



# MERCY NEWSLETTER



## DECEMBER 2014



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Dear Parents and Pupils,

We are sending out our newsletter a little early, as December is such a busy month both in and out of school! We know you have many commitments but we also hope you will be able to join us for some of our events and celebrations as we get ready for Christmas. We thank you kindly for all your support this year but remind you that staff would prefer that you do not go to the trouble to purchase gifts for them at Christmas, we do not wish to add any additional expense at what is already a demanding time for families.

*On behalf of the Board of Governors,  
Principal and staff can we wish you all a  
happy and peaceful Christmas.*



Best Wishes and Merry Christmas,  
Mrs Loughran

### Christmas Fair



The annual Christmas fair will take place on **Saturday 6th December** at 11am. We hope to see you all there. It will be a great day full of fun and excitement as Santa himself will be joining us! Keep all your contributions coming in the meantime for our Tombola prizes and hampers! There are some great prizes. Watch out for the ballot tickets coming home for a chance to win 4 great prizes. Parent and friends who wish to volunteer to help please see Mrs Hunt or call the office. Every little bit helps!

### The Travelling Book Fair

The Travelling Book Fair is in school all this week until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November a good opportunity to pick up some Christmas presents or holiday reads. Please feel free to call in and browse.



### Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner for pupils will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. If pupils are paying, it will cost £2.40.

### Pantomime

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December our pupils will be visiting the Lyric theatre for a production of "Sleeping Beauty". We will leave school promptly at 9.45 and return for lunch. Primary 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 will go on Thursday. Primary 4 & 5 on Friday.

**CHILDREN WILL ALL FINISH AT  
2PM on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec for OPEN  
NIGHT!**

Our school Open Night begins at 6.30pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December beginning with the Principal's address and welcome. Some children will be taking part in the school tour, welcoming new pupils and families. P1 application forms will be available at the school. Please pass on to any parents or families that may have a child interested in coming to Mercy Primary next year.



### P1 and P2 Nativity Plays

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** is when our Primary 1 and Primary 2 will be performing their nativity plays. Parents and families are welcome to come to the school assembly hall at 10.55 for a wonderful performance of our little stars.

### Carol Service



Our School Carol Service will take place on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December in Holy Cross Church** at 1.15pm. All parents and families are welcome for this special occasion.

Each class will perform their carol. **Children may be collected at the Church at the end of the Service at 2.15pm.** A note will be sent home for you to indicate if you wish to collect your child at the church or back at school

#### School Holidays

School Finishes at 12.00 noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. There will be no **buses or dinners** on this day. School reopens on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015.



#### Wrap Around Care

Our school Wrap Around Service is running each day until 5.30. Booking forms will be sent home this week and booking must be made in advance.

We are trying to create a comfortable late room and if any parents are refurbishing before Christmas, cushions, lamps, television, unwanted games consoles and donations of toys would be accepted gladly.

#### New School Web Site

We are hoping to launch our new school Website later this month. We will keep you in touch with further details. The new web page will also have the Annual Report for Parents from the Board of Governors for 2013/2014

#### Attendance Policy

Can we please remind parents that if a child is absent for any reason that parents must phone the school to report the reason for absence. A note on return to school is also acceptable. Attendance which falls below 85% is significant and will be picked up by our Education Welfare Officer.

#### School Events:

- 13<sup>th</sup> November P5 had a great visit from the Fire Service!
- Primary 4 had a wonderful morning visit to the School of Music for a music morning.
- P7 went to visit Mercy College for a great day of activities.

- A successful parent and child craft day was held with Whiterock Community Centre.



Congratulations to Mrs Hunt, Mrs Jackman and Mrs Murray who spent 3 days training for First Aid and passed all their exams with flying colours!

We welcome Fr Gareth Thomas as our new Chaplin to Mercy Primary.

Our school Netball team have got off to a great start and showed their team spirit as they played St. Oliver Plunkett girls and won 7:0! Keep it up girls!

On 13<sup>th</sup> November we had a visit from the Education Training and Inspectorate for Northern Ireland as part of a one day Signature inspection. They observed lessons and met groups of P 6&7 pupils. They were very impressed by the standards of written work and the language used by the girls to describe their learning. Well done everyone!

### Dates for Your Diary

- 6<sup>th</sup> December - School Fair 11am
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner
- 11<sup>th</sup> December – Open Night 6.30pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> December – Pantomime children finish at 2pm.
- 17<sup>th</sup> December – P1&P2 Nativity Play 10.55 – school hall
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – School Carol Service 1.15pm - Holy Cross Church Finish at 2.15 at Church.
- 19<sup>th</sup> December - 12.00 noon school finishes.

