

SS. MICHAEL & PETER JS CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2019

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

‘It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas’ here in SS Michael and Peter Junior School. The noticeboards have been transformed into Winter Wonderlands with displays of festive artwork. Carol singing and jingles can be heard along the corridors and in the classrooms and we all find ourselves singing along to them at home too. At the time of going to print we are in full rehearsal mode for Christmas performances and we are all looking forward to our time to shine. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our teachers and SNA’s for their time, energy and commitment in making this possible. These are some of the moments we remember and cherish as adults. Our Christmas Nativity will take place on Thursday 19th December at 12 noon in the church and all are welcome. We thank Arklow Parish for the use of the church for this event and wish them all a very Merry Christmas.

Since returning to school after our midterm break staff and pupils have been busy with both curricular and extra-curricular activities. The whole staff have engaged with training for the new Primary Language Curriculum and we look forward to on-going training in this area. The staff of SS Michael and Peter Junior School are committed to providing the best possible educational experience to the children in our school and we have already embedded many of the good practice features of this new curriculum. We have also had input from the NCSE, NEPS and the PDST, all of whom acknowledged our good practice and provided us with some interesting concepts for the future.

Our Gaelge programme, Bua na Cainte, is proving to be very popular amongst pupils and staff. It is interactive and fun, containing all the elements of an effective language learning programme.

Our numeracy initiatives are being embedded this year and we can already see the benefits of our new approach. Increasing our use of concrete materials and focusing on maths language has significantly enhanced our pupil’s mathematical ability and improved their attitude towards the subject. We were

delighted to see the enjoyment pupils got from our Maths Week and the level of engagement with the activities and poster competition.

We also celebrated our First Green Flag Award with the school community which was a very enjoyable occasion for all. Alongside this, our Active School’s Committee, Choir and Art groups have all been busy working towards their respective goals. Science Week proved to be a great success while the ‘Every Day Counts’ Campaign helped us to focus on improving our attendance for the month of November.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who support the great work that is going on in our school. We welcome parental and community involvement and are always open to looking at new ways for you to become involved.

Thank you to the outgoing Board of Management; a lot has been achieved since the formation of the school in 2015 and it would not have been possible without the dedication and support of James Dunne, our outgoing chairperson, and the outgoing Board members.

Over the last number of weeks, we have engaged with the process of electing a new Board of Management and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Board Members. I look forward to working with you. The future is bright for SS Michael and Peter Junior School.

I hope that you all enjoy a restful and peaceful Christmas and that Santa is good to all our boys and girls! I leave you with an Irish Christmas Blessing:

*The light of the Christmas star to you
The warmth of a home and hearth to you
The cheer and good will of friends to you
The hope of a childlike heart to you
The joy of a thousand angels to you
The love of the Son and
God’s peace to you*

Merry Christmas to all.

Lisa Dempsey, Principal

CLASS NEWS

JUNIOR INFANTS

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our very first term in Junior Infants! What a term we have had! We have finished our first group of sounds and - would you believe it – we have read THREE books already!

Maths has been so much fun – Ms. Coates, Ms. Noonan, Ms. Cassidy and Ms. O'Loughlin have been so great helping us with our Ready Set Go maths stations. We have learned about sorting, patterns, numbers and even measuring long and short!

We had Science week where we learned all about climate change and how to look after our planet. We are going to do the best we can to look after the Earth by recycling, composting and planting trees or plants.

We have become so independent in this term. We can put on and zip our coats, tidy up after ourselves and play nicely with other children, whether in the class or on the yard. Our teachers are so proud of us!

We have lots of exciting things coming up before the Christmas holidays – a Christmas concert for the parents, the Christmas Carol Service and lots of Christmas themed-play. We know that Santa and his elves are busy watching us on our best behaviour so we are trying extra hard!

Merry Christmas Everyone!



SENIOR INFANTS

Senior Infants have had a very busy few months. They have been learning all about Winter and the polar regions of the Arctic and the Antarctic. We spent lots of time working on polar bears and penguins. Did you know that polar bears have black skin and penguins can't fly? We really enjoyed science week, Ms. Kavanagh's class learned how to make blubber, Ms. O'Rourke's class made slime. Ms Carey and Ms. Byrne's classes investigated how fast ice melts in cold and hot water. Climate change was the theme of science week and we learned lots of ways that we can help to reduce climate change and save the planet. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

We are really busy preparing for our Christmas performance 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. This is the first time all the senior infant classes will be performing together and we are really excited to welcome all our families to the school to see us perform. It's almost Christmas and we are super excited for our holidays and of course Santa Claus's big arrival!



CLASS NEWS

FIRST CLASS

First class have been very busy this term. We loved taking part in Science Week and learning lots about climate and global warming. We did some very interesting experiments in our classes during Science Week too. Some First Classes learned about how fire needs oxygen to stay lighting, while other classes learned about gravity and we checked our reflexes to see how quick we were at catching! We all really enjoyed taking part in Every Day Counts and made it our mission to be in school as much as possible!

We loved taking part in the Fun Day and would like to say a BIG thank you to the Parents Association for organising such a great day.

We also really enjoyed putting boxes together for Team Hope and hope that all the boys and girls around the world have a lovely Christmas.

All First Classes have been busy learning all about Shapes and Spatial Awareness in Maths and we even created some Winter Shape pictures to put our new found skills to the test.

In P.E. we have been making shapes too and learning how to roll, can you forward roll or pencil roll? We can now!

With Christmas right around the corner, everyone is very busy rehearsing for some Christmas plays, Carol Services and Christmas Art. We are also learning about Advent in preparation for Christmas and as we wait for Santa to visit. We will continue to keep up the hard work until then.

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Christmas from First Class



CLASS NEWS

SECOND CLASS

2nd Class have been working very hard since Mid-Term break. Preparations for Christmas plays are underway, with Ms. Redmond and Ms. Kissane's classes performing 'Children of the World' and Ms. Hogan and Ms. White's classes performing 'The Night Before Christmas'.

In Maths the children have been learning about directions and have enjoyed using BeeBots to help them. They have also learned about 2D shapes.

Second Year students from St. Mary's school have visited our classrooms every fortnight to play Maths and English games and help the pupils carry out Science experiments and all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.

There is some lovely winter art decorating our school walls at the moment and the pupils have been busy creating beautiful Christmas art too.

In English some classes learned about foxes, badgers and polar bears and have written some great reports.

We are all looking forward to the carol service in which some 2nd Class pupils will be performing.

We would like to wish all the pupils and their families a peaceful and happy Christmas.



CLASS NEWS

ASD CLASSES

What a super first term we have had in our special classes in SS Michael and Peters. Since Halloween we have been looking out for signs of winter around us and see lots of bare trees on our walks. We have had many more visits to the library to explore the books and the fabulous sensory table located upstairs. In recent weeks, the joy and excitement of Christmas has been huge. Christmas trees, Christmas lights and of course mischievous elves have been spotted in our school and classroom environments. We were all so delighted to have one of our own proudly turn on the lights of the Christmas tree in the town, well done Kwame Yennusick. 🎄

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and others that have supported, and continue to support us in school and may we take this moment to wish you all a Merry Magical Christmas.



SEN

A festive hello from the SEN team. We've been working extremely hard here in the few short weeks since midterm. Our in class support in literacy and numeracy continues and we've also got a team of busy elves that work hard daily with our SEN teachers in lots of different areas. We couldn't be any prouder of the great improvements we have seen in our pupils since September.

Santa's robin has been a frequent flyer in our playground this half term too, we hope he is reporting our good work back to the man in red himself. We can't wait to see what Christmas night brings and we're all looking forward to a well-deserved holiday.

Happy Christmas!



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

We hope that the children enjoyed the no uniform days which took place this term. We are very appreciative of the contributions received from these days.

In November, all of the classes participated in our first fun event – a cheeky puppet show hosted by Really Grand Events. We hope the children (and staff) enjoyed it.

December saw us getting into the festive spirit. Christmas annuals and Christmas cards were distributed - We definitely have a few budding Picasso's in our midst. We arranged a visit from a very special guest who took time out from his workshop at the North Pole to attend all of our classes. The Christmas raffle was a great success and we'd like to thank all of our very generous sponsors for their donations.

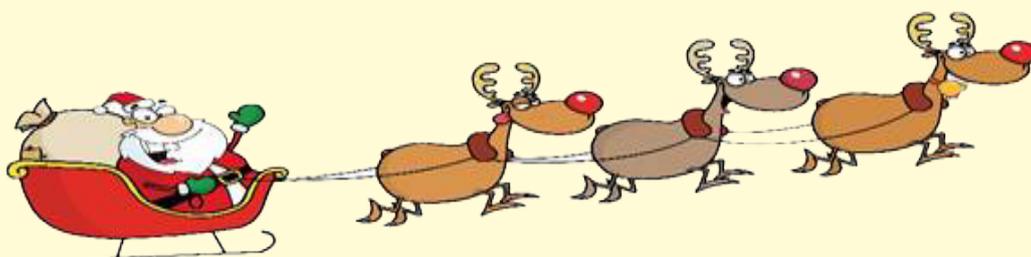
Adrian Dunne Pharmacy, The Arklow Bay Hotel, Armstrong Life Pharmacy, Alicja Skwarek, BeeFit Arklow, Carrig Donn, Centra, Coral Leisure Centre, Compu Doc, D'Arcy McGees, D-Fine Hair, Dunnes Stores, Enhanced Beauty, Floral Affairs, Grants Pharmacy, Halpins, Indoor Boot Camp/Ken Tancred, Jimmy K Family Butchers, Joanne's/Staffords Bakery, Joe's Bike Shop, John Flood, Kris's Garage, Le Chef Deli Café, Love Beauty, McMullan's, Morgan Doyle, Orla's Kitchen, Bolands Ltd, Paramount Jewellers, Pettit's Supervalu, Plain and Pearl, Pure Hair Design, Tesco, The Man's Shop, TJ O'Mahony, Tommy Hyland Motor Factors, Townheads Barbers, The Old House, TR TV, XpertDPO, Wild Ireland, Polski Sklep, Wood Industries

We're now busy organising our events for next term:

- School photos are being arranged for early 2020. More details and order forms will be available in the new year.
- We'll be hosting more fun events in term 2 so stay posted for updates.

If you want to keep up with our activities, events and news, please drop a mail to pa@ssmichaelandpeter.ie and ask to be added to our distribution list, or join our Facebook group Parents Association Ss. Michael and Peters JNS, Arklow

*We'd like to wish you all
a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Peaceful
New Year*



OTHER NEWS

Legally Blonde



On Monday 21st October 2nd classes, their teachers and SNAs attended a production of Legally Blonde in the hall in St. Marys

Secondary School. The show was fantastic, it was so professional, the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After School Clubs



Did you know we had some exciting after school clubs running this term in our school? Pupils enjoyed yoga,

choir, music lessons and art club. As well as this we had Lego club running each week and some pupils also attend our before/after school childcare club. What a busy social calendar the pupils of SS Michael and Peter School have.

Social Media



Great news, our school has gone social. We are now on Facebook and Twitter, why not follow our pages for up to date school news and activities: facebook.com/ssmichaelandpeter.ie

Green Flag

We were so excited this term at our Green flag unveiling ceremony. We were awarded the flag from Green Schools Ireland for our hard work minimizing litter and waste in our school. We are now working towards our second flag for water conservation.



Christmas Shoeboxes



We were so delighted with the response to our Christmas Shoebox appeal this year. It's so special when our pupils and their families put such effort into preparing beautiful gifts for boys and girls across the world. The boxes contained something to wear, to Wow, to write with and to wash with. Well done to all involved!

Attendance

This term we began a special focus on attendance with our "Every School Day Counts" drive. Pupils designed posters highlighting the importance of good

attendance. Certificates, badges and stars were presented to pupils with full attendance at assembly.



REMINDERS

Access and Parking

In the interests of health and safety there is no vehicular entry/parking or drop off facility available on the school grounds for either the St. Michael or St. Peter Building. Parking in the staff carparks is strictly prohibited. All pedestrians must use the pedestrian gate to access either school grounds, not the car park gates. The school is not liable for any loss or injury that may occur as a result of people not following these guidelines. They are for you and your child's safety.

Contact Details

Please inform the school immediately if there is any change of collection or emergency contact details etc.

Supervision:

The B.O.M. would like to draw your attention to the fact that the school is not responsible for pupils who are on the premises outside of the official opening and closing times. In St. Peter's campus the school is open to receive pupils from 9.15 a.m. Classes begin at 9.20 a.m. School finishes at 3 p.m. In St. Michael's campus the school is open to receive pupils from 9.25 a.m. Classes begin at 9.30 a.m. School finishes at 2.10 p.m. for Infants and 3.10 p.m. for 1st class. There is no supervision outside of these times.

Nut and Sesame Seed Free School

A reminder that SS Michael and Peter is a nut and sesame seed free school. This ban refers to all nut and sesame seed. The use of Nutella can be extremely dangerous for children with an anaphylaxis allergy, chocolate and chocolate products are not allowed in the school.

Attendance

SS Michael and Peter Junior School encourage regular and punctual attendance. Parents/Guardians are asked to notify the school in writing if their children cannot attend for any reason. You can also enter the reason via the Aladdin Connect app. Under the law, every child must attend school up to sixteen year of age or complete at least three years post primary education whichever comes later. Your cooperation in this regard is welcomed.

Punctuality

Punctuality is important for both dropping and collecting your child from school. Lateness will be recorded and dealt with seriously. If you are late to collect your child, you will be asked to sign a notebook acknowledging this. If this is repeated, you will be requested to meet with the principal to discuss it. In extreme cases a meeting with the principal will be required immediately. Repeated or gross lateness may result in a referral to the Education Welfare and/or Túsla.

Communications with the school

Valerie takes her lunch from 12.30-1 each day. Try not to call the school phone or leave messages at this time as the office is unmanned. Also if you need to collect your child around this time please try to do so outside of this window where possible. Danielle is available in the St. Peter office between 9.20 a.m. and 1.45 p.m.

