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**St. John the Baptist Junior Boys’ School Newsletter**

**December 2023**

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we approach the final few days of 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support to our staff, our boys and our whole school community.

We were delighted to once again celebrate our school traditions of our Christmas plays and enjoyed the opportunity to come together with our neighbouring schools on the campus to enjoy the play performances. We were also delighted to see a return of our parent/guardian audience for our Junior Infant and First Class plays on Thursday 14th December.

We look forward to our low key and intimate celebration through Carol singing with the whole school and Fr. Pat at our Friday morning assembly on the last day of term. This intimate event is a move away from a performance and instead, it is hoped that it will give the children an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, acknowledge their blessings and pray for those less fortunate at this time of year.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

It was wonderful to see our parents/guardians in the school for our face-to-face parent teacher meetings for our Senior Infants to Second Classes. 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 29th January 2024. Booking of appointments will be communicated to parents/guardians on our return from the Christmas break.

**First Holy Communion**

Our First Holy Communion boys attended their Enrolment Mass at the end of November and their Second Preparation Mass during the weekend of December 16th/17th. Thank you to all the parent volunteers, parish office, Deirdre Ward our parish co-ordinator and our priests for all the care and attention they give the boys as they prepare for this special sacrament. The boys have also attended and participated in morning mass with Fr. Pat in St. Gabriel’s Church. It is wonderful to see them so well behaved and attentive.

**Christmas Jumper Day for St. Vincent de Paul and Santa Dash**

On Wednesday 20th December we invite the boys to wear Christmas jumpers, (baubles, hats, and tinsel to add to the fun nature of the day) 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. We will also have our traditional ‘Santa Dash/ Jingle Jog’ on the astro. There is a rumour that there may also be a special visitor on the day too!

**Bootcamp with Bells On!**

We invite all parents/guardians to join us in our morning bootcamp in the yard on Wednesday 20th December at 8:45am. We promise that you’ll move your belly like a bowl full of jelly! Tinsel is optional!

**Dismissal Times Friday 22nd December:**

School will close for the Christmas break on Friday 22nd 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.*

I would like to wish our boys and their families, our staff and the wider school community a peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year. I look forward to welcoming our boys back to school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Kind regards

Fiona Sheridan

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