

Whitechurch N.S.

Newsletter

January 2020



Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term at Whitechurch National School!

We hope that you all enjoyed the break and that all batteries are fully charged and ready for an exciting new term at WNS! On behalf of all of the staff at WNS, we would like to say thank you for your very kind Christmas gifts at the end of last term.



Pirates of the Currybean

The pantomime was a huge success and we were all very proud of the pupils who gave their best performances for all of the parents and other guests over the two nights in St. Columba's College.

It is very important to acknowledge the help that parents gave us in putting on the pantomime so we thank the following:

Help with parking on the performance nights: Siobhán Crombie, Tracy Chadwick, Chris Steele, Sarah Courtenay, Aidan Lonergan, Aisling Gordon, Rahul Ivaturi, Ciarán Kirwan and Keith Quinn.

Selling raffle tickets: Etain Magennis, Nina Casey, Emma Richmond, Niamh Murphy,

Catherine Jung, Rania Mehanna, Sandra Younge, Nichola Kinch, Heather Fenton, Rowan Hillis & Lindsay Delahunty.

A big thank you also to Helen Kerrane, Nichola Kinch & Heather Fenton for help with printing and stapling the programme.

Thank you also to the PTA for their help with advertising, ticket selling, raffle prizes etc. and to all those who gave us props or prizes and supported the pantomime in any way.

We look forward to the video of the pantomime and thank you to parent, Jonny Sommerville for all of the time and effort he put into recording the shows. The video will be on sale soon from the PTA in aid of their fundraising and promises to be a very professional looking keepsake!

Traffic Action Group Update (TAG)

Currently the group are putting together another letter to the Council to address continuing issues on Whitechurch Road and our wishlist namely: speed warning signs, pedestrian crossing at the church, lighting and footpath improvements. A substantial amount of work went into corresponding with South Dublin County Council which made some progress but we still have much to do.

Please:

- continue to park sensibly in the vicinity of the school, taking special care not to park too close to residential gateways.
- use the Drop Off Zone correctly and safely

- consider parking and walking from the church taking great care crossing here
- think about car pooling, especially on Thursdays as pick up time is extremely congested on this day
- be patient as you enter and exit the school in your car as it very busy with both traffic and pedestrians.
- only park in the spaces in front of the Drop Off Zone if you are helping with reading and will be staying beyond 8:30am
- remember, the snakes and ladders area is reserved for mini buses only in the afternoons
- do not be offended if you receive a reminder on your car about the parking rules- we will be sticking new parking notices on any cars not following our parking rules.

A lot of investigating and preparation went into the planning of the Drop Off Zone/roundabout area in previous years and for the health and safety of everyone in and around the school it is essential that you make yourself aware of the rules and follow them when driving and parking in the school grounds.

Thank you, WNS Traffic Action Group

Flu Outbreak Prevention

We would like to remind all parents/guardians that they should not send in their children to school if they are showing any symptoms of Flu or other contagious illnesses (as per HSE advice). The HSE advises that pupils who have symptoms of Flu should stay at home for 5 days from the onset. While most children get over such illnesses without lasting difficulty, a small number of children and others in their families have very weak immune systems (eg. children with medical conditions, family members undergoing treatment such as chemotherapy, elderly or pregnant family members). Catching Flu can be very dangerous for them. We understand that working parents may have difficulty in sourcing childcare for sick children but the

welfare of all of our pupils, their family members and staff has to come before those concerns.

Our staff will be reminding all pupils of good hygiene practices at school and we would appreciate if you could do the same at home. It is often quite shocking to see the number of children who do not use a tissue or wash their hands after a visit to the bathroom. Please make sure your child can do these things independently at home and avoid helping them all of the time or they will never learn to do these things themselves when away from home. Bugs can spread easily amongst children in schools, and we would ask for your cooperation in this matter to prevent outbreaks.

Please click on the following link for more information including a list of flu symptoms:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/flu-vaccination/about-the-flu/>

Please also ensure that your child is suitably dressed for cold/wet weather with a warm coat each day. Shorts are not suitable for the current weather conditions.

Choir Carol Singing

On Sunday 15th December, the choir went carol singing in Supervalu, Knocklon. Ms. Barry kept us all in tune with her guitar! Lots of people watched and some of the parents even sang along! One man even joined us at the end and was super happy to be in our choir for the day! We had some little helpers shaking buckets too. We had loads of fun and we raised €281.56 towards the new defibrillator.

Katie Harrison, 3rd Class



Christmas Hampers for the Needy



Whitechurch MU packing hampers (some past parents and current grandparents can be spotted!)

Last Tuesday night 10th December our Mothers' Union filled 21 Hampers! A massive big thank you for the very generous donations that came from Whitechurch National School....it was quite significant and thus we were able to help even more people

Gillian Butler
Enrolling Member, Whitechurch MU

Science in Ballyroan Library

On Tuesday the 26th of November, 5th and 6th class went to Ballyroan Library to learn about palaeontology (the study of dinosaurs). We got onto the bus that the library had provided for us and left school at a quarter past twelve. We arrived very quickly. When we got there we went straight into the library and Ms. Masterson told us to take a seat. We were seated in a semi-circle and there was a table in front of us with loads of beakers full of chemicals. Then a woman came in and told us that her name was Science Sue. She asked us if we knew any dinosaur names ending in "osaurus". A few of us put up our hands and named some. Then she asked for volunteer. Loads of us put up our hands but Naoise got picked. Scientist Sue pulled a fluffy teddy dinosaur out of a box. It was on a uni-cycle with two weights on either side. Then she asked Naoise to hold a string that

was tied onto a coat stand and she placed the uni-cycle on the string. It didn't fall off! The weights on the sides balanced it and it rode from one end of the string to the other.

She then asked for a different volunteer. Hannah from 6th class got picked. When Hannah was up, Sue was telling us all about discovering dinosaur bones and that you had to be so gentle because they could break. Then she said that in case the real bone went missing, got damaged or was stolen, palaeontologists would make a copy. Then she said she was going to make a copy right in front of our eyes. She obviously didn't have a real bone but she did have a tiny toy dinosaur. Sue got the toy and pressed one side into a mould. She put a few ingredients together in a bowl and asked Hannah to mix it. It finished as a green gloopy mixture and then Sue told Hannah to pour it into the mould.

After that, Sue told us a bit more about the diplodocus and then asked for another volunteer. Alex got picked. She poured some mixtures together and then asked Alex to pour one last liquid in. Then it started to bubble. She got a matchstick and lit it and then blew it out. She put it onto the foam and the matchstick burst into flames again. Sue said this was because the matchstick still contained the heat. That is why fire fighters don't just have to get rid of the fire, they also have to get rid of the heat.

Then, Sue asked for another volunteer and Sophie got picked. In this experiment they were mixing vinegar with acids and the mixtures turned different colours depending on the strength of the acid.

Sue asked for yet another volunteer and this time David from 5th class got picked. He had to mix all the things that the Diplodocus might have eaten and then put it through a tube and all the nutrients came out because there was holes in the tube. Then he had to squeeze them all out into a bowl and that was meant to be the Diplodocus' poop!

Then we went back on the bus and got back to school. It was home time when we got back. Thank you Ballyroan library for having us.

By Henry Jenner (6th Class)



Dance Classes

Veronika from My Art Dance School will take the pupils for dance classes this term. All pupils really enjoy and greatly benefit from learning dance- it helps with confidence, coordination, motor skills and teamwork. The cost of our Term 2 in school Dance lessons is covered by the pupil contribution, which is greatly appreciated by all. If you still have not paid or signed up to the monthly direct debit scheme, we would greatly appreciate if you would contact Laoighse in the school office to make arrangements.

Dave's Jungle

On Wednesday 27th November, a man called Dave came to our school. He brought loads of animals and when we went in, we weren't sure if they were real. There was an iguana called Phillis sitting on the table and he looked like a toy. First, Dave brought out a snake called Sharon. She was a Burmese python. We all got a turn to hold her. Then he put Sharon back and brought out Charlotte, she was a Mexican tarantula. We got to hold her, too. Then Dave showed us how she would hunt her prey. He took out a locust and put it in front of her, but she didn't look like she was hungry. Dave told us

that Charlotte only really ate once every two weeks and could last up to a year without food! Charlotte didn't want to eat so Dave picked up the locust and **PUT IT IN HIS MOUTH!** After, Dave showed us his scorpion, Pinchy. We couldn't pass him around but Dave said that Pinchy didn't have much venom because the bigger the pinchers the less the venom, and Pinchy had **VERY** big pinchers. Then it was time for some amphibians. Dave brought out a toad called Bernard. He was **POISONOUS!** But we survived. The penultimate reptile was a snapping turtle. Dave showed us how she catches her food with her tongue. Then she crunched down on a carrot and it was **TERRIFYING!** Lastly, he brought out a **CROCODILE!** His name was Kevin and he was the world's smallest breed of crocodile. He was very cute and he didn't eat anyone, even when Phillis (the iguana, who had jumped off the table) walked right in front of him! At the end we got to pet Phillis and Kevin. Thanks to Dave and his jungle for coming in, we really enjoyed it!

By Grace McCarthy, (6th Class)



PTA Extra Curricular Activities:

Swimming in Meadowbrook

Swimming starts back on Wednesday 8th January until 27th May. The cost for this term will be €110 per child.

Please note that swimming money must be paid *before commencement of a new swimming term*. Please make your payment when you receive an email request from Aladdin ePayments.

- Please remember, it is imperative that if your child(ren) is/are discontinuing School Swimming Lessons, three months written notice must be given to the Parent Teacher Association via the school office. This is to ensure that a shortfall does not arise in relation to swimming costs. If a parent/guardian does not give the required written notice, then they will be required to pay for the following term in full.

Hockey at Three Rock Rovers

Many thanks to all those parents/ guardians who volunteer to help at hockey each week, particularly in the cold, wet and windy weather! Without their help we would not be able to run school hockey.

All other P.T.A. extra-curricular activities start back details are below:

- Monday 6th Jan 1-2 p.m. Playball for Junior and Senior Infants & Coding
- Tuesday 7th Jan: Chess
- Wednesday 8th Jan 2-3 p.m. Swimming
- Thursday 9th Jan 1-2 p.m. Junior and Senior Infants hockey in the school
- Friday 17th Jan 1-2 p.m. Zumba for Junior and Senior Infants
- Friday 17th Jan 2-3 p.m. Zumba for 1st – 4th Classes
- Friday 10th: Glee Club
- Thursday 23rd Jan 2-3 p.m. Hockey for 1st – 6th classes in Three Rock Rovers

Please note that the school office does not deal with payment for these activities- each

coach/ leader will request payment from parents/ guardians separately.

Pupil Contributions

Many thanks to those who have paid their pupil contributions to date. Without these contributions, the school would not be able to function and therefore, we encourage all parents to do their best to participate in the scheme. So far this year, the pupil contributions have been spent on:

- 24/7 additional pupil personal accident insurance for all pupils. Some parents have already made claims for accidents that their children have had outside of school already this year.
- Drama classes for all pupils for the first term. Dance classes to take place this term. Gymnastics lessons will take place in the third term.
- 6th Class visit to Christ Church Cathedral.
- Professional PE coaching for all pupils. Please note that the school no longer charges for Playball coaching during the school day.
- Class teachers have spent €15 per pupil on art and craft materials.
- Class teachers have spent €15 per pupil on reading materials for pupils in their classrooms.
- Photocopying, binding and laminating of pupil work and teaching resources.
- Computer software and licenses, IT maintenance including pupil iPads and laptops.
- Replacement furniture.
- Visiting speakers and workshops for pupils.
- Assistance with shortfalls on heating and electricity, photocopying, stationery, stamps, parent text messaging facility and cleaning services.

The tradition with our pupil contribution is that we do not ask for lots of smaller amounts of money throughout the year for each activity. That is why it might seem higher than some other schools who would also charge parents for individual activities throughout the year, however

please bear in mind the range of activities and resources that we spend the pupil contributions on. It really is good value when you see the many ways in which our pupils benefit from it. We would strongly urge all parents to contribute-the monthly standing order. It is quite convenient and can be easily set up on request from the office. We also very much appreciate the prompt return of the Charity Tax Refund forms which you have been sent if you needed to complete one. This enables the school to claim a tax refund based on your pupil contribution as we are a registered charity. This means less fundraising during the year!! Thank you for your continued support.

P.T.A. Santa Claus Visit

The PTA kindly organised for Santa Claus to visit all of the children before Christmas. They were obviously all on the 'good list' as he gave each pupil from Junior Infants to 2nd Class a small present! He also left sweets for the older classes. Here is a photo of some of 1st Class with Santa Claus:



Assembly Collection Money

Every Friday morning the pupils come together for our weekly assembly. Following this we have a collection for charity. We like to encourage the children to bring a small contribution, perhaps from their own pocket

money. Many thanks to all who contributed to our Assembly money collections last term. A sum of €41.60 has been collected. This was given to the Rwanda Parish Mission Link.

Christmas Jumper day for Crumlin Hospital

A total of €513.15 was collected at our Christmas Jumper day for Crumlin Children's hospital. Well done everyone!

Well Being Week - Decluttering Talk

During wellbeing Week January 27th- 31st, Fiona Hall (a parent of 4th Class pupils) will present a Decluttering workshop for all parents. Tickets €10 in aid of PTA fundraising. More details to follow!

School Pupils Mini-Fair 24th January

If you are planning a clear-out of any surplus toys, games or books, please keep us in mind. We plan to hold our annual School Mini-Fair for pupils on Friday 24th January and would welcome donations from everyone. These can be left in the classrooms from Friday 17th January. For those of you that are new to the school, the Mini Fair is a small event for pupils that takes place for an hour during school that is run to help with fundraising each year after Christmas. We will send out more details near the time. Our May Fete is a much bigger event that takes place on a Saturday later in the year.

Cycling Safely

We are delighted to see so many pupils cycling (and even scooting) to school! Please remember to wear your helmets whenever you are cycling or scooting and always walk with your scooter or bike when on school grounds.

Drop Off Zone Reminder

Please remember to only allow children to get out of the car on the school side and when the car is stopped within the Drop Off Zone markings.

Aladdin Parent App

Did you know that you can enter your child's absence reasons on the app? You do not need to send in a paper form if you do this on the app. You can also check your child's attendance records via the app.

School Opening Time

We would like to remind you that school opens at 8.10 a.m. for the reception of pupils. It must be noted that due to insurance regulations, no responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. **Children are not permitted to enter school grounds until just before 8.10.am. Please do not leave children unsupervised outside the school prior to 8.10 a.m.**

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 6th Jan: After school Playball and Coding Club resumes

Tuesday 7th Jan: Chess resumes

Wednesday 8th Jan: Swimming resumes

Friday 10th Jan: Glee club resumes today

Friday 17th Jan: Zumba resumes today

Monday 20th Jan: P.T.A. Meeting at 7.15 p.m.

Tuesday 21st January: Badminton resumes

Thursday 23rd Jan: 1st to 6th Class hockey resumes

Friday 24th January: Mini Fair for pupils

Monday 27th January: Well Being Week

Monday 3rd February: P.T.A. Clothing Collection

WHITECHURCH PARISH

JANUARY, 2020.

“FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN TO ITS SETTING, MY NAME IS GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS, AND IN EVERY PLACE INCENSE IS OFFERED TO MY NAME, AND A PURE OFFERING; FOR MY NAME IS GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS” (Malachi 1, v. 11).

Date of issue: 5 January, 2020.

CHURCH SERVICES

- SUNDAY, the weekly commemoration of the Creation, the Resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit, is the principal Holy Day. Saints days of the season are:-
 - (1) The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (25th Jan.),
 - (2) The Feast Day of St. Brigid (1 Feb.).
 - (3) The Feast of the Presentation of Christ, called Candlemas (2 Feb.).
- Prayer Book Days of Irish Church commemoration are:-
 - (1) Edan, Bishop, Ferns diocese, 632 (31st Jan.).
- Holy Communion is celebrated every Wednesday morning in the church, with prayer for those who are sick, 10.30 a.m., (except, N.B., Wednesday 22 January).
- SUNDAY 12 January (Epiphany 1).
 - ◆ 8.00 a.m., Holy Communion.
 - ◆ 10.30 a.m., Holy Communion.
 - ◆ Note, Sunday Club re-starts this day.
 - ◆ 11.30 a.m., Healer Prayer Union.
 - ◆ 7.00 p.m. A Late Evening office.
- SUNDAY 19 January (Epiphany 2).
 - ◆ 8.00 a.m., Holy Communion.
 - ◆ 10.30 a.m., Epiphanytide Carol Service of Carols and Readings, with theme of ‘*The Light of the World*’.
 - ◆ Sunday Club.
 - ◆ 3.30 p.m., Annual ‘Week of Prayer for Christian Unity’ service, Divine Word church, Marlay Grange.
- This year’s service has been devised by the Churches on the island of Malta, with the theme “*They showed us unusual kindness*” (Acts 28, verse 2). St. Paul was, of course, dramatically shipwrecked on the island of Malta (see Acts 27 and 28). Our local Christian Unity service each year involves parishioners of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, Ballyboden; of Divine Word, Marlay Grange, and of our own parish.
- ◆ Note, No evening service this day.
- SUNDAY 26 January (Epiphany 3).
 - ◆ 8.00 a.m., Holy Communion.

- ◆ 10.30 a.m., Morning Prayer.
- ◆ Sunday Club.
- ◆ 7.00 p.m., A Service of Healing and Wholeness.

• **SUNDAY 2 February** (Presentation of the infant Christ in the Temple – Candlemas).

- ◆ 8.00 a.m., Holy Communion.
- ◆ 10.30 a.m., Family Service.
- ◆ 7.00 p.m., Holy Communion.

• **Note:** Candlemas marks the end of the Church's 40 days of celebrating the birth of Christ on Christmas Day.

- Please stay for refreshments in the Old Schools (1823), after 10.30 a.m., service.

**Church Bible Readings
(Year A, Book of Common Prayer).**

Sun. 12 Jan.

Isaiah 42, v. 1 – 9.
Psalm 29.
Acts 10, v. 34 – 43.
Matthew 3, v. 13 – 17.

Sun. 19 Jan.

Isaiah 49, v. 1 – 7.
Psalm 40, v. 1 – 12.
1 Corinthians 1, v. 1 – 9.
John 1, v. 29 – 42.

Sun. 26 Jan.

Isaiah 9, v. 1 – 4.
Psalm 27, v. 1, 4 – 12.
1 Corinthians 1, v. 10 – 18.
Matthew 4, v. 12 – 23.

Sun. 2 Feb. (Candlemas).

Malachi 3, v. 1 – 5.
Psalm 84.
Hebrews 2, v. 14 – 18.
Luke 2, v. 22 – 40.

25 Jan. (Conversion of St. Paul).

Jeremiah 1, v. 4 – 10.
Psalm 67.
Acts 9, v. 1 – 22.
Matthew 19, v. 27 – 30.

1 Feb. (St. Brigid).

Hosea 6, v. 1 – 4.
Psalm 134.
1 John 1, v. 1 – 4.
John 10, v. 7 – 16.

2 Feb. (Presentation of Christ).

Malachi 3, v. 1 – 5.
Psalm 84.
Hebrews 2, v. 14 – 18.
Luke 2, v. 22 – 40.

Notes / Dates

- **Monday 6 January: Whitechurch N.S. re-opens.**
- **Post Alpha Bible Studies are on January 9, 15, 29.**

- **Tuesday 14 January: Mothers' Union 'New Year' Opening service of Holy Communion, 8.00 p.m., followed by refreshments.**
- **Tuesday 14 January: Alpha Course continues at 8pm - 9.30pm in the Stables each Tuesday, and also 'Away Day' is on January 25th Saturday 2pm - 8pm, (0862651791 Heaneys).**
- **Mondays 20 and 27 January: Continuing the chapter by chapter Bible Study of St. Matthew's Gospel, Vicarage, 8.00 p.m. Study sheets are provided. Contact: The Rector.....This is, of course, the Year of St. Matthew's Gospel.**
- **Thursday 30 January: Select Vestry meeting, Martin Room, 8.00 p.m.**
- **Church Review (our Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan monthly magazine): The subscriptions for 2020 are now due, and subscribers should mark the note from Heather Plummer inserted in this month's January issue, as to the method of payment for annual subscriptions. Any parishioner who would wish to become a new subscriber, please contact the Parish Office.**
- **The Church of Ireland Gazette: The 'Gazette' ceased to be a weekly publication at the end of 2018. It then became a monthly publication. We shall, of course, be forwarding to existing subscribers the annual subscription, which is €40.00. Any parishioner who would now wish, however, to become a new and first time 'Gazette' subscriber, kindly contact the Parish Office.**
- **Annual Revision of the Parish Register: The Select Vestry is required to revise the Parish Register at the end of every January. If your name is already on the Register, there is no need to re-register. We would however, much welcome new arrivals to the Parish over the past year to register – the forms for registration can be filled up with the Churchwardens at the back of the church. The Parish office can also be contacted for the forms. A person should be 18 years or over to register. Only registered parishioners may hold parish offices or vote in the various elections at the Annual Easter Vestry. In addition, parish registers are of considerable historical value, not least for future generations of the Church.**
- **Many thanks to all who contributed through word, sacrament and music to our joyful Christmas services..... Thank you kindly to Janine Jamieson and her 'team' for the lovely children's Sunday Club 'Advent Adventure' party.....Thank you to the Principal, Staff and in particular the school children for their wonderful Christmas Pantomime production of "Pirates of the Curry Bean".....Thank you to Irene Cole and her 'team' for decorating our church so beautifully – it was Irene's whole idea to decorate and flood the whole church with poinsettias, so thank you to her and also to parishioners who kindly made poinsettia purchase contributions.....Thank you to our Mothers' Union branch for once again motivating the assembling of twenty three hampers for local agency distribution, and thank you to both parishioners and school parents for their very generous contributions of non-perishable foodstuffs.....Finally, a special thanks to Reg Richards for his hugely valued work and service, so much of which goes on 'behind the scenes'.**

- **Mission-Links:** Thank you very kindly for your support of our pre-Christmas 'Mission Link' Card sale, which has realized €1,572, whilst our Mission-Link Tins year collection for 2019 has amounted to €2,319.
- **Bishops' Appeal for overseas aid and development Christmas collection:** We currently await a final total and shall report this in next month's 'Hand Out'.
- **Parish Website:** Please keep up to date with our parish news by logging on to our parish website www.whitechurch.dublin.anglican.org
- **Parish Office:** Tel/Fax: 4934972 (For P.A. and Secretary).
- **Rectors P.A.:** Janet Gillis (Mon – Thurs 9.00a.m.-1.00p.m.).
- **Secretary:** Sylvia Byrne (Thurs & Fri 9.00a.m. – 5.00p.m.).
- **Email :** office@whitechurchparish.com

Contact numbers:-

Rector – Canon Horace McKinley 4933953 (Home); 087 0563519 (Mob.);
office@whitechurchparish.com (email).
Rev. Michael Heaney – 086 2651791(Mob.);
revmheaney@gmail.com (email).