



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The next few weeks are very busy in school as we approach the festive season. Below, please find some key dates for your calendar.

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	P5, P6, P6/7 and P7 pupils are being taken to the Ulster Orchestra's concert in Newry Leisure Centre from 11.00 – 12.00. They will be back to school in time for a quick lunch/snack before whole school collection at 13.00 before our final Parent/Teacher meetings.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	School Council's 'Break the Rules Day!' – pupils must pay 50p for each rule they wish to break. More information has been posted on Seesaw.
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Woodwork Workshop in Lislea's Men's Shed 18.30 – 20.00, parent must attend with their child. There are a couple of places left for anyone in P4 – P7 who is interested. Just drop me an email.
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Half Day Strike Action – <b>School will most likely be closed to pupils until 12 noon.</b> Dinners will be available and served at 12.30pm. Further details to follow.
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent Mass in St Colman's Cathedral for P6 pupils involved in the 'Singing Programme'. Details have been posted on Seesaw. Parents/family are to sit at the back or in the side aisles. Whole school trip to Armagh Market Theatre to see 'Aladdin' at 13.00. The children will be home after 15.00. We will forward details shortly. (inc. Nursery)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner will be served on this day. This is a full school day. Pupils may wear Christmas jumpers. Newry Chamber Quartet will perform 'The Snowman' for P4 – P7 from 13.30 – 14.30.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 'Angel Express' performed by P1 and P1/2 in the school assembly hall. 13.30 'Bethlehem the Musical!' performed by P6, P6/7 and P7 in the school assembly hall. (Details below.)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School closes at 12pm. (No dinners/No afternoon buses.)

This year some of our classes will be joining together and performing a Christmas play. These performances take place on Tuesday 19th December at 10.00 and at 13.30.

P1MC and P1/2NMcG will perform 'Angel Express' at 10.00.

P6GD, P6/7SK, P7EN will be performing 'Bethlehem the Musical!' at 13.30. Both performances will be in the assembly hall.

Doors open at 09.30 and 13.00 respectively and there will be a cup of tea/coffee and mince pie reception to welcome you to the performance. **The doors will close promptly at 10.00 and at 13.30 as the performances are being recorded.**

Everyone is welcome to attend. This year we will be selling tickets to the shows and limiting the number of tickets per family. If there are tickets left, these will be offered to families who request additional tickets.

Preparation for these productions has already started and the coming weeks will be busy with rehearsals and organising costumes. Lines will need to be learned and songs will need to be practised. As a result, from the week beginning December 4<sup>th</sup>, homework for the classes involved in the productions will be based on preparation for their show.

Homework for the other classes will also be reduced from this date to reading and spellings and some 'learning' work. This is to reduce pressure at home as we all prepare for Christmas. There will be no homework from December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please do not go to any expense for costumes – old shirts, bathrobes, tea towels are all acceptable!

We are asking that **no** digital recording devices are brought into the hall in line with our Child Protection Policy. A recording of each performance will be made available.

Next year, some of the classes who have not yet had a chance to take part in a Christmas performance, will be the stars of the shows.

We had intended organising a fundraising quiz before Christmas, but we have decided to push this back to the Spring term.

We are conscious that we currently have several channels of communication in operation. It is hoped that everything will be streamlined by the end of this academic year with the new school app being central and taking over from the text messaging/emailing services.

Pauline McEvoy

Principal

