



St James's Jotter

December 2023

Open Night We are looking forward to welcoming parents/guardians and children who are considering attending our Nursery or Year 1 in September 2024. The Open Evening is on 7th December from 5:00-7:00pm.

Admissions Process All applications for St James's Nursery Unit and Primary School for September 2024 will be completed online using the Education Authority's Admissions Portal. There is clear guidance about completion of the application on the EA website. Please ensure that you refer to our admissions criteria when making your application. If you have any difficulties with your application, please contact Mrs Brown in the school office. [LINK](#)

Christmas Concerts Our assembly hall is buzzing with the sound of Christmas, as the children practice for their shows. Please remember that we only have a limited number of tickets available per child and these must be booked through School Money **no later than Friday 8th December 2023**. See our website calendar for dates. This year, in light of the cost of living crisis, we are not asking you to buy tickets for the Christmas performances. However, we would be grateful if you could make a donation to our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal using School Money. St Vincent de Paul does wonderful work to help our local community throughout the year and we like to show our support by raising funds to help their vital work. To avail of this please contact the school office and speak with Mrs Clenaghan.

Christmas Dinner The children's Christmas dinner will be on Thursday 14th December. Your child's Christmas dinner needs to be ordered on School Money by Monday 5th December. In order to add to the festive spirit, the children can wear Christmas jumpers, hats etc to school on the 14th December.

Online Safety I am sure that Santa will be delivering some electronic presents this Christmas. Please be mindful of the exposure that your child will have to the Internet and potential harm. Parents and carers can access the Safeguarding Board NI App for online safety information and advice. Practical tips and advice have been published on the Police Service's website here: <https://www.psnl.police.uk/safety-and-support/keeping-safe/protecting-yourself/internetsafety/keeping-children-safe-online>.

Cleaner Needed We are currently seeking to employ a cleaner on a temporary basis for approximately 15 hours per week. If you are interested in being considered for this post, please email the school to express your interest. info@stjamesps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk.

PTA Christmas Movie Night The PTA are organising a Christmas Movie Night in the school on Wednesday 13th December between 6:00-8:00pm. There is a choice of six movies. Tickets can be purchased on School Money for £3:00each. This will cover the cost of popcorn, a drink and a small treat. Children must be dropped off and collected by an adult. [LINK](#)

The Gathering Drums We are looking forward to our Wellbeing Day on 13th Dec when Joe the Gathering Drums will deliver a drumming workshop to all the pupils in the school throughout the day.

Value of the Month: honesty
Monthly Mathemagician: board games maths

School of Music Concert We are very fortunate to have booked a Christmas Concert performed by staff from the School of Music on 21st December. The school will subsidise the concert. Once again, we ask if any donations may be given to the School St Vincent de Paul fund.

CCMS website We are delighted to inform you that items of news celebrating successes in our school this term have been chosen to appear on CCMS (Catholic Council for Maintained School) website <https://www.ccmsschools.com/>. Keep a look out as the news items are updated regularly.

Another Win with Sustrans After achieving Gold status with Sustrans, we are pleased to announce that we have just won the Sustrans Notice Board competition. Well done to Mrs Magill and her class. See website.

Holidays A reminder that school closes half day on Thursday 21st December for the holidays. There will be no lunches this day. Please see the link for a staggered pick up time to promote safety and avoid congestion. [LINK](#)

Our School Christmas Tree We approached a number of garden centres asking for a donation of a Christmas Tree. Many thanks to Christine Bryans from Bangor Garden Centre for donating and delivering a beautiful tree which has been lovingly decorated by each child in the school and nursery. Thank you Miss Morrow for sourcing the tree.

Spar donations We wish to acknowledge and send thanks to Spar (the Henderson group) Whiteabbey for supplying play experience resources each month for use by Years 1 and 2. Every Little Helps. 😊

Winter Coat Recycle A winter Coat Recycle Drive was well received this year and many of our community availed of the scheme. A number of coats remained and were given to Have a Heart - a city centre homeless charity.

Lost Property Our lost property box located at entrance C is full of unlabelled coats, jumpers, cardigans and lunchboxes. If your child's belongings are missing, please have a look in the box before the Christmas break. Can I please appeal to parents/carers to ensure all school items are labelled?

Time for Giving This Christmas time we have linked up with Team Haven, a local charity with strong connections in our school community. Team Haven make food hampers for individuals and families that are experiencing homelessness or hardship this Christmas. We can support them very simply by bringing in items of non- perishable food. Please see the flier and bring one or more items from the list into our collection crates before Friday 15th December. Team Haven is also offering hampers containing food, treats and Christmas items/toys to any of our families who are in need this Christmas. If any family need support, please contact Mrs Clenaghan via the school office. These requests will be confidential.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas All the staff in St James's PS and NU wish our families, governors and community partners, a safe and happy Christmas. We will look forward to welcoming you all back in 2024.

