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ST.FILLAN'S P.S.

newsletter

Friday 13th December 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Nativity**

A truly magnificent nativity was celebrated with our P1 Parents, Carers and extended family and friends on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. This followed a dress rehearsal on Monday with an audience comprised of all pupils and staff including our Nursery Class. The children performed wonderfully with enthusiasm and excitement.

Thank you to the staff team for all your unstinting efforts in preparation for this celebration, including work with costumes, lighting, choreography and music; this encapsulated a brilliant team effort. We would like to give a particular mention to the children of P1 themselves for their incredible confidence in performing in front of three very busy audiences at such a young age.



The festive performances by P4-7 classes were equally as impressive. We're truly blessed to work with such fabulous young people. Grateful thanks to all who gave up time to attend these important events.

Times for the remaining performances from P2 and P3 classes are noted below. A reminder that there will be no tickets sold for these events. However, we ask, if you have not already done so, that you complete [this link](#) to indicate if you plan to attend. This will provide valuable information which will help with catering and seating arrangements for health and safety purposes. Should you wish to make a voluntary contribution, a donation bucket will be available at the school entrance.

### **The Giving Gate**

This year was our third year of the 'Giving Gate'. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported this humbling and inspirational initiative. To say we're overwhelmed with the response to the 'Christmas Giving Gate' is a huge understatement. The goodness and kindness shown reflects the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has donated including extended family members and neighbours of our school. What is particularly touching is the number of our pupils who have opted to spend their pocket money to provide a gift. Your 'above and beyond' generosity will bring joy to a lot of people.



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### Advent

It was lovely to see Parents and Carers attend our Advent Prayers and Masses over the last two weeks. For the third week of Advent, we will have prayers in the hall on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> at 8.50am.**

Our final Advent Mass will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30am. All are very welcome so please share with everyone you know who may be available to attend.

### Retirement Mass

On Thursday we have planned a celebratory Mass for two of our long-serving staff who are retiring, Mrs McDermott and Mrs Gallagher. It is important that we pay tribute to these committed staff members who have made such an incredible contribution to our school over the years.

We kindly ask that all pupils wear full school uniform on Thursday.

### Class Parties

The annual Class Christmas Parties for all the children will take place next week. P1-3 class parties are on Monday and P4-7 parties are scheduled for Wednesday. The children can dress down - or dress up in party clothes - for these events.

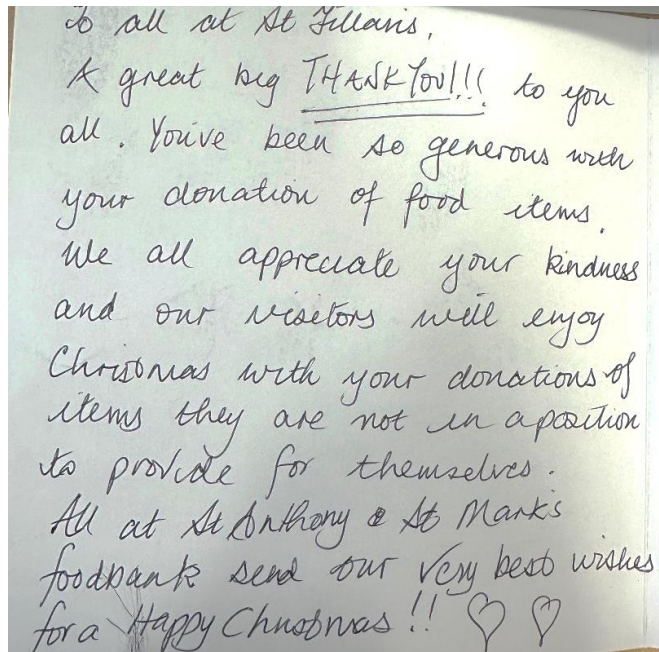
### **PTA Class Christmas Hampers**

Thank you for all your donations. The class hampers, that look fabulous, were drawn this afternoon. We have been in touch with most of the lucky folk and will contact the remaining winners on Monday.

### **Foodbank Donations**

Thank you to all of our families who contributed to the school's foodbank this year. It was an amazing effort from everyone in our community. Our donations were gratefully received by the St Mark's and St. Anthony's Foodbank who sent us this message of gratitude.

"To all at St Fillan's, A great big THANK YOU to you all. You've been so generous with your donation of food items. We all appreciate your kindness and our visitors will enjoy Christmas with our visitors will enjoy Christmas with your donations of items they are not in a position to provide for themselves. All at St Anthony's and St Mark's Foodbank send our very best wishes for a Happy Christmas"



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### Communicating with us

We use [a Microsoft Office forms system](#) to facilitate communication with the Leadership Team. This system is effective in that all the team can access the forms at any time, including out of the normal school hours, allowing us to address any issues that require a prompt response. If there is a matter that you wish to discuss, please use the link above.

Please appreciate that we will do our best to respond to you as soon as possible. Some messages will require a quicker response than others.

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mr Brian Bourke,  
Headteacher

### Dates for your diary

*Please appreciate that dates and times may be subject to change. Additional dates will be added in subsequent newsletters.*

*Every Friday in December Christmas jumper day (with school uniform) if pupils wish to opt in.*

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** 8.50am Advent Prayers in gym hall. All invited.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** P1-3 Class Parties. Children wear own part clothes

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** P2 Christmas Performance at 2.15pm

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** **P4-P7 Class parties**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** **P3 and P3/2 Christmas Performance for Parents/Carers 2.30pm**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** 8.50am Advent Prayers in gym hall. All invited

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** 9.30am Advent Service in school for children and staff

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Jumper Day

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** 2.30pm Close for Christmas

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** Return to school

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January** Celebrating Success Assembly

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** P7 Confirmation; 7pm in Christ the King Church.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February** February Holiday

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February** February Holiday

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February** February Inservice Day

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February** Celebrating Success Assembly

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** Parents' Night #1

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March** Parents' Night #2

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March** Celebrating Success Assembly

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<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Reconciliation for P3 pupils; 7pm Christ the King Parish Church
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	2.30pm Close for Easter
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Return to school
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10am and 12 noon Masses First Holy Communion for P4

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