**December Newsletter**

**Covid -19**

Thank you to all parents who continue to make a concerted effort in our approach against Covid. Every family has a part to play in this approach and we urge you to exercise caution.

As you will be aware, the Department of Education and Skills is recommending that all pupils from 3rd Class upwards wear face masks in school from now on. We understand that this may pose a challenge to some pupils. We will continue to work together to ensure every pupil is comfortable. Class teachers will demonstrate and outline the correct way to wear and maintain face masks, emphasising good hand hygiene.

It continues to be a very challenging time for families with a significant rise of Covid cases in under 12’s. We wish families affected by Covid a safe and speedy recovery.

**Christmas**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our Christmas plays this year. We realise that the boys and girls will be very disappointed, however, we hope that if the Covid situation improves, we will hold some plays later in the school year.

As a reward for the pupils for all of their hard work throughout the term, we hope to have a Pyjama day on Tuesday 21st December. If you do not wish for your child to wear in Pyjamas on this day, they may wear their Cosy Clothes instead. We hope to have a fun-filled day for the children on this day.

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**School Payments**

We would like to thank all those that have made payments for this school year to date.

**School Activities**

Yoga will continue with Siobhan O’Leary, for one more week, on 6th December. We hope to have Musical Theatre commencing on 7th January for all classes.

On Tuesday 7th December, we have a visit from a member of the Heritage in School Project to examine the architecture of buildings in our locality. We hope to complete a walk along Church Road on this day. (weather permitting)

**Team Hope**

It’s always nice to be nice! The boys and girls of St. Mary’s did a wonderful job collecting 39 boxes for the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. We are very proud of the children as they all made a tremendous effort in putting their boxes together and thinking of those who are less fortunate than themselves.

**A Big Thank You**

A big thank you to the parents who are organising some very important Christmas activities.

**Parents’ Association**

Thank you to all the children and parents for submitting their favourite recipes and the fantastic artwork.
We are delighted to announce that the recipe book has gone to print! Recipe books will be available before Christmas and cost €10.
Thank you to all those who have already preordered. If you would like to pre-order, please email recipebook@baylyparker.com. Alternatively, Natasha Clarke or Kirsten Bayly-Parker will have them closer to Christmas. This will be a huge fundraiser for our school’s IT fund. Please support if you can.

Thank you to all the parents who bought their children’s Christmas cards! We raised €270.

There will be a Christmas jumper day on Monday 20th December-€2 per child.

The PA had hoped to organise some sort of social event closer to Christmas in conjunction with the school’s Christmas events but unfortunately it’s impossible at the moment. We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

**The Last Day of Term**

School will close at 12.00pm on Wednesday 22nd December. The school bus will facilitate this earlier collection time. It is not necessary for children to bring schoolbags on this day.

**School re-opens**

Please note that the school reopens on Thursday 6th January at 9.00am.

*On behalf of all of the staff, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.*

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