

# St. Catherine's Nursery School

Principal: Mrs. Bridget Wilders B.Ed. P.G. Dip.Ed. P.Q.H.

Email: bwilders592@c2kni.net



## JUNIOR SITE

Phone: (028) 7138 2272

Fax: (028) 7138 2139

Strabane  
Co. Tyrone  
BT82 8HT

## SENIOR SITE

Phone: (028) 7138 2614

Fax: (028) 7138 2482

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St Catherines PS, Strabane



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Monthly Newsletter : December 2019

Check us out on our website: [www.stcatherinesps.co.uk](http://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk)

## BREAKING NEWS

Wear your Christmas Jumper  
and eat your Christmas Dinner  
Day .....

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December!

### Join in the fun!



### P.T.F.A.

We have a PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association) whose members work so hard to raise funds for our school in order to best support our little children. We invite everyone that is available to come along and join our wee group. The work of the PTFA involves mainly fundraising activities for our wee pupils so that we can provide the little extras for them in school!!! Everyone is welcome! Your child's school needs you!! Our next PTFA Meeting this school year will take place on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm in Junior School** Assembly Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Special Visitors Travelling to St. Catherine's !!

**Ho! Ho! HO! Special visitors from the North Pole will visit the JUNIOR School on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December and will visit the Senior School on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December!**



## Safeguarding Request

We respectfully ask that parents and visitors do not use Mobile Phones while in the school building. This is for Child Protection and Safeguarding Reasons.

Many thanks!



### Have you changed your mobile phone number and do we know about it?

It is vitally important that we have up to date contact numbers for our parents/ carers in the event that we need to contact you regarding your child. If you have not updated your mobile phone number with us please do so by letting the Clerical Staff immediately. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



## Updated School Attendance Policy

Our little children should be encouraged to keep their attendance **NO LESS THAN 90%**. If attendance falls below 90% then a letter will be sent from school to raise awareness. It is understood that from time to time children may have illness which prevents them from coming to school. If this happens your child please let the school know as soon as possible and send a **WRITTEN NOTE** with your child explaining the absence when they return to school so that teachers can change the attendance code on the computer system which reflects this explanation. If your child experiences any other issues that prevents them from being able to attend school, please approach the teacher immediately and all efforts will be made to help and support. Remember if your child misses school, they miss out! (Please note that attendance at Nursery is not compulsory but we encourage good school attendance practices for all our little pupils!)

Thank you!



## Scheduled School Closures

School will be closed on **THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** due to the elections as our school is used as a **POLLING STATION**. Many apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

School will also close at 12 Noon on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

For the Christmas Holidays and will reopen again as usual on

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**



**We take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, parents, families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous, healthy New Year 2020. God bless you all!**

**A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
and Happy New Year!**

## The Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit of Giving

Every year the staff of St. Catherine's Primary School make this little appeal to parents .....

Our staff know that you and your child really appreciate the work that they do in educating our children and we know that Christmas is a time of great joy but there is also hardship for some. To this end we ask that instead of spending money on a Christmas Gift for staff, that you might like to make a small donation to the class teacher in school and this will be invested in two main charitable causes this year.....

1. Trocaire Gifts for those in Need in Developing Countries
2. Help the Homeless in our own Local Area.

This is a voluntary gesture only. We hope that you understand and appreciate the gesture that we are all trying to make in the spirit of giving and generosity.

Thank you!





# Prayer of the Month for December

Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint

The Lord never lets us down

Pope Francis

## Advent Prayer

Jesus, we are waiting with joyful hearts  
to remember and celebrate the wonder of your birth.  
You came into the world as a helpless baby,  
but already you were holding within your tiny, beating heart  
a beautiful hope for mankind: a sacred dream  
in which we live together in peace, love, and truth.  
Throughout this time of waiting, may we do our very best  
to turn your sacred dream for us into reality, so that at Christmas  
we can offer you a present for your birthday,  
fashioned out of peace and perfect love.

Amen



# PATHS Quote of the Month December



We are delighted that our school is a PATHS Model School and that PATHS is taught in all classes from Nursery right through to Primary 7. The PATHS programme involves lots of fun activities dealing with important issues such as Feelings, Behaviours, Solving Problems, Making Friends and Self-Esteem. It links directly with our Personal Development and Mutual Understanding curriculum and aims to help children develop the fundamental skills needed for life. From time to time your child will have fun home activities to complete relating to the programme. Get involved! Ask your child in the coming weeks about our fantastic PATHS programme and help prepare them with the essential skills they need for their life ahead. There will be an inspirational PATHS quote each month in our newsletter highlighting key PATHS ideas.

Check out December's quote...

*Mirror, mirror on the wall, Give a compliment  
and that's not all, Make it nice, make it kind, A  
deserving person is easy to find.*



## ONLINE DIGITAL ADMISSION PROCESS

For any parent who could not attend the Open Afternoons but have a child due to start Nursery or Year 1 in September 2020, we are offering “Drop IN” Sessions as the applications have to be online. If you would like to book a session they run from 7-1-20 until 17-1-20. If you wish to book a session please give Mrs Clare Kelly (Clerical Officer) Senior School a wee ring on 02871 382614 OPTION 1 and she will be happy to book you in!!

Some sessions have been booked already.

You DO NOT have to attend these sessions but if you do the staff in school will help you make your application online there and then and you can be confident that all has been done and breathe a sigh of relief! Please note that you will need to have the following with you.....

1. YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL username and know your password
2. Your child's birth certificate
3. Your proof of address
4. DSS Income Support Form (Only if this applies to you!)



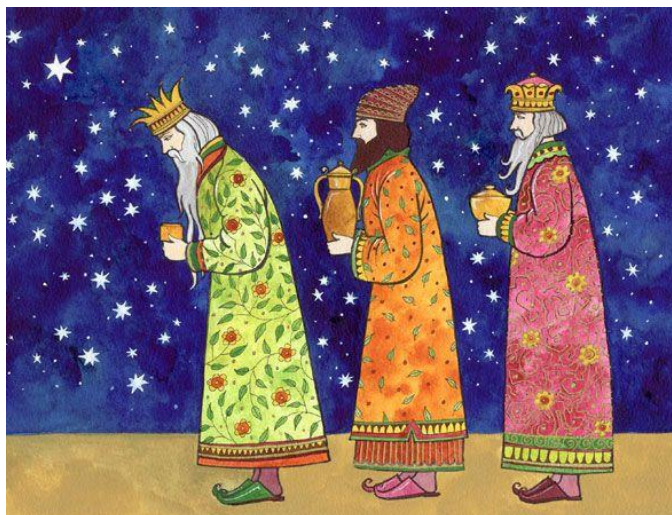
## **Junior School Christmas Nativity Production : A Gift for a King.**

Our Annual Junior Christmas Nativity Production which will involve all pupils from **Nursery, Year 1 , Year 2 and Year 3** will take place in St. Patrick's Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. The Nativity Production this year is called "A Gift for a King." This is always a very special event and really puts us all in the mood for Christmas.

**Happy Birthday  
Baby Jesus!**



The story of the first  
Christmas



### **Tickets : (PLEASE COMPLETE ATTACHED TICKET PURCHASE SHEET)**

Each child from Nursery – Year 3 will have **THREE** tickets reserved for them.

St. Patrick's Hall has enough seats to allow for each child from Nursery, Year 1 , Year 2 and Year 3 pupils to have **THREE** tickets each. Tickets will cost £5 each.

This year to avoid stress (of queueing to seek tickets) for our parents, we are sending home a reply slip to enable each child to have their family purchase their **THREE** tickets in advance in school. When the reply slip is returned with the amount of tickets indicated and money sent, we will send the tickets home.

The **THREE** tickets can be purchased all for the same night or the **THREE** tickets can be split between the two nights for example **TWO** for one night and **ONE** for another night etc. It must be noted however that due to the seat allocation in St. Patrick's Hall, each child (Nursery – Year 3 )can only have **THREE** tickets purchased at this point. All tickets should be paid for when the reply slip is returned. The reply slip should be returned **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER**.

If all reply slips are not returned / purchased by **WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**, any tickets not claimed will be released for sale on a first come first served basis from the offices on each site.



Please see below the Days / Times for Sale of UNCLAIMED TICKETS.

Dates (FOR PURCHASE OF UNCLAIMED TICKETS)	Times
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	8.45am-9.15am 2.15pm-3pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	8.45am-9.15am 2.15pm-3pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	8.45am-9.15am 2.15pm-3pm
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	8.45am-9.15am 2.15pm-3pm

We will let you know by text message if there are unclaimed tickets available for purchase.

As always every year, our wee children are so excited about their Annual Production. Our staff are excited too! It is always a lovely event. Parents have also shared with us .....

“It’s not Christmas until we see the wee Nativity Play!”

Enjoy your wee children!

**DVD of our Nativity Production “A Gift for a King”.**

Our Nativity Production will be recorded for DVD. A souvenir DVD will be available for parents to purchase if they wish to at a keen price of £5 (which has remained the same every year). If you wish to have a copy of the show .....please reserve your copy by completing the attached pre order form.



## **Arrangements for the nights of our Nativity Show in St. Patrick's Hall**

Each child from Nursery – Year 3 should arrive at St. Patrick's Hall at 6.30pm and enter via the side STAGE DOOR. Staff will be waiting for children upstairs in the Minor Hall. Children should arrive at the hall in their show clothes as outlined by the class teacher. Children should then be collected again from the hall at 8.30pm approx..

### **Strabane Feis**

It's that time of year again.....we are a school that places so much emphasis on providing a variety of opportunities for our children's learning. We promote a love of learning in the classroom and beyond for all subjects, sport music and drama too! Feis promotes confidence and aptitude in Speech and Language, Drama and Music in particular. It is quite a skill to get up in front of an audience to say a poem, make a speech, sing a song or play an instrument! Regardless of what level each child can perform at, we acknowledge the effort that any child makes in order to take part in the Feis..... this is overcoming fear at such a young age and promoting a skill that will serve our children well in the future! We encourage all our children from Nursery – Year 7 to take part in the Feis events and teachers will encourage and promote this in school also!



There is a Speech Feis and a Music Feis.

Speech Feis will take place from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Music Feis will take place from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Cost of Individual Entry to the Feis will be £1.50. The closing Date for entries to the Feis will be Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.**

Sometimes we notice that children do not enter the Feis by the closing date and then when they hear all the children rehearsing for Feis in school, they want to enter then but it's too late! We advise that children strongly consider entering by the closing date as they will be guaranteed to enjoy it and join in the fun of it with their class in the lead up to the event itself!

All children who enter the Feis will get a certificate of participation from school..... regardless of the adjudicator's decision in St. Patrick's Hall!!

The poems and songs for the Feis will be sent out after Christmas.

## **Speech Feis Events**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Year Groups who can enter</b>
Verse Speaking Girls	Nursery- Year 7
Verse Speaking Boys	Nursery – Year 7
2 Minute Speech	Year 6 & 7 Pupils only
Creative Verse	Years 5.6 and 7 Pupils only

It is to be noted that various class teachers may also enter an entire class for the Choral Poem Competitions.

## **Music Feis Events**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Year Groups who can enter</b>
Girls' Song	Nursery- Year 7
Boys' Song	Nursery – Year 7
Sacred Solo	Years 5.6 and 7 Pupils only

It is to be noted that our choirs in school may also enter competitions in the Feis under the direction of the Choir Directors.

**More details will follow in the January Monthly Newsletter.**

Play your part right from  
the start...I need you to talk and  
play everyday



Sing a rhyme anytime  
Start your child learning  
for a lifetime!

 South Eastern Health  
and Social Care Trust

 Public Health  
Agency



**SureStart**





# St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

## December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. KS2 Choir Strabane Craft Fair	2.  Extended Schools:  Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS	3.	4.	5. Senior School Choir ... Guildhall Square Memorial Event, Extended Schools: Year 7 Gp 2 Boys & Girls Soccer Club 3-4pm JS	6. Year 5 Swimming Week 9. Families Connect Celebration Year 6 Shared Assembly at 2pm in Senior School	7.
8.	9. Whole School Flu Vaccination Extended Schools:  Year 6 & 7 Netball 3– 4pm JS  Year 5 & 6 Soccer Club 2-3pm cc	10. Choir Group to Visit Day Centre @ 11am  Nativity Show 7pm St Pat's Hall.	11.  Nativity Show 7pm St Pat's Hall.	12.  Election Day:  School closed.	13. Year 5 Swimming Week 10.  Christmas Dinner/ Christmas Jumper Day.  Senior Choir in Alley Theatre at 7pm.	14. P4 Do this in Memory Mass at 6.30pm in Church of the Immaculate Conception.
15. Choirs by Candlelight in Church of the Immaculate Conception. Senior & Junior Choirs	16. Pantomime "Snow White", Derry, Senior Site.  <b>NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK</b>	17. Pantomime "Snow White", Derry, Junior Site. (Years 1-4)  Years 1-2 should be collected at 2.45pm	18. Santa to visit Junior Site Christmas Party Senior Site	19. Santa to visit Senior Site Christmas Party Junior Site  <b>NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS</b>	20. Christmas Holidays: School Closes at 12 noon.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
29.	30.	31.				

Show a little kindness today, tomorrow could be too late.



## Tickets for our Nativity Production :

### A Gift for a King

We would like to purchase tickets for the Nativity Production in St. Patrick's Hall.

We understand that our child has been allocated **three** tickets.

We would like the following:

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December :  Tickets (0,1,2 or 3)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December :  Tickets (0,1,2 or 3)

We enclose £  for the above tickets.

**We understand that we can only purchase THREE tickets in total for my child at the moment but we understand that unclaimed tickets may become available on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/ Guardians of : \_\_\_\_\_

Class : \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

