



Nurture · Inspire · Flourish · Pray



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Newsletter UPDATE 3 December 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Staffing Update

Goodbye: It is with a mixture of understanding and regret that I inform you, both Mrs Fraser and Mrs Reilly are to take (early!) retirement and will leave St John's at the end of this term in December. As I said in my letter to P6 parents they are outstanding members of staff and we will miss them both dearly; their consistency, patience, skills and devotion to classes, over the years here, have left an immeasurable mark on all the pupils they have worked with. As a staff we will miss their support and ways in which they have extended their professionalism and supported pupils and staff above and beyond. *Benmore stalwarts, artists, linguists, champions for Scots language and parish links* are but a few areas in which they are skilled. Our current P6's will miss them and I'm sure, like them you will all want to wish them well on their new adventures.

New Appointment: We welcome the return of Leeann McClure who will join us in nursery as an Early Years Officer. Leeann will begin in January and will head up the team who will support our Eligible Two's.

December Dates:

You will have received some key dates, a reminder below:

Monday 3 rd & Wednesday 5 th December	P4 Community Carol Singing – Baptist Church
Tuesday 4 th December	Cluster Strings Concert – Portobello High School, 5.00-6.00pm
Friday 7 th December	11.00am P4 Assembly
Wednesday 12 th December	P1 Nativity, 1.45pm
Friday 14 th December	P7 Christmas Party
Monday 17 th December	am – P6 Party pm – P3 Party
Tuesday 18 th December	am – P5 Party pm – P2 Party
Wednesday 19 th December	am – P4 Party pm – P1 Party
Thursday 20 th December	Whole school outing – Dominion (am)
Friday 21 st December	Last Day of Term, 12.00pm finish for all



Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you...

On behalf of the school, huge thanks to the parent council, volunteers, Miss Miller, the choir and all who played a part in contributing to the Christmas Fair yesterday. We were delighted by the contributions to the two charities and by all who came along to support the event, a

Sunday afternoon was a new adventure for us and we were delighted by the turn out. A special thanks to Nicola D 'Agostino who secured us, not one, but 7 of Porty's rarest and most sought after creations: wee wooden robots. For those who are unaware, local cult hero (Robot Maker) has been hiding his/her robots around the community for the past few months for lucky residents to find. The parent council raffled 6 of them and donated the last remaining one to the school, we will name our robot and let you know of its adventures in and around the school.

The parent council are also supporting our Christmas Outing to the Dominion on 20th Dec. They kindly pay for coaches to transport us there and entry fee contributions. This greatly reduces the overall cost. Payment for will go live on Tuesday. Check parent pay for details.(£7 per pupil.)



As we have done for the past few years, this Advent, we will continue to support local foodbank initiatives. P7 have agreed to coordinate this as part of their Pope Francis Award. They are off to a brilliant start with donations from the fair. They will sort through items and arrange delivery to our local foodbank in Leith. A

message from them below:

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- **SUGAR (1KG)**
- **TINNED TOMATOES**

- **FRUIT JUICE (LONG LIFE)**

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

- **PASTA (500G AND 1KG PACKETS)**
- **SOUP ALL VARIETIES**

- **BEANS**

We know, at Christmas, some luxury items such as Christmas Puddings, Selection Boxes and tins of biscuits are welcomed too, along with essential toiletries which many families sacrifice at this time of year to help pay for Christmas presents.

If you can help, please drop off donations at reception.

Universal Credit: we have been provided with information to share with families who may need to make a claim for the first time. Please let us know if you are experiencing any difficulty in understanding how to make a claim, we will help you get the information you need. Call the school office: 0131 669 1363 or email: admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk