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**Dear Parent / Guardian,**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1st December 2015 |  |  |

St. Denis’ Primary Newsletter 5

**I can hardly believe that the Christmas Season is almost upon us…please see below very important dates / events for your diary during the month of December.**

**A ‘HUGE THANK YOU’ to Parents**

We would like to offer sincere thanks to Mr McGilly and ‘Mitie’ for providing us with ‘outdoor activity tables’ for our Infant yard. The children are very excited about these new additions and very much look forward to playing on them. Also, thank you to Mr Young who very kindly gave of his own time to paint our new ‘First Aid Room’. We are hoping the flooring will be laid imminently, by Carpet Right, and that we can get our ‘First Aid Room’ up and running again.

Another thank you goes to our Parent Council who have very kindly given us £150 towards very much needed new Nativity costumes.

**Parent Council Meeting**

Our next Parent Council Meeting is on the **7th of December, 6.00pm – 7.00pm**.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass**

Our **Primary 5/4** class will lead Mass on **Tuesday 8th of December**, at St. Anne’s Parish 9.30am Mass. We will be looking for Parent Helpers to escort all of the children to and from Mass. Please inform our Office Staff if you are available to help escort our children. Thank you.

**Determined to Animate**  
Primary 7 have been developing their understanding and use of different technologies throughout Terms 1 and 2 by participating in Glasgow's ‘Determined to Animate’ competition.  They have learned how to use animation software, plan and film scenes and put it all together with sound, to create an engaging short animated film.  Their finished piece was shown at the Award Ceremony alongside other participating schools entries at the iMAX cinema in November. **(Ms Pattison)  
  
St. Denis' Primary Choir**  
The St. Denis' Primary Choir recently participated in their first joint performance at the St. Andrew's Cantata at the Wellington Church on University Avenue.  They sang their hearts out and have since been asked to perform at a number of events in the run up to Christmas!  Please see below for upcoming choir performances:  
  
**2nd December St. Denis' Primary Christmas Fayre   
9th December Caroling at St Enoch's Centre for Ronald McDonald House  
Date to be confirmed Costa Coffee at the Forge Shopping Centre  
Date to be confirmed Joint Caroling with St. Anne's Primary Choir**  
Friends and family are more than welcome to come along to show their support for the boys and girls who are working very hard to prepare for all their performances! **(Ms Pattison)**

**FRUITY FRIDAY IS BACK**!

As a Health Promoting School, we try to encourage our children to make healthy food choices. Every Friday pupils are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to school with them or they can bring money to buy something from our healthy tuck shop. Each week our Health Representatives will go around the classes to find out who the healthiest class of the week are. Thank you in advance for your support. **(Ms McGee)**

**After School Classes**

We are currently running several ‘After School’ classes which are listed below for your information:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **After School Class** | **Teacher** | **Day** | **Time** | **Children Involved** |
| Dance | Dance Coach | Thursday | 3.00 – 4.00 | P4 - 7 |
| Football | Football Coach | Tuesday | 3.00 – 4.00 | P4 - 5 |
| Football | Football Coach | Wednesday | 3.00 – 4.00 | P6 - 7 |
| Christmas Enterprise | Ms Graham | Thursday | 3.15 – 4.15 | P6 - 7 |
| Food Craft | Mrs Dickson | Wednesday | 3.00 – 4.00 | P4 |
| Netball | Ms McGee | Monday | 3.00 – 4.00 | P6 - 7 |

**Thank you to all of our teachers and coaches who are leading our ‘After School’ Classes.**

We will endeavour to plan ‘After School’ Classes for the younger children when the lighter nights come in.

**St. Denis’ Primary School Website**

We are in the process of updating our school website. Please take the time to peruse the site to learn about past and planned events. Our new school hand book and all newsletters from August 2015 have been downloaded onto the site: [**http://www.st-denis-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/**](http://www.st-denis-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/)

**Financial Education**

As part of ‘Money Week’, Primary 3 held a fundraising event called, ‘Line of Pennies’, to help support the **World Wildlife Fund,** which the children voted to support. On Friday during the Parent Showcase of Money Week, the children displayed their line of pennies which crossed the entire Dining Hall!!! All the pennies collected were donated to the WWF which helps endangered animals throughout the world. Well done Primary 3! **(Ms Waugh)**

As part of our Money Week, Primary 5/4 were looking at money from all around the world. We set up a travel agent shop in our class and looked at different currencies and exchange rates. The children were able to look at and discuss real money from different countries as well as undertake independent research.

****After learning about currencies, the children also came up with some ‘top tips’ for dealing with money in real life contexts. We were able to use technology to create cash machines and travel shops, as well as accessing the internet to further develop understanding. Primary 5/4 were lucky enough to have the opportunity to share their learning with the rest of the school at the **‘Money Week Assembly’**. All of the children in the class participated in the Assembly and in the preparations. The children were enthusiastic and very successful throughout this learning experience. Well done primary 5/4! **(Ms Graham)**

**Primary 7 Residential Visit - Kingswood**

Primary 7 were delighted to have attended the five day residential educational adventure activity course at the Kingswood Centre at Hexham, Northumberland from November 23rd – 27th.   Kingswood is the leading residential activity centre provider, welcoming over 130,000 children each year. Therefore we were delighted to have obtained an opportunity to visit.

The centre provided a rewarding educational programme offering many Curriculum for Excellence linked modules combined with thrilling outdoor and indoor adventure activities. The pupils loved the 3G swing, rock climbing and nightline as well as sharing the residential accommodation with their friends.  Residential courses organised by the school are an optional, but invaluable part of the curriculum. Pupils benefitted hugely from the experience, both educationally, personally and socially.  Team bonds were strengthened and everyone's self-esteem and self-confidence boosted.  The pupils who did not attend Kingswood also had a rewarding week including trips to the library, RAPA and the IMAX cinema. **(Mr Traynor)**

***Christmas at St. Denis’ Primary School!***

**St. Denis’ Christmas Fayre – 2nd December 2015**

****The Parent Council Members have planned the Christmas Fayre for **Wednesday the 2nd of December**. Children will be timetabled to visit the Fayre throughout the school day. The Fayre will be opened in the evening from **5.30pm – 7.30pm**. Entry costs are: Parents / Carers £1.00 and children 50p. Tea / Coffee and treats will be served.

We are looking for **‘Cake and Candy’** donations for our Christmas Fayre. Please bring these into school on **Tuesday 1st or Wednesday 2nd of December**. Thank you. Also, any **‘Tombola’** donations would be gratefully accepted.

A ***huge ‘thank you’ to everyone for your kind contributions towards our class hampers.***

**Christmas Lunch**

Christmas lunch will be served on **Tuesday 15th December**. This will be free of charge for children in Primaries 1 – 3 and £1.70 for children in Primaries 4 - 7, unless your child is entitled to a free school meal.

**St. Denis' Christmas Post!**  
Santa's little helpers (P7) are excited to provide St. Denis' Primary with their first ever School Postal Service this Christmas! From **7th - 22nd December** a very Christmassy postbox will appear in the school foyer and all children are invited to post their Christmas cards before and after school or during playtime or lunchtime. The Christmas postal workers will deliver the cards to classes every afternoon; listen out for the jingle bells! All children are asked that they put names (full if possible) and classes on envelopes in order to ensure a safe delivery! **(Ms Pattison)**

**Primary 5 Party at Celtic Park – Wednesday 16th December 2015**

Fantastic news!!! St. Denis’ Primary 5 children were successfully ‘drawn from a hat’ to attend a Christmas party at Celtic Park. St. Michael’s Primary, St. Thomas’ Primary, Dalmarnock Primary and Haghill Park Primary were also successful. All of our Primary 5 children will leave school **around 12.00 and return before 3pm**.

Activities will include: Lunch, ‘Pass the Parcel’, fun session with dance coaches, Disco, Santa, Hoopy & a children’s tattoo artist.

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**Christmas Nativity Play – ‘It’s a baby!’**

Our children in Primaries 1 – 3, have been practicing and preparing this year’s Christmas Nativity Show. The singing sounds absolutely fabulous and the boys and girls are extremely excited about the show! Our ‘Dress Rehearsal’ will be on Wednesday 16th December and Parents & Carers will be invited to see our performance on **Thursday 17th December in St. Anne’s Parish**. Additional details regarding the Christmas Nativity will follow.

***Nativity rehearsal will be held on Wednesday 16th December in St. Anne’s Church. The whole school will attend with the exception of Primary 5 who will attend the party at Celtic Park.***



**Christmas Carol Concert – ‘Wear a Christmas Jumper to School Day’**

Our annual Christmas Carol Concert will be held on **Friday 18th December in St. Anne’s Parish**. The children *and staff* will be encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper to school on this day and **donations of £1.00** will be collected for the ***‘Save the Children Appeal’***.

**Christmas Parties (Santa Claus) – Monday 21st December 2015**

****After all of the hard work and great effort of the previous weeks, the children will have the opportunity to relax and enjoy some festive celebrations.

In the afternoon, the children will have their Christmas parties, in their classrooms, and party treats will be provided. Additionally, ***a very special visitor*** will be here to meet our children in Primaries 1 – 3! ***The children should wear their ‘party clothes’ to school on this day.***

**Christmas Movie Morning – Tuesday 22nd December 2015**

On the morning of **Tuesday the 22nd of December**, we will have a ‘Movie Morning’. Here, we will set up two Christmas movies and the children will have the choice of which movie they would like to view.

**Christmas Holiday Dates**

On **Tuesday 22nd of December**, the school closes at **2.30pm** for the Christmas holidays. The children should return to school on **Wednesday 6th January 2016**.

**‘Jamie our Janitor’ is retiring**

Jamie has worked as a janitor for Glasgow City Council for 30 years. He always takes the time to ensure that all of our children, parents and staff are made welcome here at St. Denis’ Primary School and he has worked within the Dennistoun Community for 25 years. Everyone here feels that Jamie’s imminent retirement in December 2015 will be a great loss to our community. He always strives to ensure that he meets the requests from all of our children, staff and parents and often goes above and beyond the call of duty to help others achieve their goals.

We all wish Jamie a long, happy and healthy retirement and we want him to know that we will miss him very much!!!

***On that note, I would like to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!***

**Prayer for Christmas Dawn**

Father, we are filled with the new light by the coming of your Word among us.

May the light of [faith](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=4554) shine in our words and actions.

Grant this through our [Lord](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) [Jesus](http://www.catholic.org/clife/jesus) Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

****Mrs L Mackie**

**Head Teacher**