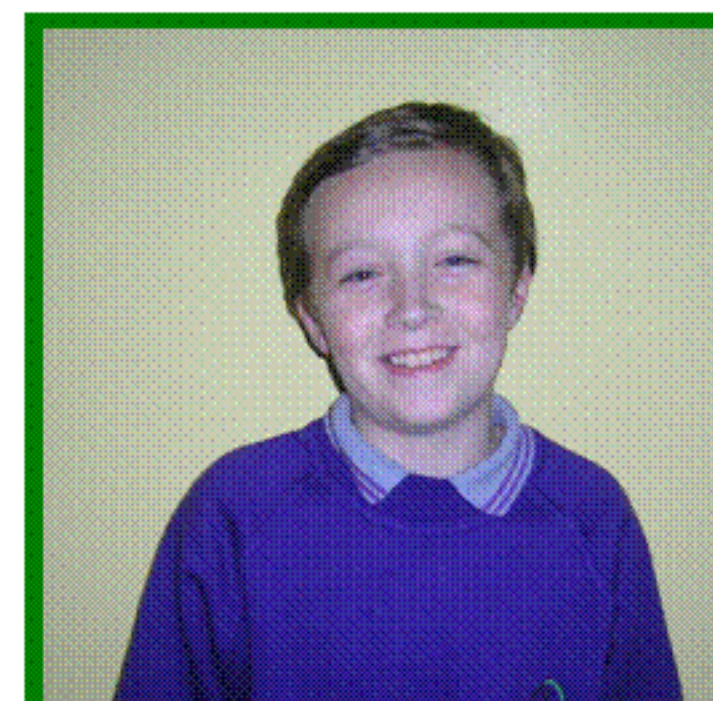
Mrs O'Doherty

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

The first school term is now over. We feel that everyone in our school has adapted to their new surroundings and have made new friends. We have enjoyed this term and we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



*Ellie McFadden  
Head Girl*



*Ethan McGillicuddy  
Head Boy*

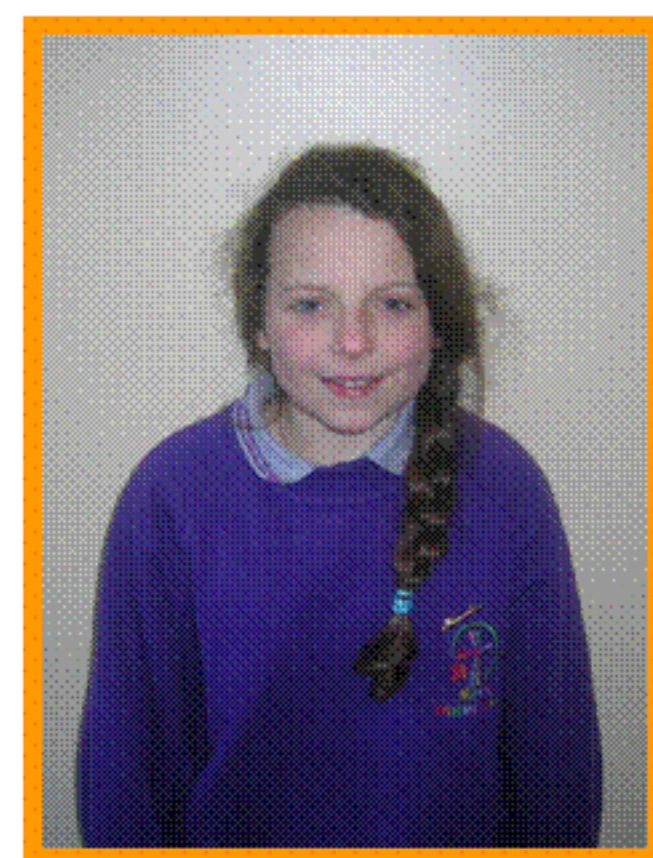


## SCHOOL COUNCIL



The inaugural meeting of St Mary's School Council took place on Wednesday 7th December at the Junior School. Representatives from each class from year 3 to year 7 were in attendance. Lots of issues were brought forward from the Class Council held the previous week. At the meeting Barry Sweeney P7B was elected Chairperson and Mallaidh Duffy P7A was elected Secretary.

*Barry Sweeney P7B  
School Council Chairperson*



*Mallaidh Duffy P7A  
School Council Secretary*

## PRIMARY ONES AND TWOS VISIT SANTA

The pupils from Primary 1 and Primary 2 enjoyed a great trip to Oakfield Park, Raphoe to visit Santa. Santa's elves greeted them on arrival and brought the children to the train station where they then boarded the train to Santa's castle round the lake. Mrs Claus was



*P1's Meet Santa*

there to welcome everyone and there were even appearances from Winnie the pooh, Rudolf and other characters along the way. Every child then got to meet Santa. A big thank you to Oakfield park for organising such a memorable day that was enjoyed by all.



*P2's on the train to Santa's Castle*

## BANK OF IRELAND DRAWING COMPETITION

Pictured below are the winners of a drawing competition run by the Bank Of Ireland for Primary 3 children. They chose a winner and a runner up in each class and because they were so impressed with the standard all pictures are being displayed in the bank and every child got a small treat. Pictured from left: Cathal Toman P3A, Consuela Patton P3B, Ellie Mae McMenamen, P3C, Adhamh Patton P3D receiving their prizes from Rhona and Cathy from Bank of Ireland.





## FOOD AND FITNESS

Our year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a Food and Fitness Programme facilitated by the Dairy Council for Northern Ireland. Children enjoyed practical workshops and discussions based on a healthy diet and exercise, all contributing to a healthy lifestyle.



*Food and Fitness Programme*



## PARENT, TEACHER, FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

St Mary's has recently formed a Parent Teachers and Friends Association. This PTFA has already organised our Grand Christmas Draw and our Christmas Disco. Members of St Mary's PTFA are pictured to the left, however new members are always welcome - more information to follow in the New Year.

*Members of the St Mary's PTFA*

## SCHOOL CHOIR

St Mary's Senior Choir consisting of year 6 and 7 pupils recently performed at the Alley Theatre in support of the charity 'Cause'. They sang two songs: Wind Beneath My Wings and Thank You For The Music. The children sang beautifully and special mention goes to Majella Gallagher P7B who sang a solo piece.

*The Senior Choir in action at Asda recently*



## SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAYS



*"The Star That Couldn't Twinkle" Nursery Play*



*"The Innkeepers Breakfast" P1 Play*

Well done to all the children in P1 who took part in "The Innkeepers Breakfast" and all the nursery children who took part in "The star that couldn't twinkle". The children put in a lot of hard work and sent the crowds of parents home happy with their fantastic performances. Congratulations also to the Nursery and P1 Teachers and Assistants for all their efforts.





## NEW FOOTBALL KIT

In a recent competition to design our new school football team kit Catherine Mallon P7B emerged as the winner of the competition. Catherine's entry was chosen by Mr Brian Haughey, Costcutter, who is sponsoring the new kit. Well Done Catherine!!!!



## MINISTER FOR SPORT FUN DAY

Two of our primary 2 classes were lucky enough to be chosen to attend a fun day as part of the Minister for Sport Schools Programme. The fun day took place in Holy Cross College and was packed with fun activities and games organised by Ulster GAA and Holy Cross College P.E. Department.



## ANTI BULLYING WEEK 19<sup>TH</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER

We raised an awareness of how to treat others during 'Anti Bullying Week', (19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November). Anti Bullying Week is a positive opportunity to remind the whole school community of our role and responsibility.

We worked with the Northern Ireland Anti Bullying Forum (NIABF) to promote the theme 'Everybody is Somebody'. NIABF defines bullying as 'a repeated use of power by one or more persons intentionally to harm, hurt or adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others.' With this statement in mind, Mrs O' Hara, (P.D.M.U Coordinator) worked closely with the Principal, Mrs O' Doherty, and the teachers to highlight this challenging issue to the children and to parents. St. Mary's Primary School will continue to highlight this issue throughout the year.

## THANK YOU!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the Donate and St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper appeals. We are grateful for your support in making this a less stressful time for some families in our local area

## THANK YOU TOO!

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr and Mrs Maurice McGettigan who kindly donated the new figures for our nativity display in the Senior site. We are sure our pupils and their parents will enjoy them for many years to come.

