

St Joseph's BNS Newsletter

December 2024



Happy Christmas to all

What a term it has been! We have so much to be thankful for: our kind wonderful pupils, our hardworking friendly staff and our committed supportive parents. It has been a delight seeing everyone giving their all to make our school a fun and happy learning environment for all.

As the calendar year draws to a close and the Christmas spirit is in full swing, we take this opportunity to look back on what has been a busy and productive first term. Our newsletter will mention the highlights of the term – please head to our website [here](#) for more pictures and details.

The boys have been busy with all things festive from Christmas art to writing their Santa letters. As we wrap up the year, check out our Infant Christmas performances, festive activities and moments of togetherness. Wishing everyone a warm and joyful Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

Special events featured on our website [here](#)

- Junior and Senior Infant Plays
- Christmas Jumper and Cake Sale Day
- Intel Mini Scientist Awards
- Christmas Door Competition
- Christmas Carol Service



Infant Nativity Play



Have a Green Christmas!

Our Green School team has worked hard this year and continues to raise awareness on Green Issues. This year's theme is 'Food Waste and Global Citizenship'. One third of the food we buy ends up in the bin. As a nation that is one million tonnes of food, enough to fill Croke Park two and a half times. A scary fact! We hope to grow our own food in school and at home in 2025. In January we will clear out our garden and prepare it for planting seeds from February onwards. We hope to grow vegetables and also flowering plants to encourage wildlife. In particular we want to provide a safe haven for bees to come to our garden as one third of our bee species are threatened with extinction. We need our bees as they are our main pollinators. Remember also this Christmas to think GREEN and apply the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. We are encouraging everyone to think about the packaging food comes in and to buy local foods in season. All these little actions make a big difference!



Our Green Team



Our Student Council

Our student council has had a busy term. They are focusing on well-being and checking in with their classmates and bringing the student voice to decisions made in school.

The boys organised the Christmas Door Competition for the second year in a row. They had the tough job of judging the winning door for the junior section, senior section, and the non-classroom sections. The winners (Ms Larmer's Class, Mr O'Riain's Class and Ms O'Riordan's Class) will chose their prize in January. Well done to all the classes for participating and putting so much effort in. The school looks amazing! Images of all the Christmas doors are on our website [here](#).



Christmas Door Art!



The Grinch and Santa with reindeer



Christmas lights, Gingerbread house and Gingerbread man and Santa's very busy workshop



Poor Santa stuck in the chimney and Happy Snowman Christmassy scenes.



Santa's Workshop and Olaf 'happy out'



Upcoming Events

School is closed Mon 23rd December for the Christmas holidays. We welcome our boys back on January 6th, 2024.

Check the school website for more important dates and events [here](#).



Values that are important to us

As you may know here in St Joseph's we are on a restorative practice journey. As part of the journey we are focusing on the values we hold as a school community. Values such as honesty, fairness, empathy, compassion, respect, and equity. Each month we explore what those values mean to us and how we live out these values. So far we have explored respect and kindness and for December we are looking at these values in the form of 'friendship'. The boys have explored what friendship means to them and have written poems, short stories and created art pieces to reflect their thoughts.

Bestie (noun): an irreplaceable person, someone who is by your side throughout all of life's dramas no matter their own troubles, a person who accepts your weirdness and loves you anyway, someone who laughs with you and cries with you, the best thing you can have and the best thing you can be'.

