



First class 1st Class have been super busy over the last few weeks preparing for our school performance 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World'. All classes have been working hard in class as well as being very crafty creating different art pieces based on Christmas. We enjoyed a visit to Santa's grotto which built on the already evident excitement. Ms Rolston and Ms McNamara are finishing up their music generation lessons with Kevin soon, who will be visiting Mr Keenan's class in the New Year.

Plaza 1 had a lovely busy term. We started swimming lessons! Everyone had great fun splashing around and learning about the water. Our Friday sessions with Music Generation have been a great hit. We tried so many different instruments including bells, keyboard and viola. It was a great experience! We had lots of fun learning together in class this term. Wishing everyone a happy and restful holiday from Plaza 1!

Our Christmas Raffle has proven to be a fabulous fundraiser again. Thanks for everyone for gathering such amazing prizes and vouchers. We raised an incredible €2235 every cent of which will all be used to benefit all the pupils in our school. Congratulations to **Darragh McGlinchey** who sold the most tickets and to **Jodie Mae Guia** who won first prize!

Breakfast Club and Homework Club resume again after Christmas on Monday January 5th 2026



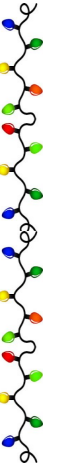
Important Reminder:
When dropping your child to school by car or coming into school yourself for any reason, please park above or below the bus bay, never in it, at any time of the day. This bus bay is used by our hired buses throughout the school day and needs to be kept car free.



Scealta na Nollag



The Management & Staff of Our Lady of Mercy Primary School would like to wish all parents and the school community a happy and peaceful Christmas and a joyous New Year.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: OLIVIA FLANNERY

Dear Parents & Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Pupils, Parents & Staff for their patience as our new classroom construction progresses. Seeing the modulars arrive on site over the weekend is a large step forward.

At this time of year, I think it is worth reminding ourselves of the importance of looking after one another and our communities. Taking the time to rest and reflect on our experiences is invaluable. I hope everyone has the opportunity to spend time with loved ones over Christmas. During the month of December the school is filled with activity and excitement and is a very enjoyable place to be; I very much hope this joy is brought home for the Christmas.

To all of our pupils, I wish you a happy and fun filled holiday this Christmas. Take a good and well earned rest after all your hard work so far this year.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!

Olivia Flannery, Principal.

SPORT NEWS!

SWIMMING: Our lucky 4th class and Plaza children have almost completed their block of swimming lessons in the Sports Complex. We will have one lesson on Monday 5th January to compensate for the lesson missed due to Storm Bram. This was an amazing opportunity for the pupils and it was clear to see that by the end of December the children had become much more comfortable and confident in the water. So many had also improved their technique in the various strokes. This is such an important life skill and we would encourage all of the children to really try to keep up the swimming. Thanks to the Parents' Partnership for funding our lessons.

CUMANN NS MBUNSCOL TABLE QUIZ was cancelled due to Storm Bram and will hopefully take place in the new year. Good luck to our two teams.

HANDBALL BLITZ: Our school are hoping to enter an Olympic Handball Blitz in the new year. Olympic Handball is quite a new sport for schools and will be very exciting for our children.



Choir: Our Lady of Mercy Primary School Choir began rehearsals in October. We performed in Quayside shopping centre an aid of Focus Ireland in mid December. Our choir received many compliments after singing at mass in Saint Anne's church on December 8 for the celebration of the Immaculate Conception.



Second classes have enjoyed a great term. We have done lots of super class-work and the children have learned so much. They worked very hard on their Christmas play 'A Christmas Recipe'. It went really well and their teachers are very proud of all their efforts to make it a special performance 😊.

The children have been busy preparing for Christmas, learning about Advent, creating lovely Christmas art and reading Christmas stories and poems 🌲. We have been to Mass and are preparing for our Communion. Sister Madeleine visits the classes regularly and is delighted with the children. The classes were thrilled to visit Santa and also are keeping an eye out every day for our busy pesky little elves!! What fun!!



We would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Nollaig shona daoibh go léir!!



Junior Infants We have been busy learning lots of new things in our classroom - we have learned lots about people who help us and have enjoyed role playing in the Doctor's Surgery! We also loved planning, exploring and building in Junk Art. We were so lucky to have Julie Patterson the author and illustrator of Willow Wonders visit our classroom to do a book reading for us. We were very busy practising our songs for our Christmas Performance and we hope you all enjoyed the performance!. We also took a trip to the post box with some very special Christmas cards. Keep an eye out for the postman! Looking forward to Christmas Holidays and hoping everyone in Junior Infants is on the good list including the teachers - fingers crossed!!



Whilst Christmas is an exciting, social and stimulating time for many people – it can be a stressful time for many autistic people who are reliant on calm environments, predictability and time out. "As I Am" have supplied a number of resources to help you have the best Christmas possible. These resources include social narratives and visual guides to help you prepare autistic friends and family members prepare for key festive experiences



Sixth Class News!

6th Class have had a busy term full of exciting activities! The children were so delighted to receive their official scripts for “Shrek the Musical” and have started acting out scenes as part of drama in class. We can’t wait to bring the show to the stage next term. This week, 6th Class finished the Life Skills Programme with Lisa and Aisling. They have learned important information which will aid them as they go to secondary school next year, especially on the areas of communication and decision making. 6th class continue to practise and prepare for Confirmation and have attended their first two preparation masses in St Anne’s Church this term.

You may have noticed how incredible our pupils looked during their school performances! We recently bought new costumes through the generosity of parents towards our fundraisers and our wonderful **Parents’ Partnership**.

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Guessing Game Winners: Christmas cake weighed 2.5kg, winner .Elvira Bezkorovaina. Teddy was called Charlie winner Naadirah Basith. 275 sweets in the jar, winner: Elena Csanyi. Many thanks to all the local businesses for their generous sponsorship of our raffle prizes.

Thanks to **Tesco and The Stronger Starts Programme** for delicious fresh vegetables every Tuesday— We look forward to delivering more veg after Christmas.

We had a very successful Christmas Wreath session and Candle/ Centrepiece session in the Parents' Room recently, many thanks to all who came and to **Charlene Carty** for facilitating the class.



HSCL We plan to run lots more classes / activities in school in 2026— if you have any ideas or would like to get involved please get in touch. If I can support you in any way with your child’s school life here don’t hesitate to reach out! Merry Christmas to all.
Claire McNally HSCL. 085 1583953. cmcnally@mercysspigo.ie

Dates to Remember:

Christmas Holidays: School closes for Christmas Holidays on Friday 19th December at **12 noon**. School reopens on Monday 5th January.

Primary Curriculum Framework: School closed Monday 26th January

St Brigid’s Day: School closed Monday 2nd February.

Mid term: School closed Thursday 19th & Friday 20th February

St Patrick’s Day: School closed Tuesday 17th March

Easter: School closes Friday 28th March and reopens Monday 13th April

May: School closed Monday 4th to Friday 8th May



Many thanks to our hard working parents for their contribution over Christmas. To those who helped with the guessing, with the raffle, building Santa's grotto and clearing it and helping out with Santa on the day! Many thanks to Gerard & Bernie Egan (Sweet jar) Martin Keaney (Teddy) and Lorraine Finan (Cake for sponsoring the goods for guessing.

We were delighted to have Santa back in school for the day - he tells us all are on the nice list for now!

HOLIDAY MENTAL HEALTH REMINDERS

Simple joys are still real.

It’s okay to need space.

Rest is not a luxury.

Say no without overexplaining.

Grief may visit—welcome it kindly.

Limit what drains your energy.

You don’t have to feel festive.

You’re allowed to unplug.

Take care of your inner weather.



Plaza 2 have had a fantastic few weeks! The children completed 6 weeks of swimming lessons, showing growing confidence and determination. They enjoyed exploring stories including The Lion Inside, Bears Don't Share, The Grumpy Reindeer and Santa's Six Helpers, learning about feelings, kindness, sharing and helping others. The children also took part in festive drawing and creative collage activities. Christmas-themed movement, yoga and sensory breaks helped the children stay calm, focused and energised throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of Plaza 2 for their wonderful performances in the school plays, where they shone with confidence and teamwork.

The **5th class pupils** have been very busy in recent weeks rehearsing for their Christmas play, 'The Nutty Nutcracker', which they performed brilliantly at the start of the week. They all showed great commitment and enthusiasm throughout rehearsals, and this really shone through in their final performance, which was enjoyed by all. Well done to all performers for their hard work and teamwork.

A special mention goes to Ms Kilcawley who won a daily prize of €100 in the Ocean FM 'Teacher of the Year' competition. She was nominated by Ruby Conway in recognition of her ability to make learning fun, explaining new ideas well and the positive, supportive atmosphere she creates in the classroom.



Very well done to Ms Kilcawley and Ruby.

We are delighted to be running the **Rainbows Programme** again here in the school after Christmas, facilitated by our staff who have recently trained up. This is a peer support group aiming to support children who have suffered bereavement or separation. If you are interested in signing your child up, drop Claire McNally a line or a text. 085 1583953



Plaza 3: It has been a busy term for the students in Plaza 3. We have really enjoyed swimming at the Sports Complex every Monday practising our swimming skills and having lots of fun too. We have also created many arts and crafts getting ready for Christmas. We look forward to more fun and learning experiences in the new year.

The **Senior Infants** have had a lovely term doing many wonderful activities. We had the author of Willow Wonders Julie Patterson visit us recently to read her book. She kindly signed a copy that Ms. Flannery purchased for each of the libraries in our class. Having learned about The Cafe we then finished this topic by having hot chocolate in the Riverside Hotel. And of course we have been very busy preparing for our Christmas performance. Happy Christmas everyone!



4th Class 4th class completed their swimming lessons at Sligo Sports Complex with the excellent instructors Mairead, Carly and Loretta. The children were split into 3 groups and had the opportunity to progress through the levels as their swimming skills developed. They also were given playtime at the end of each lesson, which involved a lot of handstands in the pool and water football! The children in 4th class also enjoyed an in-class workshop provided by Michael from An Taisce. They learned about many native Irish species, insects, birds, and animals, and how these creative are evolving and surviving in relation to human development. Ms. Kilbane's 4th participated in two science webinars—the questions explored were "What happens when you get bitten by a snake?" and "Can you take a picture of the brain?" Listening to real scientists explain their research was so interesting!

Third class Third class have had a very busy time on the run up to Christmas learning all about how to care for our world by reducing litter, plastic waste and fossil fuels. We have been doing Christmas surveys and collating the latest data on Christmas food, decorations, and favourite Christmas songs! Christmas Art and Craft has been a big focus, which is evident in all the 3rd classrooms and corridor. Christmas STEM activities created lots of engineering skills and ideas too! There has been elfie high jinx and rumour has it there was even an elf wedding!!! Keep your eyes peeled on our YouTube channel!! ☆



Merry Christmas from Mrs. Monaghan, Ms. McNamara and Ms. Murphy.