**St Peter’s Primary School**

**Plumbridge**

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***Newsletter for December 2020***

Hard to believe we are in the last month of 2020. Thankfully everyone in the school community is doing well. Everyone is adhering to the rules and thinking of others. Thank you to those of you who took precautions, advice and self – isolated throughout the last few months.

**Shoe box Appeal**

Well done to everyone who took part in our shoebox appeal. We are delighted to inform you that we collected 69 shoeboxes. A sincere thank you to all the children, staff and wider community who contributed to this very important cause.

**Ideal Home competition**

The winner of the competition is Paddy (P7) who won an Amazon Fire 7 tablet. Everyone else received a bag with some goodies from the Housing Executive.

**Parent – Teacher Meetings**

By now everyone has received an update from their child’s class teacher. If anyone has not yet received a call, please contact the school office and an appointment will be arranged.

**Anti-Bullying Week**

The children in the school have participated in lots of activities and workshops in relation to Anti- Bullying week. To get Anti Bullying Week off to a good start we wore odd socks to school today. We talked about why it’s good to be different. Being different is what makes us special! Together we are united against bullying and we created a lovely display in our school hall. We would like to ask your feedback on our Anti- Bullying policy and Anti Bullying Flyer the school. This can be found on the school website from 8th December. There will be a short questionnaire for each family to complete on the school website from 8th December to the 12th December.

**Tea towels**

The tea towel order has now arrived in school. Friends of St Peter’s shall send out the order this week.

**Friends of St Peter’s ~ Fundraising Clothes Recycling**

Don’t forget there are two more dates where you can donate your old clothes to Glenelly GFC clubrooms. Collections will be made tomorrow on Wednesday **2nd of December from 6.30-7pm** and again on Saturday **5th December from 3.30-4pm**. Thank you to all those who have already donated to our recycling fundraiser. We appreciate all donations made.

I want to extend a big thank you to Friends of St Peter’s who have been very supportive and raised much needed funds throughout the year.

**Christmas Dinner**

The cost of our Christmas dinner will be £2.60, the same as a normal school dinner. We would appreciate if you could inform your child whether they should take a Christmas dinner by Thursday 3rd December as we will take final numbers on this date. The pupils may wear their Christmas jumpers and hats on this day!

**Christmas Show**

The children will watch a virtual panto of Snow-white and the Seven Dwarfs on 10th December. This has been organised by Southern Regional College, Armagh.

**Christmas Cards**

Due to Covid 19 there will be no Christmas Post Box within the school and Christmas Cards are sadly not permitted to be given out in school.

**MFC Gear**

All MFC sports gear ordered will be distributed on 9th December.

**Stormont Virtual Learning**

The Yr. 6/7 class will take part in an online discussion with Stormont encouraging pupil voice and detailing how the assembly works!

**New Primary One Intake**

There is a new online application process which will be used to apply for a child’s place in primary school for the year beginning September 2021. The Education Authority will publish information on their website about the Primary One admissions procedure on Friday 18th December. This online portal will open on Thursday 7th January at 12 noon and will close on Friday 29th January at 12 noon.

**Glenelly Community Events**

Check out the website for events in the local community over the festive period. Don’t forget SANTA is coming to the Plum on Saturday and all children will receive a free selection box!!!

**Free Red Cross Event**

Please check out the school website for free events for overcoming parental anxiety through yoga.

**Christmas Tickets**

More tickets for the Christmas Draw can be requested from the school office and class teacher. So far the uptake for tickets has been very encouraging. We would also like to thank those who donated prizes to our school draw. It is all greatly appreciated. The draw will take place on Friday 11th December 2020. All tickets are to be returned by 12 noon on Thursday 10th December.

**Christmas wishes**

Each class will share a short snapshot of Christmas warmth/cheer via Seesaw to their parents within their class bubble.

**Christmas Holidays**

School will close for the Christmas break on Tuesday 22nd December. This will be a half day. The school will reopen for pupils on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

**Well – being Day** On Friday 18th December we will have a well - being day. All children will have P.E. with Sean O’Kane and then a movie in class with the younger children (P1 – 3) going on a walk through the village (weather permitting) followed by Golden Time activity. The children have been great little role models adapting to all procedures and never grumbling. We continue to foster well - being through our Paths Programme and the quote of the month for December is ….

 ***There is nothing wrong with wanting to be the first, but not every time!***

***There is nothing wrong with wanting to be the leader either, but not every time!***

***It is important to take turns ~ it’s only fair!***

**Farm Safety Calendar**

All families will receive a farm safety calendar 2021. Please spend time going through the key messages. They are a reminder for all on the farm.

**Christmas Gifts**

With more financial pressures than ever before we, as a school staff, have decided to ask parents not to buy gifts for staff this year. Every year your generosity has been astounding and always greatly appreciated.

If any family is struggling or need support, please let me know and we will endeavour to help. Your identity will be confidential and privacy upheld.

***Finally, we wish you all a safe, calm, Happy Christmas and look forward to a brighter new year.***

A thought from Pope Francis to finish.

 **“*The season of Advent restores … a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! … Let us think about and feel this beauty.”***

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