

December 2019

Theme -

Our theme for December is '**Christmas**'

We are really busy already learning about the Nativity Story and singing lots of Christmas songs. We will be having lots of fun making some Christmas Decorations, and we will be wrapping presents in Santa's Kingdom and Home Corner role play areas this month. In our sensory area we will have magic reindeer food and the children will be modelling special birthday cakes for Baby Jesus! We will be talking about the star shape, with its straight lines and points.

Stories – As well as the Nativity Story, we will be reading stories about 'Santa', 'Threadbear', and 'The Elf on the Shelf.'

Colour –

Our colours this month are **gold and silver**. Please encourage your child to look out for gold and silver objects in their environment and encourage them to bring something in from home for our colour table. Please ensure that all items are named – they will stay in Nursery until the end of the month when we will send them home again!

Outdoor Play

The weather is definitely getting colder! We want to play outdoors as much as possible, so please remember to send your child's coat with them each day, along with a scarf, hat and gloves as we move to icier conditions! We are encouraging the children's independence when putting on and removing their coat – they have such a sense of achievement when they master this. I know it takes a lot longer, but please let them practise this at home too.

St Vincent de Paul Charity Appeal

We would like to support a local charity this year by making up three hampers that could be given to three families, full of treats that would provide them with food for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day this holiday time. St Vincent de Paul carry out this kind of work and have assured us that they will make the hampers available for people who are in need of help this Christmas. We have spoken to a local representative from the charity, who has given us an idea of items that three local families could benefit from receiving this Christmas. Rather than ask for specific items we are proposing suspending Nursery Fund payment for the week beginning 9th December and instead asking families to donate the £5 they would normally pay into our fund, to St Vincent de Paul. We will go shopping for the specific items and display the finished hampers in the Entrance Hall before donating them on the week beginning 16th December. Please put the £5 you would normally pay to us into a yellow envelope as normal and place it in the post box in your child's cloakroom, marked 'St Vincent de Paul donation' on Monday 9th December. Thank you in advance!

Parents' Feedback

Thank you to everyone who has completed and returned the Parents' Feedback Questionnaires. We value your input and assure you that we will be taking suggestions on board to help to continuously improve our provision for the children and families we serve in our community.

Christmas Cards

We will be sending home a list of names of the children in your child's class to help you when writing Christmas Cards to their classmates. We will open the doors to our cloakrooms 15 minutes before the end of the session this month, to give you time to post your child's cards in their friend's boxes.

Open Day

Our Open Day for children who will be starting Nursery in September 2020 is on Thursday 9th January from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

Please Note – THERE WILL BE NO SESSION FOR THE BLUE CLASS ON THIS DATE.

Enrolment for Nursery and Primary Schools for September 2019

The Education Authority are encouraging parents to apply online for a place in Nursery or Primary School for their child in September 2020. There will be a Parent Portal available from Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 10.00am. The closing date for applications will be Thursday 30th January at 12.00 noon. You will receive more details on how to apply for a place from the Nursery or Primary School you are applying to, at their Open Days in the coming weeks or by contacting them directly.

Primary School Open Days

We have been notified of the following Open Days by local Primary Schools –

St. Brigid's Primary School – MONDAY 2nd December, 6.30pm (TONIGHT!)

Carniny Primary School – MONDAY 2nd December, 6.00-8.00pm (TONIGHT!)

St. Colmcille's Primary School –9th December, 6.30pm

Braidside Int. Primary School –10th December, 2.30-4.30pm

Dunclug Primary School – 11th December 2.00pm-4.00pm and 5.00pm-6.30pm

Camphill Primary School –13th December, 1.30-3.00pm

Ballymena Primary School – 21st January, 6.00pm-8.00pm

Details of other Open Days can be sought by contacting the schools directly.

Christmas Nativity

You have hopefully received an invite to our Nativity Plays. Please feel free to invite grandparents and other relatives along too!

The children's Nativity should last approximately 20-30 minutes. This is a very exciting and tiring day as you can imagine, so we are asking parents to arrange for their child to go home with them, or to be collected, when their performance is over.

End of Term arrangements

The last day of term and class parties will be –

Thursday 19th December for Blue Class and Friday 20th December for the Red and Yellow classes, with the Yellow class finishing at 11.15am on this day.

The children do not need to wear uniform on their last day of term.

Car parking

As we are one of three schools who share our site, we understand that the traffic can be very heavy at drop off and pick up times. We are asking that parents please show consideration of others when parking at our entrance. As staff have different starting and finishing times to cater with different session times, we are asking that parents or carers do not block our vehicle entrance by parking across our gate. Please also show consideration for the buses who arrive at Dunclug College by not parking in a space that blocks their thoroughfare. Thank you!

Christmas Jumper Day

Children may wear a Christmas Jumper on Tuesday 17th December, to raise money for St Vincent de Paul. Suggested donation is £1 on the day.

BIG BEDTIME READ BOOK PACKS

We are delighted that so many of our pupils are taking part in our book lending scheme. Please note that books are given out on a Monday and **should be returned to School each Friday** to enable you to receive a new pack on Monday.

Upcoming Events and Important dates –

Monday 2nd December – Dunclug Nursery School Nativity Performance - All Classes

Monday 9th December – RED Class Nativity in DUNCLUG PRIMARY SCHOOL at 10.30am

Tuesday 10th December – Red and Yellow Classes will watch St. Colmcille's P. S. Christmas performance.

Wednesday 11th December – Red and Yellow Classes will watch St. Brigid's P. S. Christmas performance.

Wednesday 11th December – BLUE CLASS NATIVITY in our NURSERY SCHOOL at 1.00pm.

Friday 13th December – YELLOW Class Nativity in DUNCLUG PRIMARY SCHOOL, 10.30am.

Tuesday 17th December – Christmas Jumper Day in Nursery. Normal Session times apply.

Tuesday 17th December - Jo Jingles – Normal session times apply

Thursday 19th December – Last day of term and Christmas Party for Blue Class.

Friday 20th Dec - Last day of term and Christmas Party for Red and Yellow Classes.

Yellow Class will finish at 11.15am (no school dinner on this day).

Children can wear their own clothes or Christmas Fancy Dress for their party on the last day of term if they wish. Party food will be provided by Nursery.



Birthday Boys and Girls

Happy Birthday to all of these special boys and girls who will be celebrating their birthday this month

Yellow Class – Eimear

Red Class - Alice



On behalf of the Governors and Staff of our Nursery, I would like to wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Pamela Muir – Principal

December Songsheet

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus,
Lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky,
Look down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus,
Asleep on the hay.



Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, Jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
On a one horse open sleigh,
Oh Jingle bells, Jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Hurrah for dear old Santa Claus
And hurrah for Christmas Day.



We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!



Christmas Pudding

Christmas Pudding, Christmas Pudding
Steaming Hot, Steaming Hot,
Sprinkle on the sugar, sprinkle on the sugar, Eat the lot, eat the lot

Five Little Happy Elves

Five Little Happy Elves,
Danced round the workshop shelves,
Looking for lots of jobs to do,
Bang, saw!
One little Happy Elf, Fell off the worktop shelf,
Then there were only four little Happy Elves,
Bang, saw!

