

St. Luke's Christmas Newsletter 2023



Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Pupils

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter 2023!

We are so excited at this time of the year and we are really looking forward to the Christmas festivities. Our Christmas concerts and our Santa's visit bring so much joy to all. The 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 are so lucky to have the support of the wonderful warm hearted community here in Tyrrelstown. Thank you to our wonderful Parents Committee who gave up their time to support us this year. 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 outgoing Board of Management and welcome to our new incoming Board of Management who are all volunteers, 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 everyday. We wish you all a Joyful Christmas and a safe and Peaceful New Year.

Warm regards
Vivienne Bourke



Board of Management Update

The Board of Management commenced a new term on December 1st 2023 and will operate until November 30th 2027. The Board manages the school on behalf of the patron and is accountable to the Patron and the Minister of Education and Skills. The Board must uphold the ethos of the school and is accountable to the patron for doing so. Our principal is responsible for the day to day management of the school which includes providing guidance and direction to staff in our school community.

The active school committee has organised the school to get involved in Olympic Movement Breaks which are exercises and activities that students of all abilities can do. On Friday the 10th of November, St Luke's had the honour of helping to launch this new Olympic Movement break programme for primary students with Irish Olympic Athletes Leon Dwyer (Break-Dancer) in collaboration with the Olympic Federation of Ireland's Dare to Believe programme and RTE's children's News2Day.

Have a look at the video here <https://www.rte.ie/video/id/8495/>



Art Competition



Texaco Children's Art Competition marks its 70th anniversary and we are encouraging all budding artists to participate in a national celebration of Children's Art. The closing date for entry is **Wednesday, 28th February 2024**. The children can enter through the school by giving their entry to their teacher. Each entrant must complete an Application Form for each entry that they submit to the competition.

Check out the website for rules and more information. <https://www.texacochildrensart.com/>



Cycling

Fifth classes have been enjoying cycling lessons this term. They were given helmets and got on the bikes brought in by their cycling instructors. They have been learning all about road safety, how to be safe when cycling on busy roads and how to stay in control of a bike.



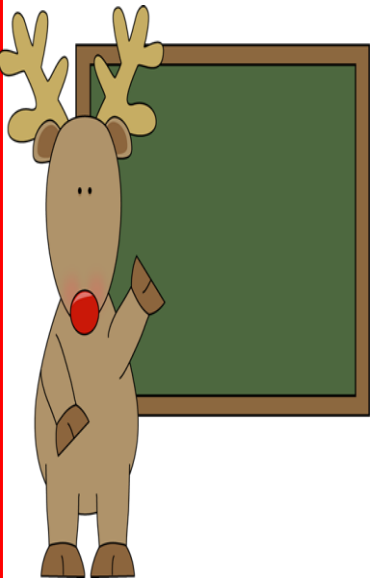
GAA



Mark from Tyrrelstown GAA has been in this term coaching junior and senior infants. They have loved all the games and the basic skills of GAA he has introduced or revisited with them over the last number of weeks especially their recent Christmas themed games such as making a snowman. Many thanks to Mark.

Increase in RSV infections

We are currently seeing a significant increase in the RSV virus (<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/rsv/>), a common winter viral infection which is of particular concern for babies. Symptoms of RSV viral infections, can one or more of the following such as: a runny or blocked nose, mild fever, cough lethargy (tiredness). Most children with viral infections, including RSV can safely be cared for at home. More information can be found at <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/colds-coughs-children/>.



Stay Safe



This 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 2024 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!

School Choir



Well done to Ms Mahady and children from our school choir who took part in fundraising for the Simon community at Blanchardstown Shopping Centre on Tuesday December 12th. They sang beautifully and our entire school community is incredibly proud of them for raising money for such a worthy cause.



Swimming



Third classes have just completed their six week block of swimming lessons this term at the National Aquatic Centre. Swimming is an important skill and an integral part of the PE Curriculum. Well done to all who participated and helped getting the children to lessons!

Christmas Message - Monsignor Eoin Thynne



On behalf of Fr Adrian, I extend Christmas greetings and blessings to all of you. The blessings of Christmas are not just for Christians, but also for people of all faiths and no faiths and for all of God's creation. May the love of the child Jesus touch your life during this wonderful season in whatever form it comes to you. During this time, it is important to take a moment to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us, but also to pray for those who are facing challenges at this time. The birth of Jesus signifies a new beginning for all of us. A time for renewed hope, peace, love and new beginnings.

When I browse through the school website, I am reminded of the many educational initiatives that take place in St Luke's day by day, week by week. This is a testament to the hard work, dedication and professionalism of Ms Bourke the Principal, Mr Neary Deputy Principal and staff who work tirelessly for the benefit of the pupils. How blessed we are to have such wonderful staff. As we now come to the close of this calendar year, may we celebrate the coming of Jesus among us with his message of Love and Peace and may the New Year be a time of hope and happiness for all.



PARISH OF ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST MULHUDDART - TYRRELSTOWN - HOLLYSTOWN CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Christmas Eve (Sunday)

10.00am., 12.00 noon, 6.30pm., 9.00pm. & Midnight

Christmas Day (Monday)

10.00am. & 12.00noon

Ukulele Lessons



Fourth classes were delighted to do ukulele lessons, as an option for their music lessons in our school again this year! The ukulele is a small, guitar-like instrument and children were lucky to begin lessons this term. Each of the fourth classes have thoroughly enjoyed learning ukulele with their teacher Ian Kinsella. Thank you so much to Ian for all of his help and guidance, they had so much fun!

School Carpark

Please be very careful when using the car park. It can get very busy at drop-off and pick-up times. Please do not block the one-way system by stopping, waiting or even parking! Above all, drive slow to make sure all our children stay safe.

Important Dates

Christmas Holidays: Closing Friday 22nd December @ 12noon. Junior and Senior Infant classes will go home at 11:50am. The school re-opens on Monday, 8th January 2024.

Public Holiday: Monday, 5th February 2024 - St. Brigid's Day.

February Mid-term Break: Monday 12th to Friday 16th February 2024.

Public Holiday: Monday, 18th March 2024 - St. Patrick's Day.

Easter 2024: Closing Friday, 22nd March 11.50a.m (infants) @ 12noon.

Junior and Senior Infant classes will go home at 11:50am. The school re-opens on Monday, 8th April 2024.

There will be a school closure during this school year to facilitate staff training in the Primary Math Curriculum. We will notify parents as soon as we are made aware of the date.



Christmas Concerts

Our Christmas concerts are always one of our absolute favourite events of the school year and we very much looked forward to this year's performances on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th of December. A special thank you to all the teachers and staff who put in so much work getting the children ready for the stage. Thank you also for your generous raffle ticket purchase on the day all monies raised will go towards Barnardos in Mulhuddart and school resources.



Christmas Art

As always see some of the amazing art around the school at Christmas.



Wishing all of our families a very happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful New Year!

