



P.T.A. Fair and Santa's Grotto

Our Christmas Fair is being held on the evening of Thursday 14th December from 6pm – 8.30pm. There will be 30 craft stalls selling a variety of items such as candles, home décor, gifts, children's nail art, etc. The PTA will also have a cake stall and tombola. Children will be able to visit Santa in his Grotto and children can decorate a bauble and purchase reindeer food bags! Tickets for the Grotto can be purchased before the event at a cost of £2.50. Refreshments will also be available in the Dining Hall. Entrance to the Fair for adults is £1 and children under 18 are free.

Hampers There is an opportunity to win a Christmas Hamper and a child's Christmas Eve Hamper. A strip of raffle tickets will be sent home with each pupil. It costs £1 to enter. Extra tickets are available from your child's teacher.

Name the Elf The children have an opportunity to win a Christmas Elf – all they have to do is guess his name! It costs 50p for one guess and £1 for 3 guesses. This is available in school from Monday 4th December.

Nativity Plays

This year our P1 & P2 children will perform a combined Nativity play on Wednesday 13th December at 10.00am and on Thursday 14th December at 10.00am. Our P1 parents should attend on Wednesday 13th December and our P2 parents should attend on Thursday 14th December. If you are unable to attend on the specified morning, please advise your child's teacher so that we can manage numbers attending.

Doors will be open each morning at 9.15am and parents are advised to come early for a good seat. Tea and coffee will be on sale each morning priced 50p. Christmas raffle tickets will also be available on these mornings @ £1 each.



Open Night

We will be having an Open Night on Thursday 7th December at 7.00pm for all our prospective parents. Those who attend will receive an application form and copy of the School Prospectus.

I would be grateful if you would inform friends, neighbours and relatives who have children of P1 age who will be enrolling in September 2018 about this evening. Prospective parents who are unable to attend will be able to avail of a guided tour of the school in operation from 9.30am to 10.15am on Wednesday 10th January 2018.

Application forms must be returned before noon on Wednesday 10th January 2018. New children starting school in September 2018 who have siblings currently attending and /or have put their name down on the school register previously, still need to complete an E.A. Application Form.

Carol Service

Our Carol Service will be held in St. Mark's, Church of Ireland, on Wednesday 20th December 2017 at 7.00pm. All parents and family are very welcome.

SWAP

The cost of our after School Wrap Around Programme (SWAP) will increase to £2.50 per session in the new term after Christmas.

Cinema Visit

Our children will be making their annual visit to the cinema on Wednesday 20th December at 10.00am. Our P1-4 classes will be viewing Ferdinand (PG) and our P5-7 classes will enjoy Paddington2 (PG) The cost for the visit is £3.50 and money should be paid by Tuesday 19th December. (We have agreed to help Movieland by participating in a planned Fire Drill, by staging an evacuation once the children have finished watching the films. This will allow the cinema to practise their evacuation procedures in a controlled situation. Our children will also learn from the experience.)

Facebook

Our Facebook page is now live. We intend to disseminate documents by email in future - please ensure that you have returned the proforma to school that asked for your Email address.

End of Term

School finishes for all classes on Thursday 21st December at 12.15pm. This is a Non – Uniform Day. School reopens on Friday 5th January 2018.

Choir

Our choir will be performing publically in Ards Shopping Centre on Friday 15th December at 2.0pm not as previously advertised on Monday 11th December.

Parking

Everyone will know that the drop-off and pick-up parking arrangements outside school are very poor given the residential nature of Scrabo Road and the 150-year heritage of the school. Since the start of the term we have had meetings with local politicians, Transport N.I. Scrabo Residents Association and the P.S.N.I to establish how we can improve all aspects of safety and parking. The school would like to open a pedestrian gate in the rear boundary wall which would give access to the car park at the rear of the school, as we feel this would better accommodate parents and keep our children safe. This would require agreement from the owners of Ards Shopping Centre and I would ask any parents who might have influence with regards this scheme to contact me.

In the interim, to keep our children safe, it is vital that parents obey the parking restrictions outside school particularly at 9.00am, as we all need to provide protection for Mr Brennan and the children he assists. If cars/vans are parked illegally, close to where Mr Brennan crosses, then sight- lines are restricted and the possibility of an accident occurring increases.

Diary dates

- Monday 4th December - P5 Mesolithic Workshop.
- Tuesday 5th December – P7's to visit Nendrum College 12.30 – 2.45pm.
- Wednesday 6th December – some P7 children visiting Regent House.
- Wednesday 6th December – P5 Chester's Challenge.
- Wednesday 6th December – Choir singing at Scrabo Manor 2.15pm.
- Wednesday 6th December – P7 classes visiting Glenlola Collegiate to watch Sister Act.
- Thursday 7th December – Children's Christmas dinner
- Thursday 7th December – Clubs finish for the term
- Thursday 7th December – Soccer team matches at Londonderry Park.
- Thursday 7th December – Open Night for prospective parents 7.00pm.
- Monday 11th December – P7 classes to visit Sentry Hill.
- Tuesday 12th December – Nativity dress rehearsal.
- Tuesday 12th December – Swimming finishes for the term.
- Wednesday 13th December Nativity 10.00am (P1 parents)
- Wednesday 13th December – Choir singing at Scrabo Fold
- Thursday 14th December – Nativity 10.00am (P2 parents)
- Thursday 14th December – P3 classes visit to Mount Stewart.
- Thursday 14th December – P6&P7 classes Love for Life workshop.
- Thursday 14th December – PTA Christmas Fair 6.00pm – 8.30pm.
- Friday 15th December – Choir singing in Ards Shopping Centre at 2.00pm.
- Tuesday 19th December – Carol Service rehearsal in St. Marks church.
- Wednesday 20th December – Cinema visit for all classes.
- Wednesday – 20th December – Carol Service at St. Mark's church 7.00pm.
- Thursday 21st December – Non Uniform Day. School finishes for all classes at 12.15pm
- Friday 5th January 2018 - School re-opens.
- Tuesday 9th January 2018 – Swimming programme starts. Clubs recommence for the term.
- Wednesday 10th January 2018 – Open Morning for prospective parents 9.45 -10.15am