

**BULLETIN****DECEMBER 2021****SCHOOL CLOSINGS:**

The school will close for Christmas at 12.00 noon on [Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December](#). Staff Development Days on [Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December](#) and [Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January](#). School Re-opens to pupils on [Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January](#).

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December - Santa Daily Mile
Week beginning 6 <sup>th</sup> - P3 Parent / Teacher Consultations
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner (£1 for charity)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> - Last day for SVP Hamper Donations
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> - After School Club Finishes for Christmas

**HAMPERS FOR SVP:**

Our School Council has suggested that all families could donate non-perishable food items to create hampers for local people in need. We will donate the hampers to St Vincent de Paul for distribution. Please send tins, packets of pasta, well dated biscuits etc in with your child before Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:**

Each class is currently preparing carols, poems, drama, tableau's and Christmas readings. Unfortunately it is not appropriate to invite parents to view these performances. We do however look forward to sharing these online.

Classes will take turns to attend Mass in the church in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. Pupils are creating beautiful Christmas cards which will be delivered with meals on wheels over the coming weeks.

Every class is decorating their 'Christmas Door', so that we can share the festive spirit.

**SHOEBOX APPEAL:**

Thank-you to all those who donated shoeboxes for children in need in Eastern Europe. Thank-you also to Dympna who has organised this annual charity event for many years.

**P1 SEPT. 22:**

Applications for P1 will open through <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions> on Monday 10th January. Demand for places in St Mary's is high and it is likely that we will be over-subscribed again this year, so apply early to avoid disappointment. Our updated Admissions Policy, including criteria and our prospectus will be published on the school website once it has been ratified by the EA.

**SAFER SCHOOLS NI APP:**

We are pleased to launch our customised Safer Schools NI App. This is a great source of information for pupils, parents and staff with advice on how to stay safe online and provides notifications of the latest trends and risks. Please download the app now (details available on Seesaw).

**SCHOOL WEBSITE APP:**

Remember you can stay up to date with the latest news, sign-posting for support, policies and calendar of events through [www.stmarysps.com](http://www.stmarysps.com). The Safer Schools App will link you to our website, although we urge you to download our school app, so you can receive reminders and notifications. Just press the download button on our website home page.

**UNIFORM:**

Please note that **trousers should be plain navy** (ie without stripes or emblems)

We always aim to work closely with parents and again ask you to feel free to contact the class teacher or me about any queries or concerns you may have. I trust that the remainder of 2021 go smoothly and pray that 2022 will bring good health and happiness for us all.

Mrs. P Kelly  
PRINCIPAL