

# HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL

## Student Council Newsletter (Christmas Edition)



### Introduction:

Hello and welcome to the Holy Family Senior School newsletter. We have lots in store for you in this edition! Enjoy!

### Mark your Calendar

December 20<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Holidays

December 21<sup>st</sup> - December Solstice

December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve

December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day

December 26<sup>th</sup> - St. Stephen's Day

December 31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve

January 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day

January 6<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany

January 6<sup>th</sup> - Return to school

### Members of the Student council 2024/2025

Nathaneal Amayo - Ms. Dooley  
Andrew Ladipo - Mr. Walsh  
Aoibhe O'Shea - Mr. Finlay  
Amber Brennan - Mr. Miller  
Leila O'Loughlin - Ms. Moloney  
Maja Grabowska - Ms. Duff  
Oisin Lewis - Mr. Malone  
Shannon McNamara - Mr. O'Shea  
Eve Montgomery - Mr. Finn  
Alvia Robin - Ms. Whelan  
Alanna Cahill - Mr. O'Loughlin  
Ellie Sandgrove - Ms. Fitzpatrick  
Millie LaCumber - Ms. Redmond  
Jessie Ajaegbu - Ms. Hennessy



### December Facts (By Millie LaCumber)

1. December is the first month of the meteorological winter.
2. Turquoise is the birthstone for December.
3. December has 31 days.
4. The winter solstice is in December (The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year)
5. Christmas is in December.
6. The official flowers for December are narcissus and holly.
7. The star signs for December are Sagittarius and Capricorn.
8. Taylor Swift, Britney Spears and Jay-z were all born in December.
9. 9 degrees is the average temperature in December in Ireland.
10. The word December comes from the Latin word *decem*, meaning ten, because originally December was the tenth month of the year.

## Student Council Buddies (By the Student's Council)

The members of the student council are from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. Each member is buddied up with a younger class which they visit to hear all the exciting things that have been happening. Here's a taster of what all the classes have been up to.

### Eimear and Ellen/Tommy's STAR classes (By Shannon McNamara)

- The star classes got a new stationary bike it's like a bike that stays in place while you're riding it – it's really cool!
- The children also have swimming every week and sometimes on Fridays they bake yummy treats.
- The children had a coffee morning with the children's parents and their loved ones- that must have been fun.

### 3rd and 4th Class Activities

- The 3rd classes had visitors telling them all about fire safety.
- Tulips and daffodils were planted by some of the classes.
- GAA training taking place every Friday.
- Some of the 3<sup>rd</sup> classes went carol singing during December.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> classes are busy learning their choir songs every week.
- Scientific Sue visited the school and wowed all the classes with her science show.

### 5th and 6th Class Activities

- The 5<sup>th</sup> classes have been enjoying their fitness classes with Glen Daly fitness.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes loved the planetarium that visited the school.
- All classes supported the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> girls in their finals in O'Moore Park.
- Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Finn ran an amazing Science Expo which all classes got to visit and see some incredible science in action.

### Toy Show review (By Ellie Sandgrove)

The theme was Home Alone. The show started with great drama, a scene from Home Alone with great acting from young performers, I think it was a great classic movie to use as a theme. The opening singing and dancing was really good with a brilliant choice of music.

The toy testing started straight after the opening of the show. All the toy testers were very confident considering they were on live tv and in front of a packed studio audience. Patrick Kielty was really good with all the children, making them feel very relaxed. He had fun with them rather than making fun of them. Speaking of the audience, their outfits were very impressive and they got loads of gifts as usual.

The second performance was Thunderstruck. I think it was brilliant. My favourite bit was the hip-hop dancers and Irish dancers. They both showed really good skill. All the performances were brilliant. One as good as the next.

There were a lot of special celebrity guests, including Irish singer Jazzy, Irish astronaut Norah Patten and retired Irish rugby player Johnny Sexton. Also two Irish Olympian sprinters did a trolley dash in Smyths toy store. There was even a special message from Mariah Carey.

This year the Toy Show Appeal raised an amazing €4,154,168 to help children's charities around the country. Overall a great Toy Show. My only negative is there were a lot of ads.

## The Origin of Christmas (By Alvia Robin)

Long ago, about 2000 years ago, when king Herod ruled Judea (now part of Israel) God sent angel Gabriel to a young woman who lived in the northern town of Nazareth. She had a pure heart and prayed to God every day. This girl's name was Mary and she was engaged to marry Joseph. The angel Gabriel said to Mary: "Peace be with you, God is pleased with you and has granted your wish". Mary was very surprised by this and wondered what the angel meant. The angel said to her "Do not be afraid, God has been very kind to you, you are blessed to have a baby boy and you will call him Jesus. He will be God's own son and his kingdom will never end". Mary was doubtful and afraid but she trusted in the Lord and said "Let it happen as the Lord has said". Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to participate in a census ordered by Caesar Augustus. This was ultimately so that everyone could be accounted for and pay taxes. But because there was no room in the inn, the baby Jesus was born in a stable and placed in a manger. His humble birth is celebrated by choirs of angels and shepherds, and he is given precious gifts from the three wise men. Now we celebrate Jesus's birth as Christmas every year.

## CHRISTMAS JOKES (By Ruane Kenna)

- Why couldn't the teacher find anyone to wrap gifts?  
No one was present!
- What happens when you cross Santa with a duck?  
Christmas quackers!
- What do monkeys sing at christmas?  
Jungle bells!

### DAD joke time

- What do you call poor santa?  
Saint nickel-less!
- Why did the snowman go to the garden?  
To pick his nose!

### Riddle me this!

- 1) What gets bigger the more you take away?

### Other school news and events

- The school debating team were hard at work this term. They proposed the motion "Everyone in Ireland should be given a bike" against the Heath. They were defeated on the day after an amazing debate.
- The chess club has 28 members from 6<sup>th</sup> class and they meet weekly.
- The school chess team are doing brilliantly in their online tournaments organised by Ficheall. They have placed in the top 5 in Ireland in all tournaments and will attend Féile Fichille in February.
- The school quiz team will take part in two competitions in the New Year.
- We have our very first school sports quiz team who will take part in the Cumann na mBunscol sports quiz.

## Christmas in Nigeria (By Jessie Ajaegbu)

Christmas in Nigeria is a family event, a time when lots of family members come together to celebrate and have fun. Most families, that live in cities, travel to the villages where their grandparents and older relatives live.

Children love to play with firecrackers at Christmas. The church choir may visit the church congregation in their homes to sing Christmas carols to them. Christmas cards are sent to friends and family members. Presents are exchanged amongst family members and some families may take their children dressed in new outfits to see Santa Claus.

Many families will throw Christmas parties that will last all night long on Christmas Eve! Then, on Christmas Morning, they go to church to give thanks to God. Homes and streets are often decorated. Most homes will have an artificial Christmas tree. In addition to serving turkey, a traditional Christmas meal in Nigeria may include beef, goat, sheep, ram or chicken. Other dishes might included pounded yam, jollof rice, fried rice, vegetable salad and some type of stew.

Christmas in Nigeria is a vibrant and joyful occasion, blending Christian traditions with local customs. The celebration, rooted in the rich cultural heritage of the Nigerian people, is a unique and special experience.

Thanks to all of our contributors from the Student's Council who made this issue possible.

Riddle answer;

A hole

## Cumann na mBunscol Finals (By Aoibhe O'Shea)

On the 27th of November 2024 the Cumann na mBunscol finals started off with the school's 6th class girls playing Portarlinton at 10am and the school's 5th class girls playing The Heath at 11am. Both teams entered the finals with high hopes after good performances leading up to the event. Facing strong opposing sides, they both gave a brilliant display of effort and strength.

The school started to make their way up to O'Moore Park class by class for the big occasion. The excitement was building, but unfortunately both matches were postponed by about an hour due to the cold temperatures and the pitch being frozen. Finally, the first game started and it wasn't to be for the 6th class girls as they lost to Portarlinton 2:4 to 3 points. Then we move on to the 5th class girls who from the opening whistle, dominated proceedings with sharp passing, tough defending, and clinical finishing. It was a great day for them as they won against The Heath on a scoreline of 7:7 to 3:2. Both teams had a great game helped by the super support from the school with their chanting, cheering and drumming.