

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO EVERYONE FROM TANEY!



Welcome to New Pupils

A big welcome to everyone new to Taney Parish Primary School! Our school roll shows that we now have 445 pupils. The P.T.A. held a New Parents' coffee morning for Junior Infant parents on Friday 12th September and it was great to see so many there. Class representatives are in place for both Junior Infant classes. Our Junior Infants have settled in well and are enjoying school life. We welcome all the new families to our school, those who have started in Infants and those new to the school in more senior classes.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs. Burnell (née Ms. Honner!) on her marriage during the Summer. Congratulations are also due to Mrs. Adamson on the birth of her beautiful daughter, Ruby, and Mrs. McConnell on the birth of baby boy No. 3, Harrison. Best wishes to Paul Staunton, our caretaker, who has been out sick, and who we hope will return before Christmas.

Carol Services

The Junior Carol Service will be held in Christ Church Taney on Friday 12th December at 11.00am and the Senior Carol Service on Friday 19th December at 11.00am.

Credit Union Savings Scheme

The P.T.A. are delighted to report that we have over 100 active savers from 1st to 6th Class. This initiative is proving to be a great success and is now well established in the weekly calendar.

Claire McEvoy and Viv Cox would like to thank the parents who volunteer their time on Wednesday mornings and the pupils who are learning the art of saving! Should any parent be interested in joining the New Year's roster, please send your details to taneypta@gmail.com and we will be in touch.



School Fair

We raised a whopping €5,575.25 at our School Fair this year. Each class teacher and Learning Support teacher has been given €150 towards classroom expenses, such as art materials, games etc., amounting to €3,150. We have also purchased 10 new music stands for the school. The remaining funds will be used to fund other projects for the year, such as Sports Day. A big thanks to everyone involved, including pupils, parents, volunteers, teachers, big spenders, little spenders, bakers, stallholders and local businesses. We couldn't have done it without you!



Cake Competition Winners

We had 18 winners in our Cake Decorating Competition this year. Our esteemed judges (Adrienne Douglas of *Food Glorious Food* and Lisa Sweeney from *The Natural Bakery*) had the unenviable job of picking the winners, which was a daunting task, considering the extremely high standard of decorating! Once again, the pupils from our 4th, 5th and 6th Classes showed their creative and imaginative streaks, with their attention to detail and the sheer effort involved.

Our winners were treated to a behind-the-scenes restaurant experience, very kindly facilitated by China Sichuan (Sandyford), Jamie's Italian and Wagamama Dundrum. They prepared their own food, inputted orders through the system and served customers. All-in-all, a wonderful experience! We would like to thank the restaurants for being so obliging and for giving our winners such an exclusive prize.

In early November, an article with photos ran in the Dundrum Gazette about our winners, which was the icing on the cake! (So to speak!)



Pupils from 4th, 5th & 6th making their own smoothies in Wagamama Dundrum.

School Self-Evaluation Literacy Report to Community

Please refer to the school website: [www.taneyschool.ie/Our School/Information for Parents](http://www.taneyschool.ie/Our_School/Information_for_Parents), where a School Self-Evaluation Report on Literacy has just been published.

School Orchestra

Many thanks to our wonderful School Orchestra. They serenaded our entry to the school fair, raised the tone of our Parish Bazaar and will accompany the congregation at our upcoming Senior Carol Service. It really is marvellous to have such an asset in our school.

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party was held in The Dropping Well in Milltown on Friday 28th November. The venue looked beautifully festive, the food was delicious and with the help of our DJ (Noel! How seasonal is that!), shapes were most definitely thrown! A great night!

School Christmas Cards

This project is now complete and there are more than 8,000 Christmas Cards out there specially designed by our children! The majority of parents now purchase these cards. Thanks to Nicola Darley and Nicola Sexton for managing this project so well.

Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who donated toys to our Toy Stall at the Taney Parish Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 6th December. The Parish raised €9,500, which is a great result. Many thanks to our parent volunteers for helping us set up on Friday and on the stall on Saturday.

Charities

The Board of Management is continuing to review our charitable giving, aiming to strike a careful balance between helping charities and not overloading parents. This year, we are venturing into new territory with the introduction of food boxes into our classrooms. We are liaising with a charity called Crosscare, who run food banks across Dublin. Our first food box drive was in the first week of December and we were asked to donate Christmas food such as Christmas pudding, custard, selection boxes, etc. We had an enormous response from our pupils – 51 boxes of food were collected. This will help over 100 families.



Already, some of our donated food has been given out to struggling Dublin families, which will make their lives a little bit easier. We hope to continue the food boxes in the New Year. Crosscare will let us know the goods they need, such as cereal, rice or pasta, so that the food parcels handed out will provide a good balance of food. The hope is that this will become a regular monthly feature of school life.

Our collections at the School Carol Services will go towards helping Taney Parish families in need.

P.T.A. Fundraising in 2015

After tremendous fundraising success in the last academic year, Taney Parish Primary School is now the proud owner of 16 new iPads, currently used by 1st Class. We would like to continue along this vein by raising funds to update the computers in the Computer Room.

With this in mind, we have organised two fundraisers for 2015 and I have no doubt that, as usual, they will be heartily supported by pupils, parents and teachers alike.

1. Table Quiz

It's back! The ever-popular Table Quiz returns to The Goat on Friday 6th February at 8.00 pm. Eoin Pearson and Peter O'Malley are hard at work once again putting together a killer quiz.

Tickets will go on sale in the New Year so please watch out for an email regarding sales. Tickets will be €10 per person, €40 per table (four people max per table). Our local businesses have once again been extremely generous with us and we have some cracking prizes for the raffle.



2. Sponsored Walk 2015

We are delighted to bring back the Sponsored Walk this year. We think it's important to have one fundraiser a year where the pupils are directly involved and as our first walk was a huge hit two years ago, we decided to give it another go. This will be taking place on Thursday 30th April in Marlay Park. However, this year, we hope to involve all classes. The Junior School (Junior Infants to 2nd Class) will be walking between 5.30 and 6.30 pm and the Senior School (3rd to 6th Class) will be walking between 7.00 and 8.00 pm. More details to follow nearer the time.



Other Plans for Spring and Summer Terms

1. Parent Information Evening

In early March, we are delighted to welcome back Colman Noctor, who will be speaking to us about 'Positive Parenting'. Colman is a Child Psychoanalytical Psychotherapist and he has spoken to us in previous years regarding cyberbullying and helping children build self-esteem.

The talk will take place in the Robert Smyth Hall on Thursday 12th March from 8.00 to 9.30 pm. The charge will be €5 per parent or €7 per couple. We will be sending out a note in February with the booking details.

2. Sports Day

Sports Day is planned for Friday 12th June 2015. The fall back date (in case of poor weather) is Thursday 18th June 2015. Please mark these dates in your calendar. The event takes place at 11.00 am and pupils do not have school that morning.

3. The PTA AGM

The AGM will take place on Wednesday 17th June. There will be three vacancies available on the Committee for any interested parents

Green Schools Committee

As you know, Taney Parish Primary School is involved in the Green Schools programme. After successfully gaining our first Green Flag, we are now working on the second theme of 'Energy'. Our aim is to raise awareness of the importance of reducing energy consumption, using energy efficiently and looking at alternatives to fossil fuel, etc. We have retained last year's children on our Committee, but have two new teacher members (Ms. Warren & Ms. McElhinney) and parent members (Nicola Sexton and Victoria Singleton-Moran), who will all be enthusiastically ensuring that we earn our second flag whilst maintaining our existing one. As part of this, we will be conducting energy audits in the school and home, and looking at ways in which we can reduce our energy use. We are looking for a new 'energy' slogan and mascot so the children will be asked to come up with lots of 'bright' ideas. As parents, we can also do our bit by leaving the car at home at least one day a week and choosing to walk, cycle or take public transport to school.

Update from the Sports Committee

Taney Sports got off to a great start again this year with a mild Autumn, enabling our children to enjoy their sports with only one cancellation in Junior Soccer. Numbers playing at this level are up significantly this year, especially in 1st Class (35). Many thanks to an enthusiastic and encouraging team of coaches at each level, with the 3rd Class coaches working hard to get the boys and girls ready for the competitive world of senior soccer! Junior Soccer will take a break at Christmas and will resume again in the Summer term.



Senior Soccer is similarly well subscribed with 68 boys and 4 girls. Following the success of the Autumn friendly matches, all of the teams will enter an Inter-Primary League and Cup in the New Year. All of the children are playing on a team, with four teams now representing the school competitively. The Sports Committee have invested in a new kit for the Taney D team (see photo) following similar recent investment in new hockey shirts and soccer shirts for girls soccer.

Girls' soccer is to start a term earlier than usual from January 2015. This is to meet demand for extra training and enable the girls to hone their skills before the League and Cup begin in February. For the first time ever, Taney will also be in the position to enter a B Team. We wish them the very best of luck!

There are a staggering 76 boys playing hockey this season, with numbers growing according to age. Girls' numbers are even higher. Thanks to Jenny McNulty and Avril Haughton who tirelessly manage to organize such large numbers into teams year after year. Their heroic efforts behind the scenes enable Taney boys and girls to compete not only in the Inter-School Leagues but also in a Leinster Competition for 6th Class pupils and 1st Year of secondary level. With friendly matches now over, U12 and U13 League matches will continue until the end of the season.

Christmas Holidays

School closes at 12.00 noon on Friday 19th December and will reopen on Monday 5th January 2015 at 8.30am.

Have a wonderful holiday!

