



Addressing-Bullying

A preventative anti-bullying curriculum is taught in all classes throughout the year, in particular through PDMU, Religion and circle time. There are also a number of whole school initiatives including Buddy Benches, listening ear

boxes, and P6 playground buddies, who join the P1-3 pupils in the lower playground to model good play skills, reassure and help the younger pupils. Our P5 pupils recently visited the Playgroup to Carol Sing and get to know the pupils for whom they will be buddies next year. We also held our annual Anti-Bullying poster competition this term and these are displayed around the school. Some of the pupils who wore odd socks to raise awareness are pictured here.



Reading Buddies

Our reading buddies programme allows P7 pupils to read with P2s. This is highly beneficial for both age groups, developing confidence and creating an interest in reading for pleasure - which research indicates is

a crucial factor in raising reading standards.

Certificates of Achievements

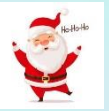
Congratulations to all the boys and girls who have been awarded certificates of achievement so far. **Keep up the good work.**

As always sincere thanks to parents for your support and co-operation.

Remember we are happy to discuss any concerns you may have.



St Mary's P.S. Christmas Newsletter 24



Spirits have been high over the past couple of weeks with, Christmas dinner, our Pageant, Carol Singing in local shops and businesses, the internal postal service, a trip to the Pantomime in Belfast and lots more art, music and fun.

Congratulations to the pupils who designed stamps for our postal service and to Niamh, Amira and Lana, who's Christmas card designs were picked to represent the school this year. The School Council organised a Christmas Jumper Day and Children's Raffle to raise funds for this year's chosen charity, 'The Cancer Fund for Children'. Thank-you to the Ray of Hope group for donating a beautiful hamper, which was won by Felim.



Art Exhibition

At St Mary's we love to celebrate the children's talents and achievements. Most recently parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends and the wider community were invited to a



fabulous art exhibition of the pupils' work. Visitors enjoyed some drinks and nibbles as they perused the range of art on display, which included samples from every child in the school. Our vision

of 'Be Kind, Be Curious, Belong' was evident in the work on display and the warm, jovial atmosphere as children and adults celebrated together. Thank-you to the Friends of St Mary's who helped with the event.



P3 Graphic Design Achievements

This term P3 entered a competition, to create a magical creature using AI and digital Art. Their fabulous work was specially commended on the C2K Newsdesk, used by schools across NI.



Therapy Dog



P7 were recently invited to meet Pluto, St Kevin's therapy dog. The children enjoyed the experience so much, they wanted to bring Pluto back to St Mary's



Physical and Emotional Wellbeing

Classes have been enjoying weekly sports lessons including Gaelic with Pat (P3-7), Handball with Megan (P6/7), Netball after school with Niamh, and gymnastics with Nathan (Core Kids). The P6 pupils have now completed their swimming programme

and earned lots of certificates. Classes have nurture lessons including Neuronimo, Yoga, and mindfulness. We also participate in the Daily Mile, Santa Run and P3-7 enjoyed an Anti-Bullying Art Therapy Workshop around the theme of 'Odd Socks'.



Shared Education

This term P2, 3 and 7 have joined pupils from Newtownbutler PS and St Joseph's Donagh for shared lessons. The children have enjoyed getting to know new friends and learning together. The P2 and 3 programme was initiated with a SENTINUS workshop, introducing the children to new



STEM skills. The P7 programme began with a trip to the Folk Park in Omagh, where the children explored their current Famine Ireland Topic. They are pictured here in costume in the schoolhouse.

