ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ESKRA

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Principal: Mrs. Keira McCallan BA (Hons), PQH

Monday, 1st December, 2014.

Dear Parent,

- A sincere Thank You to everyone who participated in or visited our **Christmas Craft Fair** last Thursday. It was a great success. A huge Thank You to our staff and the PTA and anyone who helped to prepare the school and/or helped out on the night. Thank you to staff and parents for donating so generously to the Craft Fair and the Raffle. A special thank you to all our pupils who made Christmas treats, attended stalls and represented our school so well on Thursday evening. Thank you also to **Santa** (and his helpers) for taking time out of his very busy schedule to visit us in Eskra and to Mrs. Taggart and the School Choir who sang so beautifully. The total proceeds raised will be issued shortly. Our raffle will be held in school on **Friday, 12th December.** Please make sure that all tickets and monies have been forwarded to the school office by **Thursday, 11th December**.

- **Parents of pupils in Year 6/7:** Year 6/7 pupils will be starting their Swimming Programme on **Thursday, 29th January, 2015** for 15 weeks at Omagh Leisure Centre. The cost per pupil is £35. Pupils will travel by bus and will be accompanied by a member of staff. Please complete the permission slip attached and the **Declaration of Medical Conditions Form** and return them to school by **Friday, 6th December**. Please send the money in a marked money wallet by the end of January.

- **Parents of Pupils in Year 6/7:** As you are aware pupils in Year 6/7 have been participating in a cross-community **All Set Programme** each Tuesday morning. They have been learning various traditional dances and playing traditional music. A short performance to showcase what they have been learning will take place in **Eskra Community Centre** on **Tuesday 9th December** from **1.15pm- 2.00pm.** Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.

- As stated in the dates For Your Diary issued recently, staff and pupils are being invited to have a **Onesie/Pyjama Day** on **Friday, 5th December** in aid of Care

For Cancer in Omagh. Each pupil and member of staff is being asked to make a donation of £1 each to support this very important local charity.

- Our school is participating in the **Healthy Munch Box Challenge** again this year. This challenge involves encouraging pupils and parents to think about healthy food choices at lunch time. Following participation in the challenge this year, it is expected that our school will receive an Award that will recognise us as a school who promotes healthy lunch boxes and who highlights the importance of healthy food choices. Please find attached a flyer highlighting simple ideas for packing a healthy lunch.

- Your child's **Newsletter/Learning Support Sheet** for December will be sent home this week.

- Our **Monthly Value** for the month of December is **Generosity**. Please talk to your child at home about how they can show generosity to others.

- Our **Thinking Skill and Personal Capabilities** focus for December is **Being Creative.** Pupils will have lots of opportunities to be creative in school this month. Please encourage your child to be creative at home too.

- Sunday, 7th December is the **Feast Day of The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary**.

- **Year One Admission Forms** will be available from the school office from **Monday, 24th November.** Please note that completed forms must be returned to the school office by **12.00 noon** on **Wednesday, 17th December.**

- Our **Christmas performances** will take place on **Tuesday, 16th December**. Pupils are busy rehearsing at the moment. To facilitate the learning of lines and songs, normal homework will be reduced by each class teacher.
  Year 1/2 homework will consist of reading and play preparation.
  Year 3/4 homework will be the same as usual.
  Years 5-7 homework will consist of spelling and preparations for their Christmas performances.
  Homework will end for all classes on Thursday, 11th December. Full homework will resume in January.

- Our **Christmas Dinner** for pupils and staff will take place on **Friday, 12th December.** Please let Mrs. Carson know by **Friday, 5th December** if your child wants dinner on that day so that we can send the numbers to the kitchen. School will close early on that day **@ 12.45pm.** Please ensure that your child is collected from school promptly. Pupils and staff are being invited to wear their **Christmas jumpers** that day just for fun!

- Our **Christmas Raffle** will take place at Assembly on **Friday, 12th December**.

Extra books of tickets are available from the parents' noticeboard in the school foyer. This year we are asking each family and each member of staff to **donate** something for the **Hamper.**Thank you to everyone who has already donated items.

- The **Rudolph Run** is on **Saturday 13th December.** As with previous years, help is required to prepare and serve food. Food will be required from 12.30pm. The hall will be set up for registration from 9am and it needs to be cleared from 11.45am and the tables set for food at around 12 noon. If you are available to help, please contact the school office as soon as possible. All volunteers/helpers are welcome to attend our PTA meeting on **Thursday, 11th December @ 7.30pm** to discuss preparations. Proceeds from the Rudolph Run are generously donated to our school each year.

- Our **Christmas plays** will take place on **Tuesday, 16th December**. Our Year 1/2 pupils and Year 3/4 pupils will be performing between 10am and 12.30pm and Year 5 and Year 6/7 will perform between 1.15pm and 3.00pm. Please find attached a timetable for the plays.

- The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on **Saturday, 9th May, 2015 @ 11am** in **St. Patrick's Church, Clogher.**

- **First Holy Communion** will take place on **Saturday, 23rd May** @ in St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra @ **12pm**.

- A **2015 Calendar** from HSENI entitled **'Avoid Harm On The Farm'** has been sent home today. It contains very important messages about child safety on farms.

- Seamus Arkinson asked us to inform you of the following:

  2014 Presentation night for youth and Senior teams will take place this Sunday 30th November at 6pm in the Community Centre
  Youth presentation first followed by Senior
  We would ask that as many supporters and parents to attend including and especially all players who played at all grades throughout the year.

- **Parents of pupils in Year 3/4:** Please find attached a letter from Mrs. Dolan.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Keira McCallan
(Principal)

'We learn to love and love to learn.'

Permission Slip

I do/do not give permission for my child _____ to participate in the Swimming Programme in Omagh Leisure Centre for 15 weeks, starting on 29th January, 2015, travelling by bus.

Signed:
Date: