

## Who had the golden ticket?

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December our school came together to draw the winning ballots for the Christmas Hamper Appeal 2018. In total, £1,200 was raised through ballots for hampers and generous donations. In school, there was a hamper for the children and one specifically for the adults. Additional prizes were drawn.

The 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner of the Children's Big Hamper was Lily Gilmore from P3JH. Additional winners were Sian Kelly, Georgia Gillen, Christopher Rooney, Gavin Garland, Marc Killyleagh, Shauneen Meier, Michael Kennedy, Beth Connolly's grandad, Patrick Devine (pictured in his Hi-Viz jacket for 'Be Bright, Be Seen' safety campaign), Ms Lavery, Aoibhinn Austin, Alanna Keenan and Connor Dobbin.

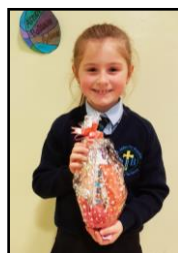


The 1st Prize winner of the adult hamper was, our very own cleaner and lunch time supervisor, Roisin Devine.

Other winners were Grace Hammond, Taylor Devlin, Paul Garland and Mrs McGuigan.

May we extend our genuine thanks to all pupils and adults who purchased ballots. Your generosity has enabled homeless people to have much needed clothing and personal items.

Ms Heatley, her pupils and volunteer adults use this money to go to ASDA and purchase clothing items which are made up into individual hampers. They include pyjamas, warm socks, quality fleeces, etc. We thank ASDA for their support once again. The staff are always very helpful and make the whole event a wonderful giving experience for the pupils.



## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS SJB STYLE!

### P1 CHRISTMAS SHOWS

This year Primary 1 classes will be performing 'The Nativity' for family, grandparents and everyone else on **Wednesday 12th December at 9:30am.**



The Primary 2 year group will be the choir for the primary 1 classes. They will perform for both audiences for both performances. Their family members can see the P1 nativity on **Thursday 13th December at 9:30am.**

There will also be a ballot, run by our 'Friends of St John the Baptist' Association.



Good luck to our boys' Gaelic team who will be competing in the indoor championships at St. John's GAC on Friday 7th December at 1:30pm.

They qualify as winners of a group, which included Bunscoil, Holy Child and Holy Trinity. Jack Herdman was Man of the Match with some terrific saves.

Parents are always welcome to come and support the school teams.



### Christmas School Closures

- The school will close for Christmas on **Friday 21st December: school will close at 11am.**
- There will be no breakfast Club or dinners in school on both of these days as there is no school meal service.

***School will reopen on Monday 7th January 2019.***

Staff training is taking place on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th January.

## Open morning Friday 7th December

Any parents with a prospective child for admission to Primary 1 is September 2019 are very welcome to come to our:

**Open Morning (10:30am - 12 noon)**

Perspective parents and current parents / carers will be able to tour the school, meet the staff and children and find out about the extras we have to offer. All welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there!



### BOOK FAIR

Thank you to absolutely everyone for your support with this year's Autumn Book Fair. Our amazing total is £1664.36.

We now get 60% back! This goes straight back to the pupils as we purchase even more books for our children to take home as independent readers and class novels. This means a whopping £998.61 returning to SJB as book stock for the pupils.



### Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas Post Box is now open in school. Children can post their Santa letters or Christmas cards in the foyer.



### DE Circulars promoting Safe School Transport and Road Safety

The Department of Education has issued two new circulars which we would like to bring to your attention.

'Safe School Transport' which provides road safety advice during the dark, winter months.  
'Schools Road safety leaflet' which provides guidance on safer School Car parking. Both leaflets can be found on the EA website and on our own website. <http://www.stjohnthebaptistps.co.uk>



SJB is involved in our 'Be Seen, Be Bright' pedestrian safety campaign. Mrs Burke's P3 class is leading the way. Please try to make sure your child can be seen.







## 'Tis the season to be singing ...

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Primary 7 pupils sing at West Belfast Primary schools Festival of Carols @ 7pm. Parents invited.
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P1 Nativity show at 9:30am in school hall
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P7AmcC Ulster Hall Belfast School of Music Christmas Carols
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P5 Mrs McCrystal's class will be carol singing / party in Tullymore
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Annual MUSICATHON P3- P7 will be in Kennedy Centre carol signing and raising school funds Please come along and support.
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P5 Mrs McCrystal's class will be carol singing in Fruithill Fold
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P5 Mrs McCrystal's class will be carol singing in Ballyowen Fold
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P5 Mrs McCrystal's class will be carol singing for Autism in Castle Court shopping centre
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P3-P7 Carol Service in St Michael's the Archangel Church at 2pm



## VALUE OF THE MONTH

During our assemblies leading up to the festive season we will be exploring the value of happiness.

Pope Francis reminds us that God leads the way. He warns against opting "for ease and convenience, for confusing happiness with consumption," because then "we end up paying a high price indeed: we lose our freedom."

"Jesus," however, "is the Lord of risk, of the eternal 'more'," he said. "Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths."

## Celebrating Christmas through Craft

The Friends of SJB Association held their very first craft fair. It was a wonderful day and raised £720.14 for the association.



## Christmas Dinner

The children's school Christmas Dinner will be on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at a cost of £2.60. The week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> December is week 2 on the meals menu.

Normal school dinners will not be served on that day.

