

December 2014



Best wishes to all our families
for a happy and peaceful festive
season and New Year!



Santa's Visit: A special caller paid a visit to the school on Wednesday, 17th December. What a wonderful surprise to hear the familiar ring of his bell and to see Santa smiling at our door! This was followed by a lovely afternoon spent listening to Santa's heart-warming stories and also listening to his lovely songs. After that we entertained him with our own singing and performed, for him, some dances from our Christmas play. He was really impressed! Before saying goodbye, we made sure to remind him of the presents that we hoped he would bring on Christmas Day. Many thanks to Nathan's Daddy for ensuring Santa was put safely on his way, back home to the North Pole.....

Attendance: We had a huge percentage of pupils from both classes who achieved full attendance this term. Well done and keep up this great effort. Thanks also to parents, who obviously recognise the importance of regular school attendance in supporting your child's success at school.

Weekly Awards: Congratulations to those pupils, chosen for outstanding effort in school work or behaviour, effort and perseverance. Those pupils who impressed staff received the 'Star of the Week' award or the 'Corn Gaeilge'. We know that parents celebrate these achievements with us and will encourage children to continue to do their best in 2015.

Literacy Initiative: As we strive to promote improved reading accuracy, hence greater enjoyment in reading, we will, once again, ask parents to become involved in our 'Paired Reading' initiative. When we commence the new term, teachers will explain the steps involved in this reading programme, a record booklet will be distributed to each pupil and then pupils will take home his/her chosen book each night to read aloud with his/her parents.

Sacraments: A reminder that the Ceremony of Confirmation will be held at 3pm on Sunday, 1st March 2015, in the Sacred Heart Church, Clones, while First Holy Communion will be held at 9am on Sunday, 10th May, 2015, in St. Alphonsus Church, Connons. We will inform parents of details pertaining to the preparation of these sacraments once they are available.

Parent Association: We congratulate our Parent Association Committee – Brenda McCaffrey, Martina Crudden and John Connolly, for organising another very successful Christmas raffle and cake sale. The raffle earned a total of €1886, while the cake sale brought in €236.90. Sincere thanks to parents for the fabulous effort put into baking such a vast array of cakes and 'goodies' for the cake sale! We wish our P.A. every success for the remainder of the year.

Recycling: We are most grateful for your continued support of the clothes recycling scheme. Our last collection in November amounted to €170, which will be used to fund our music classes. As more bags have been dropped into the school, we envisage holding another collection early in the New Year.

Pantomime: On Tuesday, 16th December our junior pupils travelled to the Garage Theatre, Monaghan for the annual school pantomime. The production, 'Cuckoo Connolly's Curious Clock Shop', was a real Christmas treat and was thoroughly enjoyed by all pupils.

Christmas Play: Once again we thoroughly enjoyed presenting our Christmas play

Numeracy Matters: Monitoring and evaluating are at the heart of school improvement. It is an ongoing process of looking at curriculum areas to ascertain where we can do better. This year we are gathering information on numeracy matters. Hence, through a questionnaire and a focus group we will be seeking parents' support in supplying us with information and concerns experienced with Maths homework. Data gathered will be analysed, with a view to raising mathematical standards, even further, in the coming years.

Educational Games: Through recent fundraising efforts such as the flower sale and the Christmas raffle, both euro and sterling amounts were received. Sterling amounting to £50 was used to purchase educational games for both classrooms.

Largy College's 'Showtime': We spent an enjoyable morning's entertainment in Largy College on Wednesday, 17th December. The songs, dancing and acting 'sketches' were exciting and it was lovely to see past pupil Peter Clarke involved in the show. We thank Principal, Ms. Sharon Magennis for the invitation to go to the show's rehearsal.

‘Gold, Frankincense and Mirth’, to a super audience. The pupils treated us to another spectacular performance. Our thanks to Phyllis Somerville and her helpers – Martina and Stephanie - for addressing make-up matters, which greatly enhanced the overall production. Thanks also to the efforts of Mrs. Pennell for ensuring the play was another major success!! We greatly appreciate the generosity of people who donated prizes to the raffle and who also bought tickets. The sum of €475 was raised on the night.

Christmas Break: St. Comgall’s N.S. will be closed from Monday, 22nd December, 2014 to Friday, 2nd January, 2015. It will re-open at 9.20am on Monday, 5th January 2015.

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)