

A Message from the Principal.

2020

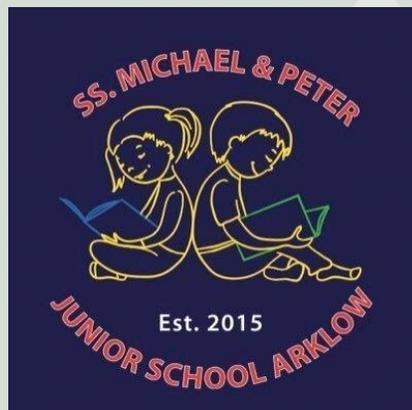
Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As the Christmas Holidays approach I would like to thank the whole school community for your commitment and co-operation since our return to school in September.

Advent is a time for reflection and as we come to the end of this term, we reflect not only on the term gone by but on the whole year of 2020. It has been a year like no other in our lifetime; a year when the world worked together to flatten the curve. Terms such as 'front line heroes, distance learning, lockdown, social distancing, quarantine and pandemic' have become standard in our vocabulary and our daily conversations. Acts, which were alien to many of us, at the beginning of the year, such as mask wearing, sanitising, working from home and staying apart to protect each other, have now become part of our strategy for living with Covid-19.

All our lives have been changed in fundamental ways. I would like to take this opportunity to send my thoughts and prayers to everyone who has been affected by Covid-19, and to express my gratitude to all of those working in key sectors who kept life as relatively normal as possible for others during this time.

We have successfully found alternative ways of doing so much to date and now we can apply the same creativity to celebrating Christmas in a safe and meaningful way. We look forward to Christmas and to creating a seasonal atmosphere of joy and happiness in what has been a very challenging year.



The excitement for Christmas has been palpable amongst the children of SS Michael and Peter Junior School since the Late Late Toy Show on Friday 27th November. It is truly a wonderful time of year to work in a school setting as one can't help but join in and enjoy the festive atmosphere that envelops the classrooms and hallways. In keeping with the Roald Dahl theme of the Toy Show, the following quote comes to mind 'A Little Magic Can Take You a Long Way'. (James and the Giant Peach) Christmas is such a magical time for children and their sense of wonder and awe is powerful and inspiring.

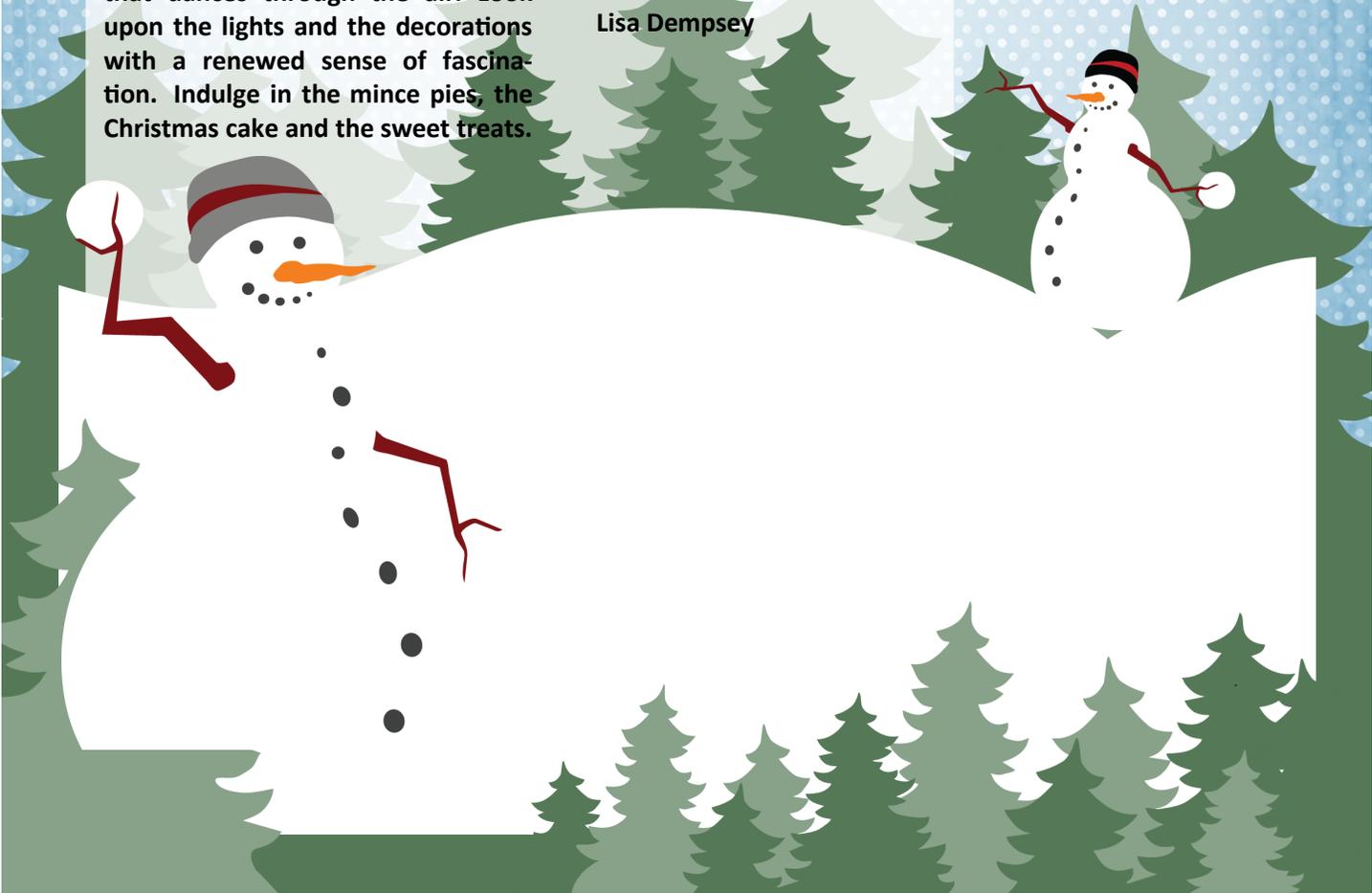
This Christmas, I hope that all of us take the time to enjoy the magic that dances through the air. Look upon the lights and the decorations with a renewed sense of fascination. Indulge in the mince pies, the Christmas cake and the sweet treats.

Create wonderful memories with your family. Give your children the gift of your time, it's the most precious gift that you can give them. Let the children show us what this season is all about - a season of hope, of magic and of enchantment. Treasure these years of innocence with them as they won't last forever.

I would like to wish all our school community a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and we will look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir,

Lisa Dempsey



Junior Infants

As our first term in Junior Infants comes to a close, we have all continued to settle into school life very well. We are working hard on Jolly phonics sounds and are enjoying reading our Christmas readers! We also have been working well in maths learning about measures, shapes and the numbers 1,2 and 3!

We have made lots of friends throughout this term. We are so kind and helpful and great at inviting everyone to play.

We have been so busy preparing Christmas arts and crafts. We have been learning Christmas and winter songs and poems

which we're sure you have heard at home!

We have been working so hard on holding our pencils, forming new letters and writing on the line. We have come so far with this!

We are doing lots of nice Christmas activities in school, getting ready for Baby Jesus to come. Santa's elves and robins have been watching us and telling Santa how good we are trying to be! Merry Christmas Everyone

Junior Infants



Senior Infants

Senior Infants

What a busy and exciting term it has been for the boys and girls of Senior Infants. It is hard to believe that the first term of our school year has come to an end.

Since Halloween we have had lots of fun, activity and learning going on in the classrooms. The children have explored music, movement, sport, teamwork and creativity each week. We have really enjoyed our rugby sessions with Barney from Arklow Rugby Club and have learned so much while having lots of fun. We have had a wonderful time singing and performing songs to mark the end of our Christmas term. We have even spotted an elf or two in our corridors and classrooms who I am sure returns to the North Pole with tales of learning, kindness and happiness from our pupils. In Aistear we have explored

many different areas including The Restaurant, The Post Office, The Arctic, The Pizza Shop and The Café. It is wonderful to watch the children become engaged in play through drama and role play, while at the same time building their Maths and reading skills.

We continue to work hard on our play outside too and remember the importance of having kind hands and using kind words. As Christmas draws closer we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas. No doubt the children have all earned some rest and relaxation and we look forward to seeing you all in January as we face into the New Year of 2021. Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir, Mrs. O' Loughlin, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Carey and Jasmine.



First Class

This has been a really exciting term for first class. After the midterm there was Science week.

First class really love Science.

We did many experiments including investigating how plants drink water using celery and food colouring, mixing different liquids like oil and water, watching raisins dance, and a volcano using bicarbonate soda and vinegar. We explored light and colour in nature and using the colour wheel.

In English we have been practising our spelling and blending using games and word blending cards and we are super proud of our hard work.

We have been learning all about the season of winter and we have been getting out and about in the fresh air all wrapped up to discover new changes in winter. One of our favourite adventures was the fairy trail. We also revisited the fairy trail on P.E. day to do

each fairies very own favourite activity. The fairy trail is also an active trail so we engaged in many exercises like lunges, high knees and windmill arms.

We learned about some lovely Arctic animals and in History we studied the famous Irish fairy tale The Children of Lir.

We did some beautiful art, from creating our very own fairy dolls from pipe cleaners and fabric, to drawing beautiful pastel Northern Lights pictures inspired by the book Nanooka's Garden. Some of us drew dragons as an imaginative response to the book Dragon Post. We love exploring different mediums in art like clay and we moulded some clay punch pots which we got to paint and decorate.

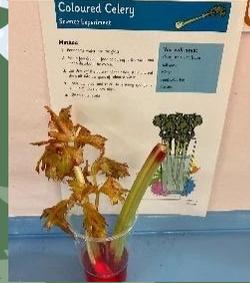
Finally, the highlight of it all was chatting with the brilliant and great Santa virtually and the Christmas Jumper Day. We can't wait until Christmas Eve and we hope the elves and robins that are Santa's helpers at our school have noticed the effort we have made to be well-behaved, mannerly and kind.

Merry Christmas Everyone.

First Class



First Class



Winter Festival

Second Class

Second class have been extremely busy and working incredibly hard since returning to school after the midterm break! Science week took place in November and the children in second class had great fun watching a video on Forensic Science and engaging with some mind-blowing experiments such as the skittles experiment, making lava lamps, painting by bleeding markers and creating a storm in a cup! We definitely have some future scientists in the making! All four of the second classes spent the month of November learning all about Houses and Homes, from homes and household items from the past to animal habitats and homes around the world. Each child then created a project based on all they had learned and presented their project to the class. Their teachers were so impressed with all the hard work they put in! In maths second class have been working hard on their addition and subtraction as well as spatial awareness, 2D shapes and symmetry. We used the BeeBots to help us with spatial awareness and even got to go on a 2D shape hunt around the school where

we found lots of 2D shapes!

December has been spent learning all about Christmas, from The Late Late Toy Show to how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Our school corridors are decorated from top to bottom with the amazing Christmas and Winter art that the second classes have created.

The children in second class have loved learning and performing the song Must Be Santa to record and send to the local nursing home. The classes have also been working hard on their Christmas performances which are a little different this year but just as fun! We hope you all enjoy watching them. Some second classes even had a little visitor (Ivy and Peppermint) for the month of December watching over them to make sure they were on their best behaviour. We believe that all the children in second class have made Santa's Nice List this year! We also thoroughly enjoyed our virtual visit from Santa Claus!

Ms Redmond, Ms Hogan, Ms Dillon and Ms Kinsella would like to take this opportunity to thank the children in second class for their cooperation and hard work this term and to wish them all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We will see you all in 2021!

Second Class



ASD Class

Ms. Whelan and Ms. Coates' classes are having lots of fun in their new classroom.

They have been completing lots of Christmas art and love playing soccer. They love learning new Christmas songs and poems. They also love looking at the new fairy trail and trying to find the fairies

Ms. Coates' class is missing her and are looking forward to having her back in the new year.

In Ms, Ireson's class

they have been loving the run up to Christmas, really getting into the Christmas spirit singing Christmas songs and reading Christmas stories. The fairy trail is a big hit too.

ASD CLASS



SEN

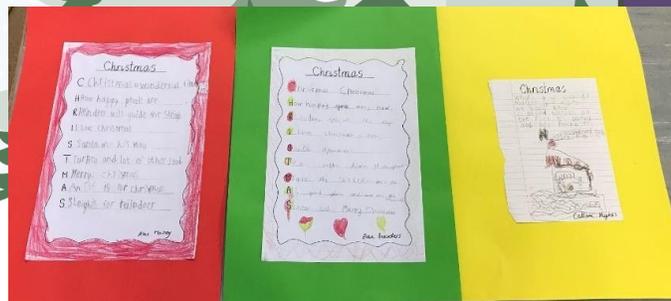
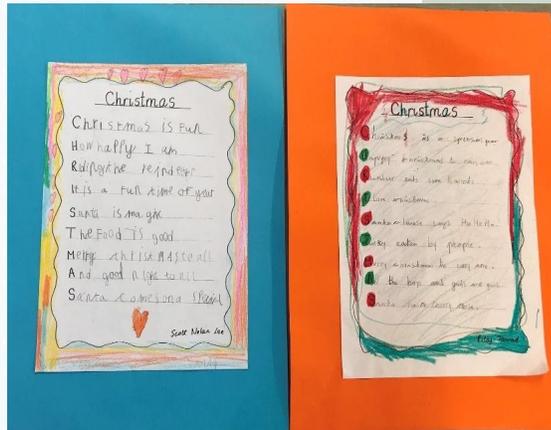
The SEN team have been so busy throughout the last few months.

In Numeracy some classes in St. Peter's building have been focusing on subtraction, with and without renaming. We have also been working hard on telling the time on the clock. After much practise we have mastered "o' clock", "half past", "quarter past" and "quarter to". We are so proud of what we have achieved. It was worth all the hard work.

Our Literacy Lift Off is continuing throughout the school. The pupils are making huge improvements in all aspects of reading while also enjoying the wonderful stories in each book.

We are really looking forward to Santa's arrival.

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year and we have been working on some Christmas poems. We had so much fun creating these! Merry Christmas everyone and wishing you all a safe and Happy New Year.



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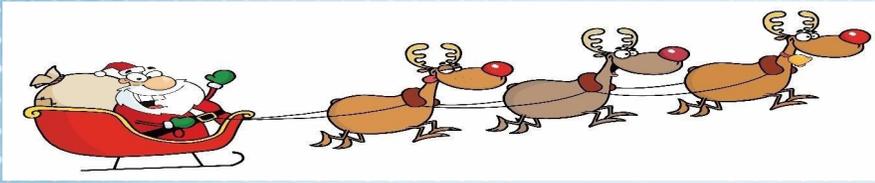
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PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

All classes throughout the school enjoyed the PA treat of the Panto "The Sword in the Stone" from the Helix which was enjoyed virtually this year. Thank you.

Our Parents association would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.



SANTA Says Thank You



Santa was spotted following Covid 19 protocols in St. Peters building. Thank you to all parents and pupils for doing the same and keeping us all safe.

Parents' Assoc.

SA's



Sports for Schools

We were delighted to welcome Gary Messett to visit our school to talk to first and second classes. The visit was part of our sports for school partnership which we fundraised for last year during lockdown. A huge thank you to all the families who supported it. The pupils were delighted to meet a real life sports hero and enjoyed doing some exercises with him.



Active Flag

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the Active School Flag. After 3 years of very hard work we are so excited to be recognised as an Active School. Well done to all involved in our school and whole school community and a special shout out to our Active Committee old and new. Super work everyone. We are continuing in our school by using our wonderful new Active Fairy Trail. Check out our school website to find out about all the fairies that have moved into SS Michael and Peter JNS.



Sports

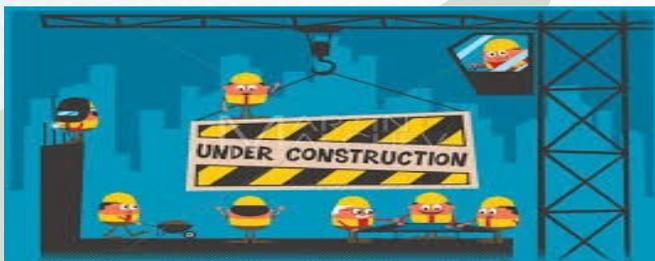
Parent Teacher Meetings

Our annual Parent/Teacher meetings will take place in February. You will receive more information in relation to them in the new year.



Building Works

Our ASD Class facilities are currently being upgraded in the St. Michael Building and once these are completed the project will move to the St. Peter Building for upgrading works there. This is a wonderful project for our school which will result in state of the art facilities for our classes for pupils with Autism. Pupils requiring movement and sensory breaks in our mainstream classes will also benefit from these new facilities. I would like to thank all the classes affected by the building works for being so accommodating and for their support and flexibility in relation to this.



School Fogging and Disinfectant

Our school continues to be fogged and disinfected once weekly by Walkers Cleaning Services. This service gives us great peace of mind as we begin each week. It will continue for the foreseeable future.



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Reminders

Absences and Illnesses

As you are aware it is imperative that you follow Public Health advice in relation to illness that your child may present with during the year ahead. It is our firm conviction that an unwell child should not be in school particularly in the current circumstances. You are therefore advised not to administer medicines (e.g. Calpol/Paracetamol) to reduce temperature readings in order to send them to school. Children presenting with any other symptoms associated with Covid 19 should be kept at home.

If your child has a persistent condition, please inform your class teacher about this in order to avoid the condition being misconstrued as being Covid 19 related (a note from your GP might be helpful in this regard).

When your child is returning to school following absences please inform the school through Aladdin as to the reason for the absence. Otherwise, it will be recorded as 'unexplained' in school records.

Absences of more than 20 days in a school year are reported to the National Education Welfare Board, who will investigate the matter further.

This is the latest advice in relation to helping you decide whether your child should attend school or not: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/algorithms/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20u13s.pdf>

Arrangements for arrival and dismissal times

Overall we are very happy in relation to the arrangements that are currently in place. Thank you for wearing your masks at these times and for maintaining appropriate social distancing outside the school. I also wish to commend the pupils who are acting so responsibly when it comes to following our arrival and dismissal procedures.

Collecting Children from School

It is the responsibility of parents/ guardians to inform class teachers of any changes in relation to who collects children from school. If teachers are not informed of changes to collecting arrangements they will not release children from their care, and will instead contact parents for clarification. If you have any reason to collect your child early, please inform the teacher/ office to expect you at an approximate time.



Emergency Contact details

As you are aware we are now using Aladdin Connect to communicate with you as parents/guardians. Please review the information that you have already provided on Aladdin Connect and ensure that it is accurate and up to date and has the approval of the named emergency contacts.

Contacting Class Teachers

You are advised to contact the teacher during the school week only. Teachers will endeavour to respond to your messages at their earliest convenience. Urgent messages during the school day should be channelled through the school office (e.g. changes in collection arrangements etc.). Sometimes a phone call may be more appropriate if you wish to discuss something with your child's teacher.

Contacting the Main Office

Valerie takes her breaks from 11.40 - 11.50 and from 1.30 - 2 p.m. daily. Please avoid trying to contact the office or calling to the office during 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 products. The use of Nutella can be extremely dangerous for children with an anaphylaxis allergy, chocolate and chocolate products are not allowed in the school.

Enrolments for September 2021

We are accepting applications for the 2020/21 school year until 2nd November 2020. If you wish to enrol a child please contact the office for an enrolment form or download it from our website www.ssmichaelandpeter.ie

Health and Safety Matters-Car Parks

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 car parks 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. Thank you as always for your continued cooperation.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!!!!

Reminders

Reminders

