



## Christmas Newsletter 2023.

It's been a busy couple of months at school in the run-up to Christmas. We appreciate all the help that you have given the school. We really appreciate your kindness and generosity. We are privileged to have such a committed and co-operative community. It is always the season of goodwill in Derrinturn and we take this opportunity to acknowledge this. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH. This newsletter features some of the highlights of the last half term and advance notice of just a few of our planned activities for 2024.

Music Generation lessons take place weekly. Luke delivers ukelele lessons and the children are really enjoying the classes. Performances featured in some of the Christmas concerts recently and staff and parents are very proud of the progress that the children have made. Well done everybody!



Our gardening group are making sure that all the necessary work to maintain our managed plots are kept up during the dormant season. The success of the plants depends on the correct nurturing at this time. The combined expertise of the group ensures that we have pleasant surroundings at school. The group have engaged with Kildare County Council and plans are in place to build a composter at school for garden cuttings. Pallets have arrived on site and the work will start shortly.

Our HSCL, Brenda Byrne has been bringing out everybody's creativity recently. She has organised candle-making classes, workshops on Christmas Centrepieces and enlisted the help of the children to hang more than three hundred baubles on the trees at the front of the school. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

The knitting group has grown considerably and we welcome all our new knitters. The group completed a beautiful Christmas Tree project . Each of the children created a segment of the tree. The work included knitted pieces, crocheted pieces and woven pieces. All of the pieces were then mounted on a frame, which Mrs. Byrne had built at home, ably assisted by her husband, Fran. The tree was topped with a golden star. We are delighted with our tree. Santa was very impressed when he visited on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The children have become competent and confident knitters. Thanks to all the willing volunteers that knit with our children. It is a wonderful skill to pass on to the next generation. The children are so proud of their work and they look forward to knitting classes every week.



After the success of our Boys and Girls Gaelic teams, we were lucky enough to have other sporting highlights celebrated at school. Past pupil, Robyn Ennis, visited school after playing on the Ireland CP soccer team that won the European Championships. We also had Claire Sullivan visit to show the All Ireland trophy, which Kildare Ladies won. Andrea Colleary, our 3<sup>rd</sup> class teacher and Captain of the Carbury ladies team, accompanied by Megan Boyle and Claire Sullivan, visited to show the County cup to the children.

Both Maths Week and Engineers Week were busy weeks at school. We had Engineer visits in some of the classrooms and the children rose to the challenges set. Thanks to Angela McCormack for her brilliant work with the children. We have some budding engineers and technicians in our midst.

Parent Teacher meetings were held in November. Should you need to follow up on anything, please make an appointment to speak with the class teacher.

The Parents Association has been extremely busy. The new committee was elected earlier in the term and they launched themselves headlong into the organisation of the Christmas raffle. It was a huge success. There was an incredible amount of sponsorship, which was only achieved because of the dedication of the parents that organised the event. The Parents Association funded the additional lighting at the front of school for the Christmas season. The school looks marvellous as a result. We drafted in our Caretaker, Darren O’ Reilly and the experienced team of Catherine & Anthony Coyne to light up our school. It looks amazing. The official switching on of the lights was a very exciting event at school. Martin and Hannah from First Class flicked the switch to inflate our Santas and snowman and to illuminate the school.

The members of the Board of Management completed their term of office in November and new members have been nominated. The outgoing members thank all the staff, the pupils, parents and the wider school community for the respect and support that has been afforded to the Board members during the last four years. This group worked through very unexpected and unprecedented events and without the understanding and support of the community as a whole, their work would have been extremely difficult.

We welcome the new members of the Board of Management and wish them every success during their term of office.



## Board of Management

<b>PATRON’S NOMINEES:</b>	<b>Patsy Daly</b>	<b>Brenda McLoughlin</b>
<b>COMMUNITY NOMINEES:</b>	<b>Paul Mooney</b>	<b>Lucia O’ Brien</b>
<b>PARENT NOMINEES:</b>	<b>Margaret Walsh</b>	<b>Tommy Innes</b>
<b>STAFF NOMINEES:</b>	<b>Finnuala Kirk</b>	<b>Colin Hughes</b>



It's the most wonderful  
time of the year!



You're invited to our Musical  
celebrations. Each class will perform  
Christmas favourites. We look forward to  
seeing you all.

### Schedule – 1.30pm Performances

Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ms. O' Neill & Ms Jenkins
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Dunne, Mrs. Cooney & Mrs Colleary
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ms. Mooney & Mr. Molloy
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Farrell & Mrs. Smyth
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ms. Dunne & Ms. O' Brien
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs. O' Donoghue & Mr. Hughes

Ms. Rowe's Junior Infants present their Nativity Play

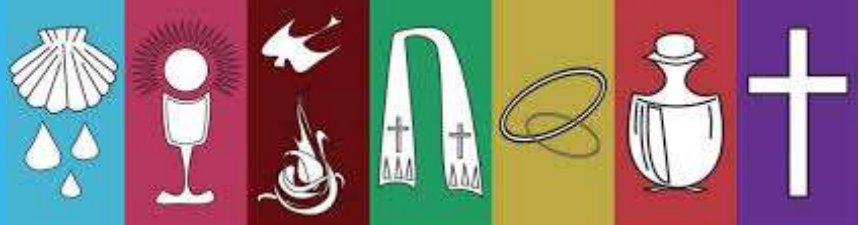
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 11.40 am.





# Looking forward.....

## Sacramental Preparation



Ceremony of Light for 6<sup>th</sup> classes ~ 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Confirmation ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

First Confession ~ Date to be confirmed.

First Holy Communion ~ 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024



Our Peace Proms choir will perform in the R.D.S. in Ballsbridge on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## CLASS TRIPS.



Sixth classes will attend "Music in the Classroom" at the National Concert Hall on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Fifth classes are visiting the Tenement Experience in Dublin on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2024.

## Advance Notice

School will close on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 for staff training in the new Maths Curriculum.