



# St. Oliver's Special School Christmas Newsletter 2017

## School News

The 2017–2018 school year has gotten off to a flying start. Our wonderful school continues to grow and expand. We successfully opened a new class this September, along with a new prefab. Each class this term have been involved in extra circular activities and have had loads of social outings. All classes got to enjoy their own Christmas Outing. The ASDAN programme is now being implemented in 4 of our classrooms. We also have 2 staff trained to deliver the MAPA training, which is a safe and effective way of managing behaviours that challenge. The training will be rolled out to all staff members in our school in the new year. Our school is now a Droichead school, this qualifies members of our professional support team in our school to support the professional learning of newly qualified teachers.

## New Faces

We are delighted to welcome some new faces to our school community:

### **NEW PUPILS**

Dylan Corless—Class 1  
Michael Ward—Class 1  
Jamie Hynes—Class 1  
Colm Gannon—Class 4  
Tina Ronan—Class 4

### **NEW TEACHER**

Marianna Farragher—Class 2



### **NEW SNA'S**

Majella Kennedy—Class 3  
Caroline Burke—Class 4  
Caroline Kelly—Class 6

### **BUS ESCORTS**

Breda Roche  
Tracey Farragher  
Jenny Buckley  
Helen Ruane

We have had an excellent first term. We have carried out lots of work and made new friends. We have been doing yoga with Rory every Friday. This is our favourite day of the week. Rory sings songs and does lots of different exercises with us. This month we have been practicing for our Christmas concert. Our favourite Christmas song is Frosty the Snowman. We went to Busy bees on our Christmas outing.

## Class 1



We would like to say a big thank you to the following people:

To the Rustic Vaults BBQ Fundraiser who raised €2,820 euro for the school.

To the Dunmore Vintage who donated €125 euro.

To our Volunteers who give up their time so freely to help our school daily.

To Aisling Quinn who raised €540 doing a skydive.

### UPCOMING EVENT

A day to keep your eye out for is our **Fun Run in March 2018**. It is a day we really enjoy as we love being so involved within our community.



## Class 2

Classroom 2 have been very busy getting into the festive spirit! All the ladies got to enjoy lunch out this term and had a look at all the Christmas lights around town! While the boys enjoyed doing loads of beautiful artwork. We have had so much fun practicing for our Christmas Play! We will be going to Graune Pet Farm for our Christmas outing. There, we will get to pet lots of animals and play on the indoor bouncy castles. After lunch we hope to meet the big man himself, Santa, and maybe even get a present for being so good!!!



## Class 3

This year in Class 3 we have Christopher, Keith, Mikaela and Sinead. We have had a busy term. We went Horse-riding, and to Go Bananas. We made potions, sang songs, read stories, made lovely art and had lots of fun. For the past few weeks we've been practicing for our Christmas show where we have four very special helpers for Santa. Happy Christmas from everyone in Class 3!



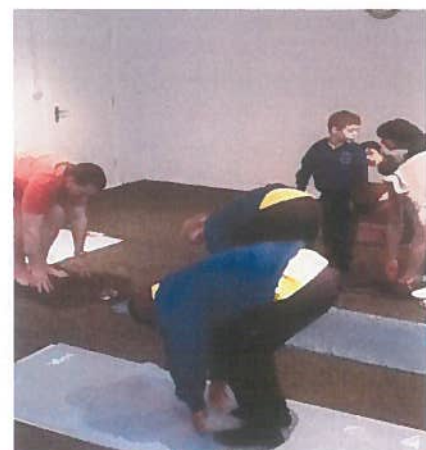
## Class 4

We have had two wonderful outings this year in class 4 to Nuns Island Theatre to see the Shape of Things and The Lightmaker. Both shows were hugely interactive and we really enjoyed them. We have continued with our visits to the library for storytime each week and sometimes we even go to the local hotel for lunch. We really enjoy messy play, playing music and sensory stories in our class.

## Class 5

Class 5 have had another busy term. We have been working on our ASDAN Towards Independence program and are making great progress. We have been busy completing our daily jobs and cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

We have been very lucky this term to get to try out Yoga and Horse riding. Rory and Joan were fantastic instructors. We can't wait to see what we have coming up next term!



## Class 6

The senior class have had a very busy first term. We have started a new ASDAN module called 'Knowing About Myself'. This module has given us the opportunity to explore a range of new foods, activities and experiences. We continue to do loads of work on our social skills and we enjoy our weekly social training. Also this term we have enjoyed swimming and we had a wonderful Christmas trip to Bunratty Castle.



## Whats new from the Department of Education?

Child Protection Procedures

[https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Archived-Circulars/cl0065\\_2011.pdf](https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Archived-Circulars/cl0065_2011.pdf)

Roll out and operation of the Financial Support Service Unit

[https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0060\\_2017.pdf](https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0060_2017.pdf)



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Congratulations to Bernie and her husband Eoghan on the birth of their daughter Emma Grace. She is beautiful.

### Parents Association



The PA welcomed a new class rep for Class 1, Elaine Hynes. We are still seeking reps for Classes 2 and 3, if anyone would like to join us. We have continued our fundraising efforts with our joint coffee morning where we raffled some fab gifts. In the new year we hope to help towards bringing in some beneficial activities for our children. Thank you all for your support!



Our school will close on Friday 22nd December at 12pm. All buses will run as normal on that day. We will re-open on Monday 8th January. We would like to wish all our pupils and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

*Don't forget to check out our class pages on [www.stoliversschool.ie](http://www.stoliversschool.ie) to get a glimpse of the activities*



