

Taney Parish Primary School

Newsletter: Christmas 2016



Welcome to New Pupils

A big welcome to everyone new to Taney Parish Primary School! Our school roll shows that we now have 447 pupils. The P.T.A. held a New Parents' coffee morning for the parents of Junior Infants on Friday 11th 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

We said goodbye to Ms. McElhinney at the end of last year – she has moved back to her home town in Donegal – she came along to the P.T.A. night out recently for a presentation and it was lovely to see her. New to the school this year are Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Buchanan in 5th Class, Ms. Stokes in 1st Class, Ms. Sophie Warren (not to be confused with Ms. Sarah Warren!) in our Special Education team and Mrs. Gilbert is our new Special Needs Assistant.

Congratulations to Mrs. Adamson, who is on maternity leave – her little son, Jake, was born in October. Ms. Gorman is teaching Mrs. Adamson's class while she is away from school. We extend our best regards to Mrs. Carpenter, who is recovering from an operation – we wish her a speedy recuperation. Mrs. Martin is holding the fort as Acting Principal in Mrs. Carpenter's absence, and Mr. Edgar is teaching Mrs. Martin's class during this period.

Carol Services

The Junior Carol Service will be held in Christ Church Taney on Friday 16th December at 11.00 a.m. and the Senior Carol Service on Thursday 22nd December at 11.00 a.m.

The collections at the School Carol Services will go to Focus Ireland to help towards Homelessness in Dublin.

Credit Union Savings Scheme

The P.T.A. is delighted to report that we have over 120 active savers from 1st to 6th Classes. This initiative is a great success and is now well established in the weekly calendar.

Lynn Hanley would like to thank both the parents and the pupils in 6th Class who volunteer their time on Wednesday mornings. Thank you also to all our super savers who are learning the art of saving!

We are looking for more pupils in 6th Class to help out on a Wednesday morning so if you are interested in joining the New Year's roster, please send your details to Lynn Hanley at lynnchanley@gmail.com and she will be in touch, or alternatively drop in to speak with Lynn in the Hall any Wednesday morning.



School Fair

We raised just shy of a whopping €8,000 at our School Fair this year, which is an amazing result. Each class teacher and Learning Support teacher has been given €150 towards classroom expenses, such as art materials, games etc., amounting to €3,300. The remaining funds will be used to fund other projects for the year, such as Sports Day, swimming display medals etc. 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 19 winners in our Cake Decorating Competition this year. Our esteemed judges (Jennifer and Veronica) had the unenviable job of picking the winners, which wasn't an easy 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. Well done to all involved.

Our winners were treated to a behind-the-scenes restaurant experience, very kindly facilitated by China Sichuan (Sandyford), Jamie's Italian and Wagamamas in Dundrum. They prepared their own food, inputted orders through the system, served customers and learned about healthy eating. 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.



Winners in Jamie's Dundrum.



Winners in China Sichuan Sandyford

School Orchestra and Choir

Many thanks to the Suzuki Group who serenaded our entry to the School Fair. The School Orchestra, Recorder Group and School Choir 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 downstairs in the Bank at the Dropping Well, Milltown on Friday 25th November. The venue was fantastic, the food was plentiful and with the help of our DJ, Sean, a few shapes were most definitely thrown! A great night had by all!

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.

Each year we like to organise an event that will get all the pupils involved in helping others less fortunate than themselves. With this in mind we have re-introduced the food boxes through the charity called Crosscare who run the Crosscare Food Bank (www.crosscarefoodbank.ie). Crosscare's aim is to provide food to disadvantaged families locally in Dublin who are living below the poverty line.

Boxes were placed in each classroom from Monday the 12th to Friday the 16th December and we would like to thank both the parents and children for their generosity. The donated food will be given out to struggling families in the Dundrum area, which will make their lives a little bit easier and put food on their tables at Christmas.

We hope to run another food box collection around Easter time.

Shoebox Appeal

The children all did very well bringing in the Shoeboxes for Team Hope. A total of 295 boxes were collected and will go directly to needy families in Africa and Eastern Europe, many of whom are living on less than €1 a day so a big thank you and well done to everyone who supported Team Hope.



Shoebboxes collected for Team Hope

School Christmas Cards

This project is now complete and there are more than 7,200 Christmas cards out there specially designed by our children! The majority of parents now purchase these cards. Thanks to Lesley Ellis 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 3rd December. The Parish raised €10,250, which is a great result. Many thanks to our parent and P.T.A. volunteers for helping us set up on Friday and helping on the stall on Saturday.

P.T.A. Fundraising in 2016

After tremendous fundraising success in the last academic year, Taney Parish Primary School now have brand new sports equipment and 16 new iPads.

This year our fundraising goals are to maintain and upgrade the IT equipment and interactive white boards. We will continue to contribute towards school tours and hope to organise workshops where authors, artists etc. are invited into the classrooms to talk and teach the children about writing, art and music.

With this in mind, we will be organising a fundraiser for 2017 and I have no doubt that, as usual, it will be heartily supported by pupils, parents and teachers alike.

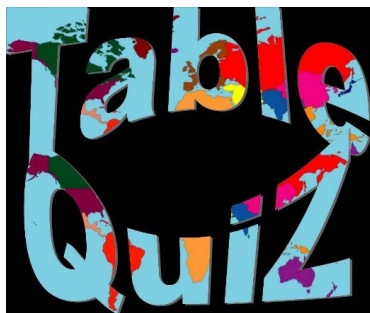


Table Quiz

The ever-popular Table Quiz returns to The Goat again this year on Friday 10th February at 7.30 p.m. Eoin Pearson is 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.

Other Plans for Spring and Summer Terms

1. Parent Information Evening

In March we hope to organise a talk for the parents. The talk will take place in the Robert Smyth Hall and the charge will be €5 per parent or €7 per couple. We will be sending out more details on this when details are finalised.

2. Sports Day

is planned for Friday 2nd June, 2017. The fall back date (in case of poor weather) is Thursday 8th June, 2017. Please mark these dates in your calendar. The event takes place at 11.00 a.m. and pupils do not have school that morning.

3. The P.T.A. A.G.M.

will take place on Tuesday 13th June. There will be four vacancies available, that of Treasurer and three Ordinary Members on the Committee for any interested parents.

Active School Update

We are continuing to work hard on our Active School Flag goals and have been very busy this term. The Junior Committee is doing fantastic work and everyone involved has been very helpful and enthusiastic in the playground, in class and during Committee meetings. We have introduced a 'Walk and Talk' initiative in the playground. The playground leaders are doing a great job encouraging everyone to 'Walk and Talk' during break times. Teachers are also supporting this initiative by teaching an 'Activity of the Month,' which aims to equip the children with a wider variety of games to play in the playground.

A huge thank you to the teachers and Junior Committee members who assisted with the active challenges and quiz at the School Fair. Lots of children participated in the active challenges and quiz. Some of these action shots can be seen on the Active School notice board outside Ms. Buchanan's room.



Active School Notice Board

This month we are partaking in the Super Troopers programme. It is aimed at helping children become more active and learn about healthy lifestyles. The children have received their booklets and are very excited to engage in the active ideas to build up to sixty minutes of activity per day.

Green School Update

At present the school community is continuing to maintain the good practices adopted as we worked toward our 1st and 2nd Green flags for Litter, Waste and Energy. The recycling hub in the office/reception area is the place to dispose of used printer ink cartridges (except Epson ones), used postage stamps and old mobile phones.

Update from the Sports Committee

We have had a great first term - the settled weather has meant no cancellations and has allowed the students to make great progress.

Senior boys' soccer has 62 boys taking part this year. The boys all really enjoy both the training and the matches. The players have been split into four teams and are currently playing friendly matches to determine which leagues they will be put into after Christmas.



Senior Boys Soccer

We have 90 girls and 87 boys playing Taney hockey this season. The children have gotten off to a great start and are all very keen to learn each week.



Girls Hockey

We entered 3 girls' teams into the primary school league and we also have a 5th class girls' team. The girls' A and B teams have had some great matches against Mount Anville Primary and St. Killians. The girls' C team has enjoyed playing against St. Raphaelas, St. Matthews and Rathdown.

We also have 3 boys' teams playing in the primary school league and all three teams have won all their matches to date. In addition, there is one team playing in the secondary school U13 A/B league and they are also doing well with two wins, one draw and one loss so far.

Junior Soccer is going from strength to strength. We have nearly 100 boys and girls from 1st to 3rd class all learning new soccer skills every Thursday.

We have just finished enrolment for girls' senior soccer which will take place on Thursdays after Christmas.

We hope to enter a Taney cricket team into the league again during the Summer term and we are looking for a parent to help organise the team and matches.

We would also like to set up an Athletics team but again this would require a parent stepping forward to help. If you would like to help please email the Sports Committee at taneysportscommittee@gmail.com

Christmas Holidays

School closes at 12.00 noon on Thursday 22nd December and will re-open on Monday 9th January, 2017 at 8.30 a.m.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Taney Parish Primary School and the P.T.A.

