



# Newsletter

## 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020



Dates for your Diary	
Christmas Dinner	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Jumper/T-shirt Day	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December Save the Children Fundraiser
Week beginning 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Online, so teachers will choose date to suit class	Christmas Pantomime Jack
Half Day Christmas Holidays	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December (but may be subject to change by NI Executive)

### Milk Money

Milk money for December is now due. Please send £3.00 in to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. Thank you. *Should schools be required to close early, any monies paid will be deducted from the following month.*

### Salvation Army/St Vincent de Paul

Are not collecting goods through the schools this year.

	9 <sup>th</sup> November	16 <sup>th</sup> November	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	30 <sup>th</sup> November
P1S	Jamie Millar	Josh Duffy	Zac Hamilton	Tom Finlay
P1H	Mason Hetherington	Tyrion McColgan	James Porter	Ollie McNamee
P2	Lorchan Reilly	Noah Spratt	Myka Donnelly	Conan McGrath
P3	Ben Williamson	Dara McKay	Farrah Rose Mullen	Dakota Finlay
P4	Ethan McGuigan	Jayne Annesley	Max Hamilton	Lexi Millar
P5/6C	Sean McAnenny	Ruby Browne	Jessica Russell & Faye Patterson	Oonagh McKay
P5/6Mc G	Zara Moore	Mara Craig	Bentley Smith	Neve Gamble
P7	Leah Barr	Thomas Feehan	Kyra Quinn	Leah Craig



### Accelerated Reading

It's been a fantastic month for reading in school. The boys and girls have read **885 more** books and **6,253,755 more** words. Both teachers and classroom assistants continue to see big improvements all round in reading.

We are also delighted to report that Harry Donaldson P5McG, Faye Patterson and Jessica Russell P6C, Noah Sheen and Max Mitchell P6McG, Erin Brown and Matthew Galloway- Doherty from P7C have become ¼ Word Millionaires since September. Coran Doherty and Cara McGrath are our two ½ Word Millionaires and a huge CONGRATULATIONS to our new Word Millionaire - Conn Kelly.

### Cash for Clobber

Cash for Clobber collection is still open. Leave any bags at the door of the Youth Wing and Jonny will remove them safely. Thank you. Collection will continue until January.



### Mathletics

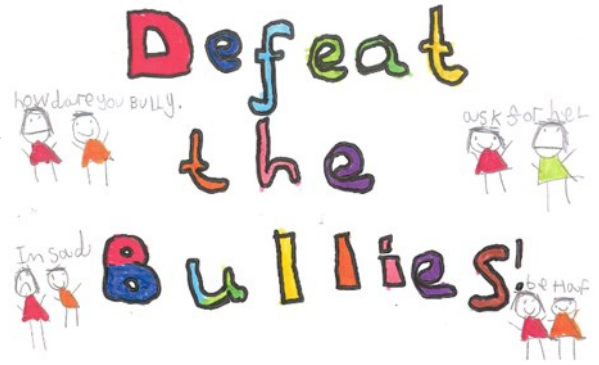
Congratulations to Evie Sheen P2K, Abbie McMullen P3L, Sophie Patterson P3L, Josh Mitchell P4K, Maya Catterson, Farrah Crompton-Ptison, Sarah Finlay P6C, Sienna O'Loughlin P6C, Faye Patterson P6C, Rhys Forbes P6C, Noah Sheen P6McG and Hannah McCoach P7 who have all recently achieved **GOLD** certificates. Well done everyone.



## Anti-Bullying Week

The children had lots of discussions about what is bullying during last week. We discussed the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum definition of bullying,

**“the repeated use of power by one or more persons intentionally to harm, hurt or adversely affect the rights or needs of another or others.”**



You can find this and more in our Anti-bullying policy on the school website under the Parent tab. Sienna's poster tells the message very clearly.

To finish off the week we had an Odd Sock Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and some classes made posters to remind everyone of the Anti-Bullying messages. We hope you liked our photos of posters and the odd sock brigade on Facebook and the website.

## Christmas Décor and Show

Sincere thanks to Lindy and Ryan Millar who kindly donated a real Christmas Tree to the school to bring some Christmas Cheer to the school. It is standing tall and proud in the foyer, filling it with the beautiful aroma of pine. Classes, supported by their teachers, classroom assistants and Jonny Martin are transforming the school into a bright and cheery space.

Since we are unable to perform school shows this year, we are bringing the pantomime to the children in their own school. The Ulster Theatre Company will stream the pantomime “Jack” over two days of our choice, so the children can enjoy the experience even though the theatres cannot open.



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

## Keeping our School Open

There is a lot of speculation in the media about schools closing early for Christmas. In school, we have no information in that regard and the Minister, Mr Weir is strongly of the opinion that children are as safe as we can keep them in school.

Here in Sion Mills PS we fully agree with that, especially for primary age children. Here's why:

- \* They can interact with their peers by playing, by learning from their classmates by listening to and watching what others are doing;
- \* They need to learn how to socialise and they have plenty of practise with the ups and downs of that in school;
- \* They share jokes and stories with their peers and the adults in their room (now called their class bubble!!);
- \* They have a structure to their day; need to get to bed at a sensible time because they have to be up and in school for 9am;
- \* They have The Daily Mile and other activities including their morning and mid-day outside time, where they run and climb and skip and generally just enjoy themselves.

Most of this is impossible to replicate at home. So we will continue to everything we can to keep the school open.

## Sustrans 'Journey to Santa'

The Sustrans initiative "Journey to Santa" to encourage active travel to and from school begins on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Cycle, scoot or walk to school to receive a stamp to get closer to Santa and be in with a chance to win a prize from Santa's workshop. An information letter will be sent home with pupils in N-P4 and the Santa Stamp card will remain in school.



In this tough time, small acts of KINDNESS can mean the world of difference to others and to our own mental health. During advent we will be focusing on encouraging our pupils to be kind to each other, their families and themselves and celebrating the power of kindness. You can join in by following our Kindness Advent Calendar 2020.

### What is Advent?

Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas day and ends on Christmas Eve.



Advent means 'coming' in Latin and is seen as the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Some people use Advent as a time of fasting, study, meditation and prayer. Generally, Advent is a time when many people are very busy in preparation for Christmas Day, cleaning and decorating, buying food and gifts, writing cards and letters, and cooking the Christmas feast.

### Christmas Cards and/or

#### Elf on the Shelf

In order to continue keeping our school as safe as we can, we respectfully ask that in 2020 your children do not bring Christmas cards in from home to give out to friends. We also ask them to leave their Elf on the Shelf at home. Thank you.