

December
News 2020



Important Dates:

9th December - Christmas Dinner in school
22nd December Close at 11.30am for Christmas Break.
School re-opens Wednesday 6th January 2021
Confirmation 13th March @ 11am
Holy Communion 24th April @ 11am

December

We will be having our annual **Christmas Jumper Fundraiser**. This year it will run from Monday 30th November until Tuesday 22nd December. Children can wear their Christmas Jumper to school, instead of the school cardigan/ jumper or they can wear a Christmas hair accessory.

Children are asked to make a donation in the collection box in their classroom.

All funds collected will be donated to St Vincent de Paul. We hope that the whole school will look festive and bright and that we raise money for this good cause.

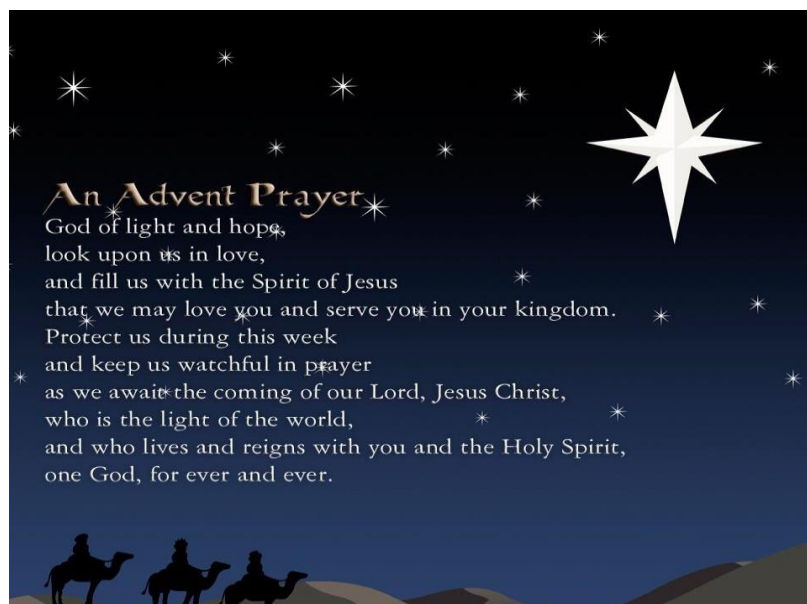


Christmas Nativity Plays

Despite the COVID pandemic we are going ahead with our annual Nativity Plays and Carol Service. The children and teachers are currently all very busy preparing for Christmas.

Unfortunately, we cannot welcome you all into St Matthew's this year to see the children perform and we know this is a huge disappointment for all of us!

Christmas would simply not be the same without watching our younger children perform their Nativity or hear our beautiful choir. Therefore, we have decided to make a recording. A DVD will be made available for all families to purchase so that they can share this magical piece of Christmas with all their family and friends. More details of this will follow.



Advent Prayer

During this special time of Advent, we would encourage you to read the Advent Prayer each day with your child



After School Clubs will resume after Christmas Break

Mondays

Multi Sport Club

P1 - P3 2.30 - 3.20

P4 - P7 3.30 - 4.20

Thursdays

Dance Club

P1 - P3 2.30 - 3.20

P4 - P7 3.30 - 4.20

Annual Flu Immunisation Programme.

The School Nurse team will return on 14th December to administer the vaccine to any children that were not in school on 9th November whose parents had consented.

School Collection

Thank you to everyone for following our new "pick up" rules. Our children's safety is our first and main priority. Please, wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing rules when collecting children.

School Day

All children should be dropped off to school between 8.45am and 9am.

As all P1 children are now well settled into school life at St Matthew's they should also arrive between 8.45am and 9am.

PTA Christmas Fundraiser

The PTA are holding their annual Christmas Hamper Fundraiser. Families have been asked to donate items to the Hampers please return items to the collection box in the foyer or children can give them to the class teacher.

Tickets have also been sent home, please sell as many squares as you can and return the sheets with money before

Wednesday 9th December. The draw will take place on Friday 11th December.

COVID-19 Absences

Please remember to keep school informed should your child be absent for any reason, including the need to self-isolate. Please also make us aware if your child develops COVID -19 symptoms, if you have booked a COVID test and are awaiting results.

Teachers will communicate homework etc via Seesaw.

Remember: Keep washing your hands, wear a mask and make space! To keep everyone safe!

Children Starting P1 in September.

If you know anyone starting P1 in September 2021 let them know we will be holding P1 Open Day Monday 7th - Thursday 10th December from 3.15pm - 4.30pm.

Visits must be booked in advance. Contact Mrs Kealey at info@stmatthewsps.drumsurn.ni.sch.uk or telephone the school on 028777 63887 to arrange an appointment.

Online Applications will open at Noon on 7th January and close Friday 29th January at Noon



Applications for free school meals can be made online on the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>



**On behalf of myself,
the Governors and
staff I would like to
wish you all a very
Happy and Holy
Christmas and a
peaceful New Year!**