

Whitechurch N.S.

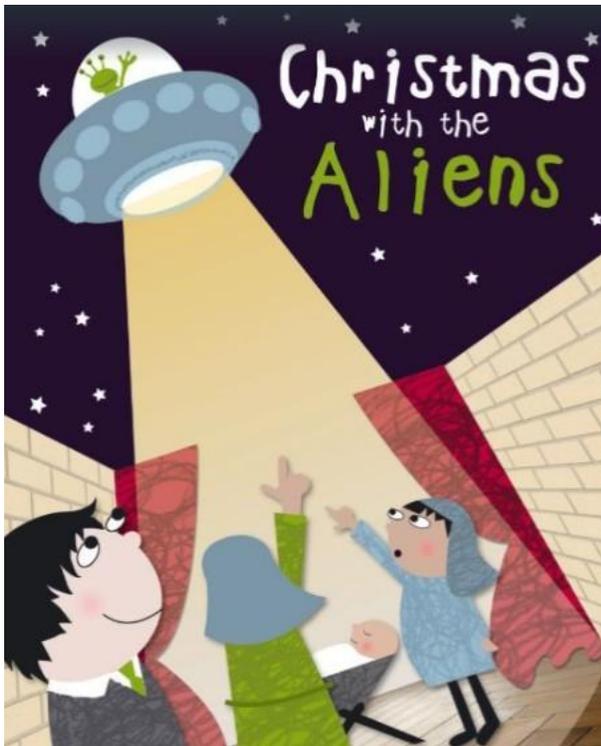
Christmas Newsletter 2025



Christmas Carol Services- Thursday 18th December

Junior Carol Service 9am in the school hall (parents can come in to take their seats from 8.45)
Senior Carol Service 11 am in the Church (parents can come into the church to take their seats from 10.45)

We are really looking forward to both carol services! 2nd Class will lead the Junior service with their traditional nativity play and 6th Class will lead the senior service with their play- Christmas with the Aliens. All classes will also be singing their own songs.



We are delighted to be welcoming parents to watch their children and to join us in our Christmas celebrations. Space is at a premium in the PE hall for the junior service so although there is no ban on extended family members, we would suggest that priority is given to those families of pupils taking

part in their nativity plays if extra family members want to attend.

A reminder that other children will not have consent from their parents for you to publish or share any videos or pictures of them online so please do keep any video clips or photos for your own family use only and do not block anyone behind you with phones! Please do, as ever, be mindful of parking and do not park on bends, block entrances or footpath access for buggies or wheelchair users. Park and walk if at all possible- use the church carpark, Marlay Park or other areas nearby away from the main road. This year's carol service collections will go towards the The Irish Cancer Society and Purple House Cancer Support (our chosen charities for this year).

Following the Junior Carol service, there will be tea and coffee in the hall with thanks to the PTA. Any parents who are staying on for the senior service in the church are welcome to wait and have a catch up and some refreshments before going to the church Pupils will be rehearsing in the church so we would ask parents not to take their sets until 10.45 at the earliest.

PTA Extra-Curricular Activities Term 2

Thank you to the PTA Committee and all other parents involved for all of their work in organising the extra-curricular activities. Term 2 dates for Extra Curricular Activities are as follows:

6 weeks starting the week of Monday 5th January-9th February

7 weeks starting the week of Monday 23rd February – Monday 23rd March.

On Friday 30th January, school will be closed to facilitate staff training on Autism.

On Tuesday 10th February, school will be closed to facilitate staff training on the Primary Curriculum.

Enrolment carries on from Term 1 unless you give notice to the provider in advance so that they can fill the place in time from their waiting lists.

PTA Christmas Cards

Thank you to the PTA for organising the recent Christmas Card fundraiser and to the teachers for helping pupils to prepare their cards. The PTA will let you know the total amount raised in the near future. All funds raised after costs will go towards pupil classroom resources for the school.

Dress up Day

We had fantastic costumes on display at the school for our charity dress up day before the Mid Term Break. We raised €335 for The Irish Cancer Society and Purple House Cancer Support. Thank you to all who took part and contributed to this fundraiser!



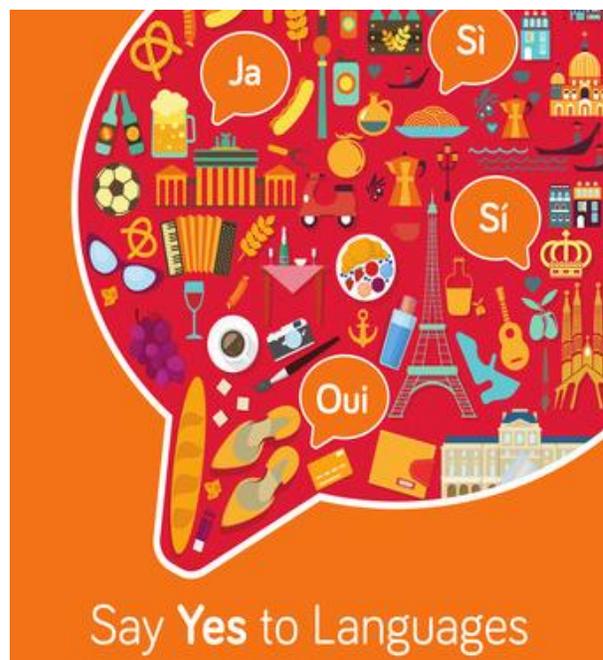
Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who came to the school for the recent Parent Teacher meetings! It was great to have everyone come to the classrooms to meet in person with the teachers. We hope that the meetings were useful and productive. Please never hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher should you wish to discuss any aspect of their learning/ school experience. Rescheduled 5th Class meetings will take place in the new year.

French lessons for 5th and 6th Class

As part of the PPLI 'Say Yes to Languages' Programme, we are delighted that a tutor from Olé School of Languages will be teaching introductory lessons in French to 5th and 6th Class next term. To date as part of the PPLI Programme, we have enjoyed lessons in Italian, ISL, Polish and Spanish. All pupils have really enjoyed these taster lessons and the aim of encouraging pupil interest in other languages as they move towards post primary has been a big success. From next year, the new curriculum will be implemented and 3rd- 6th Class

will be learning a modern foreign language as part of their weekly timetable. As the majority of teachers at the school have some basic proficiency in French at LC level, this will be our chosen language as we start out with the new MFL in the curriculum.



Christmas Hamper Collection

Thank you to everyone who brought in items for the Whitechurch Parish Mother's Union Christmas Hamper collection recently. All of the hampers will be given to Mustard Seeds and distributed to the homeless.

PTA Bag packing

Thank you to the following parents and pupils who took part in the SuperValu Ballinteer "Bag-Packing for Charity" event on Saturday, 8th November. Stefania, Luca and Mattia Ivaturi, Mo and Heather Fenton, Eloise, Senan and Eve Prendergast, Molly Mc Carrick, Rory Keogh, Colm and Conor Carr, Callum Adams, Samuel Kenealy, Jenny and Joey Donnelly, Noah and Abbey Donnelly, Oscar Mc Goran, Catherine and Conor Montague, Sam Brady, Seán Cacciato, Samuel Ryan, Oonagh, Arthur and Oliver Simpson, Judy Brown, Sarah Richards, Nichola Hosie, Samantha Squire and other volunteer parents and pupils. We raised a total of €1,025! A super result- well done and thank you!

Bag packers in action in WNS blue!



Hot Meals

We hope that pupils are enjoying their hot meals and that parents are finding the ordering app easy to manage. We have had a higher uptake than initially expected with nearly all families in the school availing of the scheme. A reminder that if you have any queries or issues regarding the meals, to please contact the provider, Nourish and Green. Thank you to Mr. Kenny for taking on the role of hot meal operative. We hope to find someone else to take over as the hot meals operative in the new year. This job would entail 2.5/ 3 hours per day paid by Nourish and Green and would involve loading meals into the oven and distributing these to the classrooms. Food safety training is provided by the hot meals providers. It would be great to have someone who is familiar with the school in this role- if you are interested and would like to find out more, please let Laoighse in the office know and she will put you in touch with Nourish and Green.

BOM Update

At the most recent meeting of the Board of Management, we worked through our annual enrolment process as the main focus. Once again, applications outweighed the number of places available so a waiting list is in operation. There are also a number of pupils on waiting lists for places in classes aside from Junior Infants. Some other topics on the meeting agenda included:

Health and Safety, Hot Meals, Child Protection, Anti Bullying, the school wellbeing plan and a review of the Garda Vetting Policy- this has been updated and is available to view on the school's website.

School Finances- it was noted that the school's funding comes in the first term primarily from parental contributions without which, we would be unable to meet the running costs. DE funding comes through each year in the second term and is unfortunately much less than is required to fund the school fully. The BOM notes its sincere thanks to parents for their financial support of the school.

Health and Safety reminder

A reminder to always use the footpaths. Please do not short cut across grassy areas. This is particularly important as we approach the colder weather season. On icy mornings, please only walk on the salted or gritted paths and take extra care.

Women's Chess Festival

Well done to Eloise Prendergast (5th Class) who took part in the inaugural Women's Chess Festival in Stillorgan.



Wesley Musical Trip

A huge thank you to Wesley College for inviting our 6th Class to attend the recent production of 'Beauty and the Beast' on 10th November. The pupils really enjoyed the show and it was particularly nice to see some past pupils on stage!



6th Class at 'Beauty and the Beast' in Wesley College

Drop Off Zone

Our Drop Off Zone continues to work really well in the mornings. Please remind your children to be ready to go with school bags on their knees so they can hop out quickly allowing the next car to arrive.

Team Hope Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who brought in shoeboxes following our visit from Sylvia Fry to talk to us at Assembly about Team Hope shoeboxes. An amazing record number of 254 shoeboxes were collected from the school. Well done everyone, a fantastic achievement! 5th and 6th Class collected the most with thanks in particular to Mo and Eloise who brought in so many boxes! 5th Class helped to load the Team Hope collection van and 6th Class were very kindly invited to the Team hope Warehouse by Sylvia to see how it all works.



6th Class Trip to Killakee Christmas Tree Farm

6th Class pupils really enjoyed their recent trip to Killakee Christmas Tree Farm. Thank you to the parents for helping with lifts and providing some treats and hot chocolate!



Gymnastics Lessons

Thank you to Raul Periera from Olympian Gymnastics who has completed a block of gymnastics lessons with all classes this term.





PTA Selection Box raffle

The P.T.A. will hold their Children's Christmas Raffle on Friday 19th December. Each child can buy their raffle ticket(s) from their class teacher in the days leading up to the raffle, at a cost of €1 per ticket. Three selection boxes will be raffled for each classroom with one larger box for the whole school. This raffle enables the P.T.A. to organise a Santa Claus visit and small gifts for the pupils.

Santa Claus is coming to town!

It's that time of year again and Santa Claus is busy making toys and the reindeer are preparing for their long journey on Christmas Eve. We have just received an email from the North Pole to say that Santa will be paying a visit to our school towards the end of December where he will meet the junior pupils. Many thanks to the PTA for making this visit possible!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year from the staff and pupils in Whitechurch National School!

Dates for your diary:

- **Thursday 18th December:** Carol Services
 JI- 2nd Class at 9 a.m. in the school hall.
 3rd -6th Class at 11 a.m. in the Church.
- **Friday 19th December:** PTA Selection Box raffle and School closes at 11.30 a.m. for Christmas holidays
- **Monday 5th January:** School re-opens at 8.20 a.m.
- **Monday 5th January:** Extra-Curricular activities start this week.
- **Monday 5th January:** No Choir today
- **Monday 12th January:** French lessons begin for 5th and 6th Class.
- **Thursday 15th January:** Dance classes start today with Lauren from House of Swag Dance Studios for all classes during the school day
- **Monday 19th January** – Wellbeing Week
- **22nd January:** PTA Clothing Collection
- **Thursday 29th January:** PTA Pupil Mini Fair
- **Friday 30th January:** Exceptional School closure to facilitate staff training on Autism.
- **Monday 2nd February:** School closed for St. Brigid's Day

