



ST. PATRICK'S  
JUNIOR SCHOOL

# Parent Association Newsletter



December 2021



As the year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful Teachers, SNA's, Ms. Ní Chroínín, Leoancha, Michael & Martina for all your help and support since we started back in September.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful new year for 2022.

Enjoy the Christmas break!



## Helix Christmas Panto

We hope all our girls and boys enjoyed the Helix Online Pantomime of the Red Riding Hood production that they got to enjoy in class over the last few weeks.

From the feedback from children we have spoken to so far, we have heard it was a big hit!

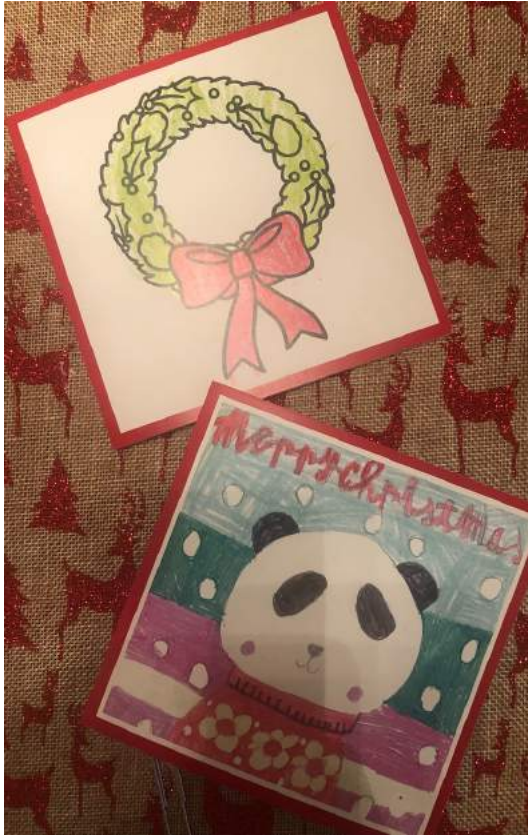
It was lovely to be able to use some of the funds from previous fundraising events to arrange this for the children this year. We hope we will be able to have some more fundraising events in the near future. Again, thank you for all your support.



## PA AGM

Thank you to all who attend the Parents Association AGM online on December 2nd, where we gave an overview of the PA and reported on funds raised throughout the year and how those funds have been utilized for the benefit of all the children in the school.

Many thanks to Carla Beattie, Clinical Psychologist, who discussed anxiety and school refusal in young children and practical strategies for managing these issues.



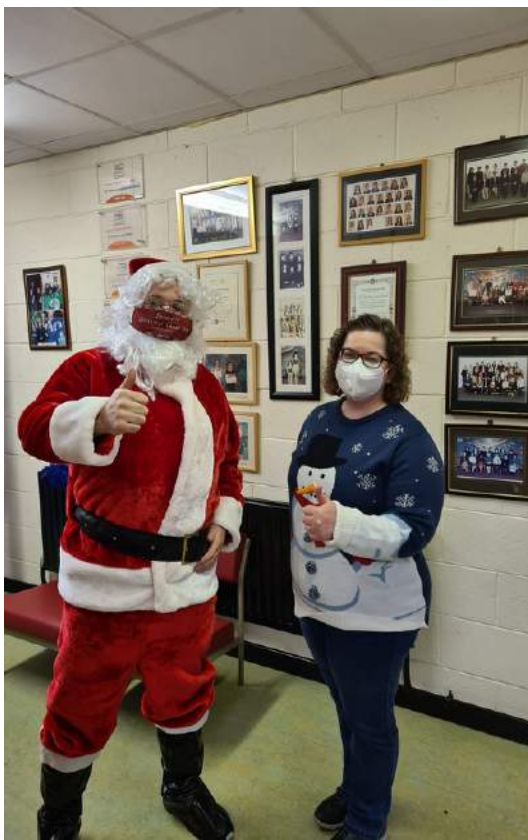
## Christmas Cards

Our Christmas card fundraiser was yet another success this year.

Thank you for everyone's support and we are sure you all agree that your children have done a great job creating some beautiful cards that you can now share with friends and family.

We hope you have enjoyed sending them to your loved ones.

Thank you also to all our children for their beautiful artwork, and well done.



## A Special Visitor From The North Pole

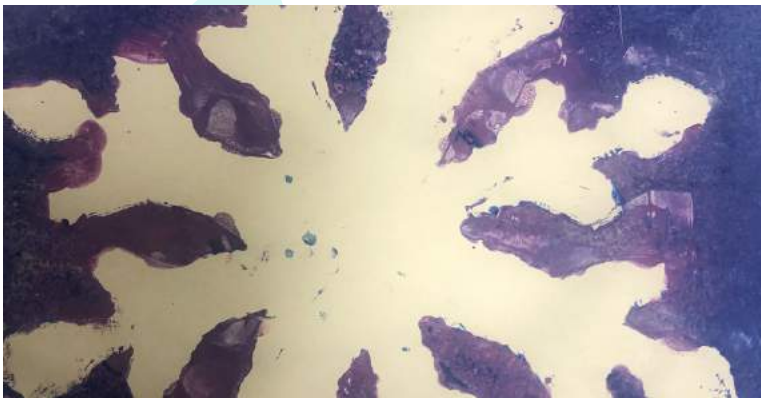
We recently received a special report from the North Pole from the elves to say that Santa Claus was paying a visit to our children before the end of the school term. It was good of him to make the visit over to us so close to Christmas.

The children gave him such a socially distanced warm welcome at St Patricks Junior School, and we enjoyed singing him a few songs too.

# Christmas Art

Here is a showcase of some of the amazing Christmas artwork and activities that your children have been doing in their classrooms with their teachers.

We are sure that you all agree, that it all looks wonderful and festive.









# Christmas Baking Traditions from Around the World

Poland - Pierniczki Świąteczne are Polish Christmas cookies and an easy treat to make ahead before Christmas or to share throughout the month of December, made in various shapes with festive themes.

Germany - Pfeffernusse cookies are a traditional Christmas recipe in Germany, made with molasses, anise, pepper and seasonal spices.

Slovakian petite fours are a delicious Christmas dessert, with many variations. One popular variation is Medové Rezy - which translates to honey slices.

The traditional Christmas Cake is served throughout Ireland (and in many other Western countries around the world) during the Christmas season.

Philippines - Bibingka is made with coconut milk and rice flour or cassava and baked in a tin lined with banana leaves.

Latin America - bunuelos (Mexican doughnuts) have spread all over Spanish-speaking countries and are variously associated with holidays such as Hannukah, Ramadan, and Christmas.

Will you be baking some cookies for Santa Claus this year? Here is a recipe from [bbcgoodfood.com](http://bbcgoodfood.com) if you would like to give it a try. We are sure Santa will enjoy these, as well as yourselves!

## Recipe Corner

### Christmas Cookies

#### Ingredients

- 140g icing sugar, sieved
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 egg yolk
- 250g butter, cut into small cubes
- 375g plain flour, sieved

#### To decorate

- 200g icing sugar, sieved
- edible food colouring, optional
- edible gold and silver balls
- approx 2m thin ribbon cut into 10cm lengths

#### STEP 1

- Tip the icing sugar, vanilla extract, egg yolk and butter into a mixing bowl, then stir together with a wooden spoon (or pulse in a food processor until well combined). Add the flour and mix to a firm dough. Shape the dough into two flat discs and wrap them. Chill for 20-30 mins. Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5 and line two baking sheets with non-stick baking paper.

#### STEP 2

- Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about the thickness of two £1 coins. Cut out Christmassy shapes (use a cutter if you like) and place on the baking sheets. Using the tip of a skewer, cut a small hole in the top of each cookie. Bake for 10-12 mins until lightly golden.

#### STEP 3

- Lift the biscuits onto a wire rack to cool. Meanwhile, mix the icing sugar with a few drops of cold water to make a thick, but still runny icing. Colour with edible food colouring, if you like. Spread it over the cooled biscuits, decorate with edible balls and thread with ribbon when dry.



# Halloween Competition Winners

Well done to all who entered in for the Halloween Competition.

They were all brilliant and the children did a lovely job. We received an amazing array of Halloween artwork, including drawings, pumpkin creations colourings.

Unfortunately we could only pick four winners, but well done and thank you to all who entered.

Congratulations to our children who have won a Bubble Room worth €15 each.

Junior Infants - Max Gil, Senior Infants - Tadhg Rock  
First Class - Rachel Molloy, Second Class - Maeve Garrigan





# Some Christmas Word Search & Colouring Sheets for your Children to Enjoy

C	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	U	S	T	O	R	V
G	H	D	W	A	R	E	C	R	A	O	S	R	I	P
I	A	R	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	A	B	E	R
N	S	L	E	I	G	H	E	J	A	N	S	R	C	E
G	N	G	A	S	E	O	G	I	S	A	N	T	A	S
E	O	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	M	O	J	N	E
R	R	I	H	L	V	C	N	G	D	E	R	O	D	N
B	T	C	A	O	I	D	G	L	D	N	T	L	Y	T
R	H	A	M	E	L	G	E	E	A	T	H	G	C	S
E	L	V	E	S	G	L	H	D	E	S	P	H	A	L
A	I	C	R	D	A	S	Y	T	Y	C	O	T	N	E
D	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	X	L	S	E	E
A	R	A	Y	B	R	E	A	S	A	N	E	R	A	F
C	A	R	O	L	S	W	R	W	I	N	T	E	R	S
S	T	G	I	N	G	L	L	Y	O	R	N	A	S	T

CANDY CANE  
CAROLS  
CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER  
ELVES  
GINGERBREAD  
JINGLE

HOLLY  
LIGHTS  
MERRY  
NORTH POLE  
ORNAMENTS  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER

SANTA  
SLEIGH  
STOCKING  
TREE  
WINTER  
WREATH



'Tis the  
Season to  
Color





istock  
by Getty Images

# Parent Association Committee Members & Contact details

Fiona McGowan (Chairperson) 087 960 0783

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Aoife Oxley 087 991 0789

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Maeve Griffin 086 849 2651

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Carla Beattie 087 665 0917

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## Join the PA team

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with school events.

If you would like to help or join the PA Team, please get in touch with us.

We always welcome new parents. You will find our contact details near the end of this newsletter.

If you have any special skills or interests and you would be willing to use these to help out, please let us know.

# Notes from the Principal

## **Policies.**

Wellbeing Policy: When the pandemic was declared in March 2020 we as a school and a staff felt that in the context of the pandemic it was more important than ever to focus on the wellbeing of our pupils. As part of this effort we compiled a list of all the resources and activities we use to nurture pupil and staff wellbeing in the school. We also wrote a school Wellbeing Policy. A summary of the school's new Wellbeing Policy will be emailed to all parents today. This and all school policies are available on the school website, [www.stps.ie](http://www.stps.ie)

Child Safeguarding Statement and Written Risk Assessment, the Health and Safety Statement and the Anti-bullying Policy have also been recently updated and published on the school website.

## **Christmas Videos:**

As COVID mitigation measures continue in schools, we have once again had to forego the excitement of standing on stage and performing a Christmas play. Instead, over the last week or two, teachers have filmed our amazing pupils singing, reciting and working on Christmas art and have compiled these clips into a Christmas video for you to watch. The link to each class video will be distributed via Seesaw. Please do not share these videos on social media.

## **Christmas Fundraisers:**

Many thanks for supporting our two Christmas Fundraisers: in aid of Children's Health Ireland at Temple St., Cruimlin Children's and Connolly Hospital, and in aid of the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

## **Christmas Visitor:**

Santa took time out of his busy Christmas schedule to visit our pupils a bit earlier than usual last Wednesday. He has confirmed that all of our pupils are on the nice list. (We knew that already but it was nice to hear it from the man himself!) He has asked that all our pupils go to bed early on Christmas Eve to give him a chance to deliver to all the families on time.

## **Míle Buíochas:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of staff in St. Patrick's JNS. Every member of this amazing team stepped up to the many new challenges presented since March 2020 when the pandemic was declared. This new school year has so far presented even greater challenges with the Omicrom variant and with an acute substitution crisis. Once again, every member of staff has willingly stepped up to the plate to ensure that, despite the circumstances, we do everything we can to provide the best possible education for your children. There will be further challenges to face in the new term, but I know that everyone on staff will give 100% as we work together to nurture and educate our pupils. Míle buíochas daoibh go léir.

I would also like to thank the parents of our school for your support of our school in such challenging times. Your vigilance around symptoms of COVID-19 and the mitigation measures we have had to put in place has made our job that bit easier. Thanks, too, to the Parents' Association, who continue to make a positive difference in the school despite the barriers placed by the pandemic.

## **Finally...**

All of us in St. Patrick's JNS would like to wish you and yours a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and a wonderful 2022. Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.