

**'PREPARING  
TODAY'S CHILDREN  
TO BE TOMORROW'S  
ANSWER'**

- Parents Association Meeting—7th November at 7.30pm all welcome.
- 'Do This in Memory of Me Mass' - Sunday 22nd of October—Holy Rosary Church, Draperstown—12noon.
- Parents Meetings Tue 24th of October. School closed at 12 noon.
- Dress up day for Halloween—Friday the 27th of October. **NO FACE MASKS.**
- School closed at 12noon on Friday 27th of October—Halloween Holidays.
- School closed for the Halloween break—30th October—Friday 3rd November
- Children start back to school on Monday the 6th of November

**MEET OUR SAFE-  
GUARDING and CHILD  
PROTECTION TEAM**

Mrs Mairead Cunningham: Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection

Mrs Marie Molloy: Deputy Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Mrs Aimee Quinn: Designated Governor for Safe Guarding and Child Protection

Mr. Brian Mc Guigan: Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Mr Paschal Diamond: Principal

# St. Eoghan's Monthly

OCTOBER 2017

## Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

#### 'THE POWER OF A SIMPLE GIFT'

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, run by the Christian relief and development organisation Samaritan's Purse. Their mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world.

*You can help by making a special connection with a child overseas – give a shoebox gift from your hands into theirs. Here's how it works:-*

*YOU wrap an empty MEDIUM sized shoebox and fill it with great little gifts.*

*It is sent overseas with the help of volunteers.*

*Shoeboxes are given to children based on need, regardless of their background or religious beliefs. It is an unconditional gift, asking for nothing in return.*

**If you are interested in filling a shoebox, they will be collected on Monday 13th of November at 10.00am.**

### Halloween Safety

While Halloween is a great time for fun, dressing up and firework displays it is also a time when accidents are most likely to occur. Accordingly, we would encourage all parents/guardians to remind their children of the golden rules at Halloween:

- fireworks should only be used by adults
- children should not be near fireworks displays unless accompanied by an adult
- children should always be in the company of a responsible adult if they are outside at night time.

We wish all our pupils and their families a relaxing and enjoyable Halloween.

**Dress up day—Friday the 27th of October—**

**remember no masks.**

### New Children Beginning School

Parents of children due to begin school in September 2018 should now be watching out for the release of the application forms which will occur in the near future. The forms will be available from the school and it is important that these are returned promptly to avoid disappointment of not gaining a place.

Any parent who wishes specific information in respect to the application process should contact the school. Tel: 02879628008 and we would be delighted to assist.

**Our school Open Night will take place on Thursday the 30th of November 2017.**

### School Photographer

A photographer will be in school taking individual, siblings and a P1- P7 class photograph on **Wednesday the 25th of October—beginning at 9.30am.** You are quite welcome to bring in a younger sibling for the photograph.



# ROAD SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Some children walk to and from school each day and in my view I believe that this is a good thing. It gives the children responsibility, exercise, plenty of fresh air not to mention the social aspect—talking with friends etc. Last week as I was passing the children on their way down from school, I noticed some children walking on the edge of the pavement, some children

were pushing each other and some children were walking safely. I have spoken to the children about road safety and I would like you to reinforce to them the importance of road safety. **If a child was hit by a car a long this stretch of road, the consequences would be FATAL!** I would also like to remind all parents that when the lights are flashing the speed limit on the road

becomes **30 mph.**

We have also noticed that when some children are walking home from school, some parents are driving up the road towards the school, stopping and encouraging the children to cross the road—even on the hill! This should be discouraged at all times. Children should be picked up on the side of the road that they are walking on so that they can be protected from any danger at all times.

## Shared Education

St. Eoghan's P.S. has begun to work again with Damhead Primary School, Coleraine in its Shared Education Partnership. The two schools this year are planning lessons within the World around Us area of learning. The joint sessions

will take part in the Spring Term.

It is envisaged that each lesson will last between 1 and 2 hours. The lessons may be in the St. Eoghan's, Damhead or on a shared class visit. Pupils will travel by bus. It is assumed that

all pupils will participate unless I receive a letter from you indicating otherwise. Teachers from the two schools have sought to plan lessons to incorporate our rural location and heritage, in particular through History and Geography.

## Christmas Activity Time

It is that time of year again when all our pupils are involved in nativity rehearsals, preparing for the big day. The nativities etc. will take place on **Tuesday the 19th of December at 7.30pm.**

**P. 1,2 & 3 show**

**P. 4 & 5 show**

**P. 6 & 7 Christmas carols/songs**

The P. 6 & 7 children

will do their show in the summer time

### Annual Big Breakfast

Our annual, 'Big Breakfast' takes place on Sunday the 22nd of October. It starts at 9.00am and finishes at 1.00pm. Please come and support our school.

**We would really need**

**some help on the day—so if you had some time your help would be greatly appreciated.**



- Waterbus— Tuesday 7th of November 10.00am—P5-7
- Open Night—Tuesday 30th of November— 7.30pm—children and parents welcome.
- We are also holding a, 'Big Breakfast' on Sunday the 22nd of October. 9.00am— 1.00pm.
- On Friday the 20th of October we will be carrying out our first draw in our 10 Week Draw.
- On Friday the 11th of May 2018—we are holding a Gala dinner to celebrate our sixtieth anniversary of the opening of our school.
- P.7— 'Wear It Wild Day' - Friday 20th of October—St. Colm's High School, Draperstown.
- School Photographer— Wednesday 25th of October.

# ‘Do This in Memory Mass’

## Improving School

### Communication

As a self-evaluating school, we are always trying to improve the service we provide to our pupils and their families. Accordingly, we have a school twitter account in order to share information about the school, very quickly. The twitter handle is [@steoghans](https://twitter.com/steoghans). You can also follow us via our website—[steoghans.com](http://steoghans.com)

Please follow us to keep up to date and hear about our pupils’ successes and messages

**The next Do This in Memory Mass will be on Sunday the 22nd of October at 12noon in the Holy Rosary Church, Draperstown.** We hope that you and your child are able to attend this Mass. Please remember to bring your child’s candle and it will be lit before Mass starts. The theme of the Mass is the Rosary and beads will be distributed to P4 children in school during the course of this week. Please bring the rosary beads to this Mass on Sunday where they will be

blessed There will also be an opportunity to have religious objects blessed.

All the P4 children have been provided with pictures of Our Lady to colour in and these will be displayed at the front of the Church.



## Come and join our Parents Association

Over the past number of years since the formation of this group, the children in this school have had varied and exciting extra curricular opportunities that they may not otherwise have been able to avail of.

This Association have been responsible for many fund raising activities within our school. The money has gone towards the purchase of new equipment, new items of furniture for classrooms, cover of transport for school trips, The main constitution and

function of the Association is as follows

- To raise the profile of the school.
- To fund raise for the school.
- To provide assistance for the teaching staff at functions e.g. school plays, sports days, Confirmation/ First Holy Communion Teas and refreshments.

Meetings are kept to a minimum of three per year

(possibly a little more frequent if fundraiser is being organised). Information will be shared with the wider school audience via our school newsletter. The group is made from a wide spread of children from P1 – 7.No one is committed to being a life long member as annually members may step down and we need to recruit new members. The principal is also a member of the group acting in an advisory capacity e.g. needs of the school, ideas for projects etc. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 7th November at 7.30pm**

### Start of Year Mass

Our start of year Mass was held recently on Wednesday the 11th of October. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr Downey and it was offered for all the children, teachers and family members connected with our school. During this Mass, Fr Downey consecrated all the new children to Our Lady of Fatima along with their family members. The new P1 children were also presented to the whole school community.

### Eucharistic Adoration

We have been given permission by Fr Madden for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament within our school. This will take place on a monthly basis. This is a great honour for our school in which we hope to receive many graces and blessings. You will be informed of the day later.

### Cancer Focus NI

We held a Coffee Morning and non-uniform day on Thursday the 28th of September. **We raised a total of £1640.14.** This is a tremendous achievement for our school. I like to thank all the parents and friends of our school for their generous donations. I’d like to thank all our kitchen staff and to all the parents who helped, donated food, supplied cake stands, manned stalls etc. and also Mrs Suzanne Flanagan for helping to organise this event.

# £8000 cut from our school budget

I'm sure that you have heard recently about the stringent cuts in school budget. Since September we have lost nearly £8000 from our school budget which equates to roughly £56.00 per child whereas in secondary schools, this is £15.00 per child. Most of the budget within the school goes into paying school staff and on services like transport, maintenance and special needs. Many schools were already feeling the squeeze and there is no guarantee that with the restoration of the Stormont Executive that things will change. The Derry GAA has also cut its funding for the Coaching Programme and this is something else that we have to pay for. This costs £250.00 per month. The P1,2,3 and 4 children avail of the Fundamental Programme which is run by the Ulster Council. The funding for this has only recently been extended to March 2018. The future of this programme is very uncertain.

Years ago whenever I started teaching first, we'd usually ask parents to transport children to and from football matches, quizzes and sporting events, etc. I'm sure some of you remember sitting in the boot of the principal's estate car. Due to Health and Safety requirements, each parent nowadays would have to be vetted with the proper insurance to transport children—not to mention booster seats for those children under a certain height. It is therefore recommended that children are transported to these events by bus. For most sporting events we organise a bus between the various schools in the parish so as to cut down on the cost of transport. **However, between September 2016 and June 2017 we spent roughly £3600 on transport.**

To off set some of these cuts we are proposing to hold a Derry GAA day once per month. This will normally occur on the last Friday of the month. We are asking you the parents for a voluntary donation of £2.00.

**We are also holding a 'Big Breakfast' on Sunday the 22nd of October.** This will start at 9.00am and finish at 1.00pm. This is always a great event and this is always so well supported.

**On Friday the 20th of October we will be carrying out our first draw in our 10 Week Draw.** The first prize is £50.00, the second prize is £20 and the third prize is £10.00. each week there will be a sellers prize for the winning tickets. The final week of the draw, the prizes will consist of a 'Pay Station Pro & Fifa 18, £150, £75 and £50.

**On Friday the 11th of May we are holding a Gala dinner to celebrate our sixtieth anniversary of the opening of our school.** This event will take place in the Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena. We would like you to keep this date free for this important event. The dress code for this is 'smart dress'. More details to follow.

On Tuesday the 3rd of October we had a Parents Association Meeting to organise events for the school. We had a very small turnout, infact three parents. I know some parents were unable to attend this meeting and sent their apologies and I know that some parents are unable to join the Parents Association but are willing to help out at events held in our school. We appreciate all help no matter how small because every child in our school benefits in some way. **We are holding another meeting on Tuesday 7th of November at 7.30pm.** No one is committed to being a life long member as annually members may step down etc. We would like to form a committee to help organise the Gala dinner—so if you have some time please come to the next meeting. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.