



St. John the Baptist Junior Boys' School Newsletter

December 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we approach the final few days of 2022, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support to our staff, our boys and our whole school community.

Looking back to this time last year, it is hard to believe that we were in a very different situation. Thankfully, although Covid 19 is still a reality, we have seen a cautious but welcome return to school life as it should be.

We are delighted to once again celebrate our school traditions of our Christmas plays and our Carol Service. We are again enjoying the opportunity to come together with our neighbouring schools on the campus to enjoy the play performances. We are also delighted to see a return of our parent/guardian audience for our Junior Infant and First Class plays on Thursday 15th December and our Solas show on Friday 16th December. We look forward to reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas next Tuesday 20th December with the whole school community, when we celebrate our Carol Service as led by our Senior Infants and Second Classes.

This term was a busy term where the boys enjoyed lovely activities and had lots of fun.

Graffiti Classics

We had the pleasure of participating in an interactive workshop-style performance of Graffiti Classics in November. The boys really got to enjoy and develop their own musicality where the string quartet made classical music fun and engaging. The performance was full of scintillating slap-stick, brilliant arrangements and mischievous humour!

Parent Teacher Meetings

It was wonderful to see the return to face-to-face parent teacher meetings for our Senior Infants to Second Classes this year. It gave parents/guardians an opportunity to see their son's classroom and for them to have a proper chat with the teachers. Parent/teacher meetings for our Junior Infants will take place during the week of 23rd January 2023. Booking of appointments will be communicated to parents on our return from the Christmas break.

First Holy Communion

Our First Holy Communion boys attended their Enrolment Mass during the weekend of November 19th/20th and their Second Preparation Mass during the weekend of December 10th/11th. Thank you to all the parent volunteers, parish office and our priests for all the care and attention they give the boys as they prepare for this special sacrament.

Christmas Jumper Day for St. Vincent de Paul

On Friday 16th December we invite the boys to wear a Christmas jumper in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. This charity provides much needed support and assistance to families all year round but especially at this time of year. We would ask parents/guardians for a €2 donation either through Aladdin or in a collection bucket in the yard to support this cause. There is a rumour that there may also be a special visitor on the day too!

Karonga Kids Need Your Help

On behalf of one of our parents in the school, we would ask you to kindly donate to the below cause if at all possible:

You could save an education with your old pencil that you threw in the bin.



Karonga Kids, Malawi 2022

This month there are children that would cry with tears of joy if you gave them your dirty old pencil that you wanted to throw in the bin. We're accepting anything from new to 10 years old. You can donate any school supplies and things to protect them from the sun, like a hat, sunscreen, shoes etc.

Here are some things we're accepting:

Pencil/Pens/ Notepads/Paper/ Rulers/ T squares/ notebooks/copybooks/old schoolbooks/ baseball hats and drinking bottles

If you have any other things that are light to transport, please don't hesitate to suggest them. All the items will be shipped to Karonga Malawi Africa by Christmas. If you have anything, there will be a box under the shelter in the yard that you can put your donations into. We will be accepting donations until the 19th of December.

Santa Dash

We invite the boys to have a 'Santa Dash' on the Astro on Wednesday 21st December as our final Christmas celebration before the Christmas break. Boys may wear their Christmas jumpers, baubles, hats, and tinsel to add to the fun nature of the day.

School Uniform

The boys are expected to wear their full uniform on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December.

Dismissal Times Wednesday 21st December:

School will close for the Christmas break on Wednesday 21st December with dismissal times as follows:

Solas: 11:45 am

Junior and Senior Infants Classes: 11:50 am

First and Second Classes: 12 Noon

As it will be very busy at dismissal time, we would ask that you depart the yard once you have collected your son(s). A reminder that scooting and cycling in the yard is not permitted and dogs must be held in one's arms if in the school yard.

Wishing our boys and their families, our staff and the wider school community a peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming our boys back to school on Thursday 5th January 2023.

Fiona Sheridan

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