

# St. Oliver's Special School Newsletter December, 2015

Dear Families,

Welcome to our December Newsletter. It has been a very, very busy year so far. We don't know where to begin. Between new students, new staff, a new playground, and some lovely school outings, we have had a lovely start to the school year. Let's hope the New Year, brings as much excitement and fun as our first term has brought.

We would like to welcome the parents and families that are new to our school. We are looking forward to getting to know you over the coming year!

Our next Newsletter will be at the end of next term, in March. Until then, we hope you enjoy reading about our news from this term.

## NEW FACES

There are lots of new faces in our school this year. It was hard to remember everyone's name in September, but now it's like all those new faces are here as long as the older faces!

In Class 1 we have a new student, Liam. We also have a new teacher, Donna.

In Class 2, we have a new Special Needs Assistant, Majella.

In Class 3, we have two new students, Ethan and Patrick. We also have a new teacher, Lisa.

In Class 5, we have five new students! Mikey, Niall, Rian, Darragh and, most recently, starting school this week, Joey. We also have a new Special Needs Assistant, Angela.

And, in case you were wondering, yes, we now have five classes! With all our new students, we needed a new class! All the new students have settled in very well, and it's like they were always part of St. Oliver's.



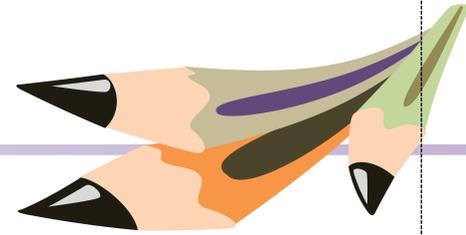
## THE NEW PLAYGROUND

In October, we got some very exciting news; St. Oliver's Special School had been chosen to receive a very special gift from Valeo, a company in Tuam. This gift was a very special new playground.

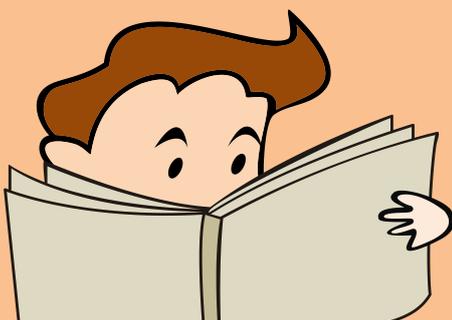
Together with Splash Projects, a group who help companies deliver community-based projects, such as building a new playground, 50 Valeo staff descended on our school on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> to create something truly magical. Through team work and hard work, they built a brand new playground in just one day.



We had the grand opening ceremony that afternoon. The staff and students practiced some songs for the few weeks before the big day to perform at the opening ceremony, one of which was written by one of our staff, Celia Griffin. We presented Splash and Valeo with two pieces of art created by the students, as a Thank You for such a special gift.



Our new playground has something for each and every unique student at our school. The children love it. Thank you Valeo and Splash!



## BOWLING TRIP

Some of the children at school went on an outing in November to City Limits in Oranmore, where they got to go bowling as part of ten-pin bowling week. The trip was a big success.

## CINEMA TRIP

Some of the children at school went to see Minions at the Eye Cinema in Galway in November also.

## LIMERICK TRIP TO SEE SANTA

The Make It Happen Foundation were very generous to us again this year, and organised a very special trip for us to see the man himself, Santa Claus, in Co. Limerick.

He is a very busy man at this time of year, and so, even though it was a long trip for us, we were happy to get the chance to meet him before he visits again on Christmas Eve.

We left the school in two buses at 10am and returned after 6pm, tired but happy.



We stopped for lunch at Durty Nellys restaurant at Bunratty, and from there we set off again for Stonehall Pet Farm, Kilcornan, Co. Limerick.

There was a bouncy castle, and trikes, and tractors to play with, while we waited to see Santa.

There was huge excitement when we met him. And, he even had a present for each student!



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

After the success and positive feedback from all corners of Ireland and the world of last year's Christmas cards, we jumped straight in last September and October designing this year's cards. We were very excited to see them arrive last week, and some have already been written and posted! The children are very proud of their work, and we hope they are as much of a hit as last year. All proceeds are going towards School Fundraising.

## OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Preparations for the school concert have been ongoing since mid-November. It will be held on Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> in the Corralea Court Hotel, Tuam. Each class will be performing two pieces. There are songs, and poems, and something for everyone.

## SUPER NURSE

In October, one of our nurses, Helen Healy, left St. Oliver's Special School. We had a big send-off. The children sang songs, and made cards. We wish Helen all the best in her new job, and hope she might come back to visit us soon ☺

Since we returned from our Mid-Term Break, we have now only one nurse, Therese, Monday to Friday. She is working really hard, and we all appreciate her dedication. There are many days, she is in such demand that she goes without any breaks. Thank you Super Nurse!!



## SADLY MISSED

Last July, we sadly lost a very special member of our school family, when Ciara Collins passed away. We all think about her every day, and her name is said often.

We miss her dearly, and think of her, and her family, especially at this time of year. We know she is looking down on us and smiling.

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Corralea Hotel for kindly providing us the use of their function room for our School Show free of charge.

We would like to thank our very kind and very helpful volunteers, without whom we would not be able to participate in so many regular activities, such as Horse-Riding, Swimming, Social Outings and trips to Go Bananas, as well as the out of the ordinary trips such as this year's trip to Limerick to see Santa.

On behalf of everyone at our school, we wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

From all the children and staff at St. Oliver's

