



St. Luke's CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER December 2022



Principal's Message

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter 2022!

We are so excited at this time of the year and we are really looking forward to Christmas, to our joyful concerts and to our exciting Santa's visit. Pupils and staff have worked so hard to make this a time of joy and excitement for everyone.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of our school. We really feel that we are part of a wonderful warm hearted community here in Tyrrelstown. Thank you to our wonderful Parents Committee who came to help us make the Toy show treat bags for the children and who gave up their time to support us. Thank you to our local business for their Christmas raffle donations and a special thank you to Mary Egan who organised all of the gifts for the Christmas raffle.

Thank you to our Board of Management who are all volunteers and who work to create a wonderful school environment for everyone. Thank you to our staff who always go above and beyond the call of duty and most importantly - thank you to our amazing pupils who give us so much joy. We wish you all a Joyful Christmas and a safe and Peaceful New Year.

Warm regards,
Vivienne Bourke.

Important Dates

Christmas Holidays

Wednesday December 21st - School closes at 12noon. Junior and Senior Infant classes will go home at 11:50am. **Thursday January 5th** - School resumes at 9am.

Monday February 6th - St Brigid's Day -School closed on this day.

Monday February 13th until Friday February 17th
Mid-term - school closed one week.

Monsignor Eoin Thynne's Message

At the end of another year that presented many challenges, I compliment pupils and staff under the guidance of Ms Bourke and Mr Neary who demonstrated amazing strength and resilience. Thankfully, we can now appreciate the wonderful Christmas season which fills us with gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy.

The universal call to love our neighbour and to help those in need was so much part of the community throughout the year with fundraising for the Bassari Orphanage in Tanzania and Barnardos. May that generosity of spirit inspire us all to continue the work of building that kingdom of love and peace which began in such a new and radical way in Bethlehem two thousand years ago.

As we look forward to a bright and cheerful 2023, on behalf of the Parish Team, I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a most blessed Christmas season. May the new-born Child of Bethlehem be in your hearts and in your homes bringing the precious gift of Peace which only He can give.

PARISH OF ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST
MULHUDDART - TYRRELSTOWN - HOLLYSTOWN
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2022

Christmas Eve (Saturday)
6.30pm., 9.00pm. & Midnight

Christmas Day (Sunday)
10.00am. & 12.00noon

School Raffle

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the school raffle and to Ms Browne for organising it again this year. All money collected will go towards school resources and Bassari Orphanage in Tanzania, Africa.



Stay Safe Programme

The Stay Safe programme is a personal safety skills programme which is taught across all Irish primary schools. In St. Luke's N.S, this programme will be taught from January - March 2023 at the following class levels: Junior Infants, 1st class, 3rd class and 5th class. An information sheet will go home with your child before the programme starts in January. During the programme, children will bring home worksheets that you can talk about with your child. A parent's guide to the Stay Safe programme can be found here: [https://www.staysafe.ie/PDFs/Parents/Stay-Safe-Parent's-Guide-\(Print\).pdf](https://www.staysafe.ie/PDFs/Parents/Stay-Safe-Parent's-Guide-(Print).pdf)

We look forward to starting the programme in January!

Say Yes to Languages

Mr Costello's, Ms Jordan's, Ms Mahady's and Ms Quinn's classes have been learning a new language - Romanian. They have had a lovely tutor called Nadea Cucos who has taught them one hour of the Romanian language for 8 weeks this term. Each class has loved learning the new language.



Maths Week

We all had lots of fun celebrating Maths Week in October. There was great participation from all classes. Some of the activities included daily topics, quizzes, Maths trails, peer learning and looking at Maths in our environment. Well done to everyone involved! Many thanks to Mr Hickey and Ms McGuane for organising Maths Week activities.



School Choir

A number of our students from the school choir will be involved in this year's Peace Proms. It is an event that gives children an opportunity to sing at a live performance with thousands of other children from across the country, accompanied by a full symphony orchestra. Our Peace Proms Choir will be performing at the RDS in February. A huge thank you to Ms Mahady, Ms McGuane and Breda, who are preparing the choir for this wonderful event. Picture below from the workshop in December that choir attended to prepare for this event.



Readathon 2022

The children in Ms. Lennon's third class have enjoyed reading this term. They visited the mobile library and are almost finished reading Roald Dahl's classic 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. For the month of November, they read as many books as they could for **MS Readathon** and raised a fantastic €98.80 for the very worthy cause. Well done to all the boys and girls who took part!



Blanchardstown Library

A sensory toy collection is now available for borrowing in Blanchardstown Library. These toys can be enjoyed by all children in the community and particularly by children with autism and other neurodiverse conditions. Details on what toys are available, as well as a list of books which may be of use can be viewed online or in a brochure at the main desk in the library.

Quiet time in Blanchardstown Library is 6.30pm to 7.30 pm on Monday evenings.





Active Schools



The Active school committee (reps) have been really busy this term. Recently they organised an *Active Break Every Day Challenge* over a 4-week period in the months of November and December which children really enjoyed. The aim of the challenge was to try and bring in more physical activity into the school day. The children enjoyed a variety of workout exercises, games and dancing.



Earlier this term the Active school reps conducted a survey of our 1st, 3rd and 5th class pupils to find out about the different clubs they are members of in our local community. We are lucky to have lots of great clubs in our area such as;

- Tyrrelstown United Soccer Club
- Tyrrelstown GAA Club
- Tyrrelstown Karate
- KStar Dance Academy
- National Aquatic Centre for swimming and other activities
- Caba Irish Dancing Academy
- Sonics Basketball
- Tyrrelstown Taekwondo

FAI

The children in Ms Barrett, Ms Quinn and Mr Lynch's class have been enjoying soccer training sessions with our fantastic coach Kevin from FAI during November and December. This initiative is supported by the Fingal Sports Organisation.



Tennis

The children in Ms Quinn's, Ms Jordan's, Mr Costello's and Ms Sturzel's classes have been enjoying some fun tennis coaching sessions with our fantastic coach Rob during the months of November and December. This wonderful initiative is also supported by Fingal County Council and Tennis Ireland.



Basketball

Our school basketball teams had recent games against St Francis Xavier School, Hansfield Educate Together and Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg. This was a Dublin 15 league and we are delighted that we won both the Girls League and the Boys League. Well done to all involved!



GAA



Junior infants have been enjoying learning new skills with Mark from Tyrresstown GAA club. He will be back in January for more sessions with junior infants. The club also runs an academy for boys and girls aged 4 to 6 years every Saturday morning and Wednesday evenings.

Green Schools



The Green school committee is working towards a fifth flag this year for Biodiversity. Lots of initiatives have started last year and this year to apply for this flag. In October a team of volunteers began the ground preparation for our outdoor forest project or "stepping stone forest". The area was prepared by laying down cardboard and bark mulch so as to warm up the soil over the coming months in time for planting over 300 native Irish trees in March. Many thanks to all the children that brought in cardboard and the children that got a chance to take part on the day. Be sure to check back in March 2023 when we will be planting our trees! Follow the link to view a short video captured on the day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHFiiBrsJfw>





Christmas Art Around Our School



Christmas Concerts

See some of the great performances below.



Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!