 

**St. Patrick’s National School,**

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Roll Number: 17507F

**UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY 2018**

***Happy New Year everyone from all the staff at St. Patrick’s NS!***

**‘The Spirit Of Christmas’ Fair**

A huge thank you to our PA and everyone involved in making our Christmas Fair a huge success. **€6583** was raised for the school.

Thank you to everyone who organised, volunteered, baked, cleaned & spent money!! A special thanks to those businesses who generously donated to our raffle & cake sale.

**Christmas Cards**

Thank you to all who bought Christmas cards in this year’s fundraiser. A total of **€634** was raised for the school while lots of families received beautiful designs from our pupils. Thanks to parent Emma Jane Mulvey for organising this each year.

**Swimming**

A new swimming term will begin in Meadowbrook pool on 18th January for **Senior Infants & 3rd class.** Pupils have the option to return by bus or to be collected by a parent. However we kindly request that parents choose an option and remain with that option for the term of swimming. We understand that in an emergency it may be necessary to change arrangements. But it is not acceptable to change arrangements weekly without informing the school or the child. Please choose an option and remain with that decision for the duration of the term.

Should your child have a medical condition that prevents them from swimming, please write to the Board of Management requesting an exemption. Our swimming policy is available on [www.glencullenschool.ie](http://www.glencullenschool.ie)

And please remember there is no supervision for siblings at 3pm so if you need to make arrangements with other parents or family members for collection, please do so.

**Winter Weather**

Please take care driving to school each morning as often the hill from Kilternan is not gritted. Please take care walking around the school grounds – every effort is made to cordon off icy areas but remain vigilant. Children on school grounds before 9.20am should be supervised by their parents/guardians. Thank you to those who have adhered to this advice.

**Sick children at breaks**

A reminder that we do not have facilities here for children to stay in at lunch break. Please wrap up children for outdoor play. Any child who becomes sick during school hours will have their temperature checked and parents will be contacted as appropriate. A separate letter will follow from our BOM regarding the Winter Flu precautions.

**Credit Union**

Our Credit Union Savings scheme will be up and running again after the holiday break from Thursday 18th. It is a great opportunity to teach and encourage children to save. If any parent wishes to join please enquire at the office.

**Child Protection Reminder**

As the New Year begins, we wish to remind all families that we have a firm Child Protection Policy in place which can be accessed on our website or in the front foyer. This also includes having Child Protection as an ongoing issue on all Board of Management and Staff meeting agendas. Should a parent or child ever have a concern surrounding a Child Protection issue, please speak with Ms. Byrne who is our Designated Liaison Person. Should Ms. Byrne be unavailable, Ms. Quigley is our Deputy Designated Liaison person.

**Catholic Schools Week**

Catholic Schools Week 2018 will begin on **28th January.** The theme for this week is “Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families” and gives everyone involved in Catholic education the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution that our Catholic schools make to Irish life. Catholic schools support the work of parents in teaching their children about Jesus’ love for them. The programme invites Catholic schools to reflect on and to celebrate the relationship that exists between home, school and parish through participation in four sub themed catechetical moments. Parents are encouraged to take time to reflect on what it means to have your child as part of a Catholic school community and to consider how you can support the work being done in your child’s Catholic school. Any parent wishing to examine the programme for Catholic Schools Week can find it at <https://www.catholicschools.ie/csw2018/> .

**Positivity & Friendship Week**

From the **22nd January** we will be holding our annual Positivity Week in school for all in our school community. The purpose of this focus on positivity is to provide some balance to the pervasive news of political gloom and media coverage of international disasters, terrorism etc. Often children are too aware of such serious issues and can sense the effects of adult stress and worry. The basic idea is to get everyone to laugh a little more and generally be nice to one another. We will have lots of fun activities for the children throughout the week. We ask parents to join us in instilling some positivity into our pupils and overall school community.

**Gymnastics**

As part of our PE programme, gymnastics will begin Monday 15th January in school with Olympian Gymnastics for every class. Classes will take place for 6 weeks and are free of charge thanks to PA fundraising. All children can wear their tracksuit on Mondays.

 **Service of Light & Confirmation**

The Service of Light for Confirmation candidates will take place on Monday 29th January at 7.30pm in St. Mary’s Church. Confirmation will take place in the same church on Friday 23rd February at 11.00am. We wish all our Confirmants every good wish as they take this next step in their Catholic faith.