

NEWS @ ST. COMGALL'S ISSUE 1: 2019 - 2020



Incredible Computer Technology!!



I.C.T.



Thank you to each and every person who made our wish come true! Our staff team envisioned an ICT room where they could take a full class of children to teach them ICT skills and use computers to support their learning.

At the beginning of this term, that became a reality for our school and our children.

The fundraising team set as a target "the purchase of IT equipment". That target was met and surpassed due to your support and generosity. New kit was purchased and is now being used all day, every day, by your children. It is an amazing resource to have available to us. Children will develop ICT skills for the future.

Currently our P.7 children are coding games!! Everyone can work individually now and get full access to a machine for the entire duration of their timetabled lesson!

Thank you, thank you, thank you – to our AMAZING FUNDRAISING TEAM and to our pupils and parents who support the activities.

Thank you and Happy computing to our children!



Welcome to Our New P.1s





Sunflower Competition Winner



My name is Tifaine Malto. I'm in P6B and I'm going to tell you how my winning sunflower got to 10 feet tall.

My dad started off by soaking the seeds in a bowl of water for 5 days. After 2 days he changed the water and then he never changed it after that.

Then he took the seeds and poured them into a big pot with some soil, filling it up a little more than half way.

Then after 2 days he watered the sunflower shoots.

Here's a tip my dad told me you have to water it every day, that's optional but, in my opinion it helps a lot. Also make sure direct sunlight will hit your sunflower.

We had a place in our backyard where it's sheltered so it helps when it rains.

I'm happy to have this won this eco-competition because it was a challenge but it was really fun to do.

The good thing about winning is that I can spend time with my family using the prize Omniplex Family Cinema pass that I was given. Thanks.

Ethan Hassan, Chairperson of the Eco Team presented Tifaine with her prize. Well done Tifaine!



PUPIL COUNCIL ELECTIONS



FOR THE FIRST TIME, OUR NEW PUPIL COUNCIL FOR 2019/20 WAS ELECTED BY THEIR CLASSROOM PEERS. ON FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER CLASSROOM HUSTINGS TOOK PLACE FOR ANY PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE. ON VOTING DAY CHILDREN USED REAL VOTING STATIONS/VOTING SLIPS AND BALLOT BOXES – BORROWED FROM THE N. I. ELECTORAL OFFICE, TO VOTE THEIR NEXT CANDIDATE. THE OUTGOING PUPIL COUNCIL MEMBERS ACTED AS THE ELECTORAL OFFICERS.

OUR NEW PUPIL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE: NIKOLA PUTLAK P.5A, CIARA O'SHEA P.5B, KATIE CLARKE P.5C, RORY McCONNELL P.6A, EVA MULVENNA P.6B, FAYTH SANSOME P.6C, CLODAGH QUIGG P.7A, OLIVER BURY P.7B & LEONA NELSON P.7C.

SHARED EDUCATION - FOREST SCHOOLS

Forest School began in the early 1900s, with the creation of young people's groups like the Scouts and Woodcraft Folk, which focused on youth camps and outdoor skills. Today outdoor education in schools helps children to learn to assess, appreciate and take risks in an outdoor classroom. They are also challenged to make sensible, informed decisions about how to tackle the activities and experiences they encounter.



All our Year 6 pupils have loved their Forest Schools lessons with our Shared Education partner school, Antrim Primary.

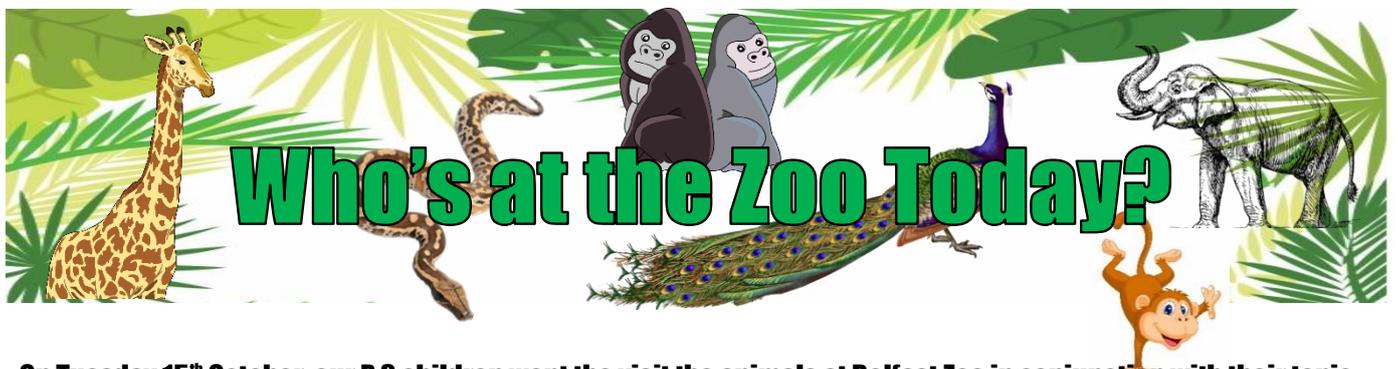


Flahavan's Primary School Cross Country League



We participated in a cross country tournament in the Antrim Forum involving many schools. The tournament began with a rigorous warm up! Then there were fun runs – girls first and then boys. Then it was the girls' 'proper' run. Grace was the photographer. It was a very rainy day. It consisted of one and a half laps of the track. It was quite demanding. I was panting afterwards. Then it was the boys' 'proper' run. We really enjoyed the experience and we also enjoyed the hot chocolate that rounded off the day because it warmed us up.

By Niamh McCloskey & Grace Connolly P.6C



On Tuesday 15th October, our P.3 children went the visit the animals at Belfast Zoo in conjunction with their topic 'Jungle Journey'. The children had a wonderful day and even got to touch some of the animals. They were fascinated by the very large millipede crawling over their hands. The weather was great for a walk around the rest of the Zoo.



We went to Belfast Zoo yesterday because we are learning about the jungle. We went to a classroom and we met John, he showed a python. We got to touch it. Then we got to touch a stick insect. We got to go to the elephants. The elephant was big. We had our lunch then saw Alice, Spook and Lola, the bears.

By Aoife Jones P.3A



We went to Belfast Zoo yesterday because we are learning about the jungle. We saw the big lion and he was growling and it was fun. We saw penguins, I was glad to see them. We saw a sea lion, it was hard to see him because he was deep in the water.

By Alice Man P.3A



We went to Belfast Zoo yesterday because we are learning about the jungle. My mum was there and so was Hiten's daddy. I saw the sea lions. I was glad that Mrs O'Donnell was happy because the class was very good.

By Ruairi Noade P.3A

Travelling Books Fair comes to St. Comgall's

The Travelling Books Fair came to St Comgall's on the 2nd October to 9th October. The book fair is a fantastic way for parents to supplement their child's home reading material. It also helps raise money for books in our school as we can purchase books to a percentage value of all money spent at the fair by parents. This has been a great way in the past of enhancing our school stock. The children were excited to see the book fair in the school foyer and had fun picking a book to buy and bringing it home to read.



This year the school raised
£864.74

Hope everyone enjoyed reading the books they bought.



Firework Safety



On Friday 25th October Officer Mark came to assembly and talked to the children about the importance of firework safety. They learnt about the dangers of fireworks and how to remain safe when they are near fireworks.

Flahavan's P. S. Cross Country League Results



Girls 1200m Race Positions – 69 Runners

Pos	Name	Class	Finishing Time
5	Lauren Mae Ong	P.7A	00:05:03
15	Roisin Maguire	P.7A	00:05:22
19	Niamh McCloskey	P.6C	00:05:24
21	Lucy-Kate Hutchinson	P.7B	00:05:24
32	Aoife Leahy	P.6A	00:05:33
43	Molly Doherty	P.7A	00:05:44

Girls Race Team Scores – Overall Position

Pos	School	Points
5	St. Comgall's, Antrim	60

Boys 1200m Race Positions - 81 Runners

Pos	Name	Class	Finishing Time
17	Emmett Smith	P.7C	00:04:55
25	Eoin Gillen	P.6C	00:05:00
36	Phillip Janas	P.6B	00:05:06
49	Reuben Turley	P.7C	00:05:18
61	Michael Sloan	P.7C	00:05:22
62	Thomas Doherty	P.6A	00:05:24

Boys Race Team Scores – Overall Position

Pos	School	Points
7	St. Comgall's, Antrim	127

Well Done to all Runners!

P.2 Harvest Assembly



Primary two worked very hard to prepare for their Harvest Assembly. On Friday 11th October they performed for the whole school and in the afternoon they put on a special performance for their parents. Every child had a part to play whether it was a farmer, a reader or even a dancer! In their assembly they thanked God for all the fruit, vegetables and bread that we eat. They sang songs and said prayers together. Primary two had so much fun dressing up as for this special assembly and we hoped everyone enjoyed the performance. The costumes were amazing and we thank all parents and children for their kind efforts.



Road of Hope – Shoe Box Appeal

Road of Hope now regularly help and support other charities and organisations. Road of Hope works in Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Bosnia and some African countries. The wars may be over in some places but the pain and scars of war do not heal quickly. When families have been torn apart and suffered the loss of loved ones, been displaced from their homes, their neighbours and communities, an act of kindness can begin to help heal physical and emotional wounds. Road of Hope looks for opportunities to help others. They will cross dividing lines to help those trapped in conflict, poverty or any other oppression. Here at St. Comgall's we have certainly shown that people do indeed have a kind and generous nature, as the response to the Shoe Box Appeal was amazing. We and the Road of Hope charity would like to thank you all very much for your generosity. This year we collected an amazing:

229 Shoe Boxes

Once again thank you, your kindness will make such a difference to someone's life.



SPOOKY



HALLOWEEN

Scavenger Hunt in the Castle Grounds



Primary 3 met up with the children from Antrim Primary School as part of the Shared Education Programme. The children walked to the Castle Gardens with their friends and took part in an Autumn Scavenger Hunt. They worked together and their task was to find lots of different autumn materials and check that they were on their list. One of the gardeners from Antrim Castle Grounds gave the children a tour of the gardens. The children had a great fun exploring with their buddies from Antrim Primary.

Community Coach of the Year – Danny Nolan



We would like to congratulate Danny on his recent win. Danny, who takes after school Judo here in St. Comgall's was awarded Community Coach of the Year. In October a gala dinner was held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel Nottingham, bringing together the recognised contributors to Judo from across all areas for the Annual British Judo Association Awards. Danny was given the Gold Award for the efforts and inroads he has achieved as the Community Coach of the Year.

Well Done Danny!

Cinema Week with Into Film Festival 2019



Supporting a vision of putting film at the heart of children and young people's education, the Into Film Festival is the largest youth-focused film festival in the world! After six successful years, the Into Film Festival returned in November this year. Our school were fortunate enough to take part in the Film Festival again this year with the P.4 – P.7 availing of a "Free Movie" week. All the children enjoyed the films they saw in the Antrim Omniplex Cinema. Mrs Black's P.4 class have written a lovely story about their cinema experience.



Our Trip to the Cinema



On Monday 11th November all the P4 children went to the Cinema, as part of Free Cinema Week. The Cinema we went to was the Omniplex at Junction One. We were supposed to walk to the cinema but it was a very wet and cold day so Mr Matthews booked us a bus. Some of us went on the Ulster Bus and ten of us went on the school minibus with Mrs Black and Tony (the driver).

We went to watch *The Secret Life of Pets 2*. The movie was great, it was very funny in parts and everyone laughed and enjoyed it. We were allowed to bring some treats and a drink. The cinema was packed. Two other schools were also there.

When it was over our parents and childminders came to the cinema to collect us. It was Kendrick's birthday on the same day so he had a special treat. Sadly, Darcy, Lacey, Niamh and Ethan Fulton were sick that day and couldn't go. P5, P6 and P7 also went to watch a free movie this week.

By:P4B



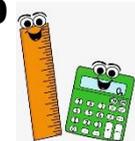
MATHS WEEK @ ST. COMGALL'S



 MANGAHIGH

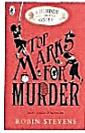


Maths Week ran from 14th – 18th October. We took part in lots of exciting activities to help raise the profile of numeracy. Primary 6 created a Maths trail. Primary 4B used Izak 9 for problem solving and P.6B created their own eliminator tasks. Primary 7 examined shapes looking at properties and lines of symmetry. Key Stage 2 took part in online activities using Mangahigh where they had to compete with schools around the UK. Congratulations to Emmet Smith who came top in our school.



Robin Stevens – Children’s Author

MEETING ROBIN STEVENS



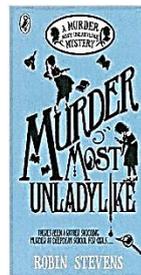
Hi I am Kayleigh Phinn from P6C and I am writing about when I met my favourite author. She is called Robin Stevens. She writes the *Murder Most Unladylike* book series. So this is how my day went..... I went to my granddads house and after that I went to my house and got ready to go. I got the 1:15 train and I got there at about 2:00. I went shopping a bit before I got my books signed and at about 2:30 I was at Easons. I saw one of my friends called Caitlin. I got 2 new books written by Robin Stevens. I waited with Caitlin for 30 minutes and we looked around until it started. We both got a little notebook each. Once it was my turn I asked her a question and she offered me a badge and she gave me a bookmark. She also signed all my Murder Most Unladylike books. I would recommend her books to people that like mysteries and plot twists. They are quite long and have no pictures so they would be for a bit older readers. There are 9 books in the series so far. The books are about 2 girls that solve mysteries by themselves without help and it is a very thrilling book series. It was really fun. The books are sold in Easons, Waterstones and Amazon.

Hi I am Caitlin Hanna on the 19th October I went to Easons, Belfast, to get my books signed. The author is called Robin Stevens and she writes the Murder Most Unladylike book series. Murder Most Unladylike was her

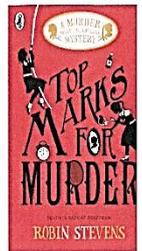


first book she wrote. It took her four years to write Murder Most Unladylike series and one and a half years to write Top Marks for Murder. Murder Most Unladylike is about two school girls called Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong. Their school science teacher Miss Bell got murdered. But who did it?? I also got to ask Robin Stevens some questions. So I asked her, “ why did you start to write murder books?” She said, “ When I was about your age I used to read Sherlock Holmes books, then I started to write the Murder Most Unladylike series. Then she signed 9 of my books and I took a picture with her. She also gave me a badge, a case notes books and a bookmark.

It was definitely a one in a life time experience!!



MEETING ROBIN STEVENS



Hi I am Ava from P.6C. On Saturday 19th October, I got the bus to Belfast with my mum, dad and sister Caitlin. When we got off the bus, we made our way to Easons, Donegall Place for a very special reason. It was to meet Robin Stevens, the author of the Murder Most Unladylike Mystery series. We made our way downstairs where I saw a very long line of people waiting to meet her. I was very excited to see my friends Kayleigh and Caitlin. My mum stayed in line while I went to get some more of her books that I wanted her to sign. We waited for a very long time, but after about 45 minutes we got to the top of the line. Robin Stevens said hello, asked me my name and I gave her my books to sign. I asked her when did she start writing and she told me she began writing in 2010 and her first book came out in 2014, when she was 22.

My favourite thing she wrote was ‘To Ava, good luck with your writing.’ It was really nice to meet her that day and make reading her books more special.

This is a bit about the first book.

When Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong set up **A SECRET DETECTIVE AGENCY** at Deepdean School for Girls, they struggle to find any real crimes to investigate.

Unless you count the case of Lavinias missing tie. Which they don't.

Then Hazel discovers the body of Miss Bell. And when she and Daisy return 5 minutes later, THE BODY HAS DISAPPEARED.

Not only do they have a murder to solve, they must prove one happened in the first place.....

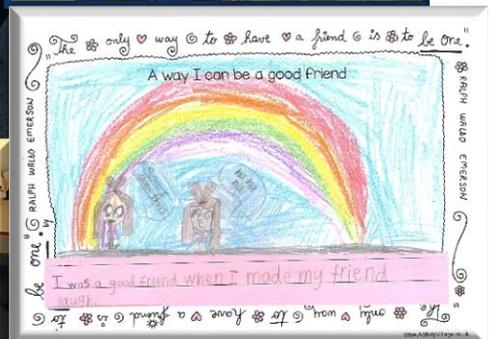


Inspiring children to Read!!!

Anti-Bullying Week - 'Change Starts With Us'



'Change Starts With Us' - was the theme for this year's anti bullying week in Northern Ireland. Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone, where everyone is heard, because together, we can end bullying. Anti-Bullying Week 2019 was Monday 11th November to Friday 15th November. The children took part in various activities in their classrooms. The PSNI came to do an assembly on Friday and Mrs Magee's P.6C class gave a special assembly on 'Kindness' for the whole school on Monday 18th November. On the last day of Anti-Bullying Week the children and staff wore **odd socks** to show respect for difference.



CHANGE STARTS WITH US
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Pupil Council Meet with Local Councillors



On Thursday afternoon, the members of the school councils from Antrim Primary School and St. Comgall's Primary School, met two local councillors; Roisin Lynch, who represents the SDLP and Jim Montgomery, the UUP representative.

The children asked what being a councillor entailed and Mrs Lynch and Mr. Montgomery explained how they became involved in politics and that they were elected to serve on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, by people who lived in the local area. Both councillors were elected in May of this year and will spend four years on the council, representing their constituency members' views at local council meetings.

When asked about how council money was spent, the councillors explained how rates were used to pay for various amenities within the borough, such as sports facilities, theatres, parks and gardens which may be used by everyone in the community. They also informed the children that rates money was used to promote recycling of household waste and that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is the top recycling council in Northern Ireland.

A very interested pupil asked the two councillors to describe a typical council meeting. Both explained that the mayor presided over the meeting, a chairperson and secretary were present, issues were discussed and that decisions were made which sometimes did not please every councillor, but that regardless of the outcome, they were able to disagree, agreeably.

All in all, the meeting was most interesting and informative and culminated with an invitation for the young people to visit and tour Antrim Civic Centre in the near future.





CAFRE Greenmount - P.7 Farm to Fork

P.7 children visited the Dairy Unit at CAFRE, Greenmount Agricultural College on Monday, 2nd December. This is part of their “Farm to Fork” topic they have been working on in school. Here’s what one of our P.7 children said about their visit.

Primary Seven went to Greenmount Farm College and learned about the cows and calves and how they develop. We learnt how the milk is collected and then transported by the milk companies. Some of the college students gave us a tour and explained all of the jobs they do each day on the farm. We enjoyed petting the calves and some even licked our fingers! Yuck!

By Christian Lavelle P.7C



Farm to Fork

The Sleepy Shepherd



Here are some of the stars of our P.1's 'The Sleepy Shepherd'. The shows were amazing, all the children practised so hard and put on three super shows for their parents and grandparents. Well Done!!



Ulster Museum Trip with P.5



On Wednesday 20th November, a very excited group of Primary 5's set off for the museum. This visit was linked to their current topic on Ancient Egypt. The children explored the Egyptian exhibition which looks at life and death during this time in history. It was a great learning experience for the children who got the opportunity to see the objects they have been reading about up close. Perhaps the highlight of the day was meeting Belfast's oldest resident - Takabuti, a mummy from the 7th century BC!

As well as the seeing the mummy, the children learned more about the mummification process, the gods worshipped by the ancient Egyptians and some of their customs. The children set off with their clipboards and booklets to find the answers to their questions all around the exhibit. Everyone enjoyed their day out and returned to school with some great facts to share!

Eco Schools News



Harvest Time



The Eco Team had a good harvest this term despite a very wet summer and a caterpillar rampage in the vegetable patch! We dug up our potatoes, onions and beetroot as well as pulling lettuce, cabbage, spinach and chard. We even got a bumper crop of pears thanks to the careful tree pruning that we did in Spring. Once again we kept the school canteen stocked with extra salad and we are continuing to grow Brussels sprouts for Christmas dinner!



Battery Recycling

We have recently obtained a battery recycling box for all your old batteries. It is located in the front foyer and is great for disposing of household batteries safely and in a friendly way to the environment.



Water Bottles

We recommend you bring a refillable water bottle to school every day, this is great for staying healthy and it reduces the amount of single use plastic we are bringing into school. Why not try to use the water bottle you received from NI Water last year.



Information & Reminders

Names on Uniforms

Please remember to clearly label all items of your child's school uniform, especially jumpers, cardigans and coats.



Emails:

Would all parents who completed a form requesting letters and information to be sent to them by email, please remember to check your emails regularly so you will not miss any important news, letters, dates and general information.



Children coming to School Early:

Children should not be on the school grounds before 8.45am unless they are attending breakfast club. There is no supervision for children before this time.

BREAKFAST CLUB: from 8.10am - 8.45am Cost £1.50 Main School Hall.

Absence Letters

If your child is absent from school, please inform the teacher in writing of the reason for the absence.

Tuck and dinner money

Please ensure your child has the money to pay for tuck and dinners if they use it. It becomes very difficult to manage for our teaching and canteen staff if money becomes "owed." Again, thank you in anticipation for your help with this.



Waiting Room

The waiting room is where children in Years 1 and 2, and Year 3, can stay behind in school from class finish time until 3 p.m. This is to support parents so they would only have to do one pick up from school at 3 o'clock. It will mainly accommodate siblings of older children in the school.



If you wish to register your child for the use of the waiting room, an Initial Registration fee of £20. Parents will then pay a nominal fee of £2 per child per day, payable to the class teacher, on the day(s) they need to have their child minded until 3 p.m.

School Dinner Price

School dinners costs £2.60

Passports

Any Passport Forms requiring signature from a member of staff costs a nominal fee of £5.00, which will go towards school funds.

School Uniform Supplier

Thousand Stitches Ltd
Antrim Arcade
18 High Street
Antrim BT41 2AN

Telephone: 07580 136883

E-mail: info@thousandstitches.com

Web: www.thousandstitches.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/1000StitchesAntri/

2nd Term Holidays

SPRING MID TERM BREAK

Monday 17th February –
Friday 21st February
(inclusive)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Tuesday 17th March

EASTER – close half day on Thursday 9th April

Friday 10th April – Friday 17th
April (inclusive)

Eva Devlin Meets the Mayor

On Tuesday 3rd December I went to meet the mayor! I went to see the mayor because I wrote a letter about how to change the Round Tower into a better place. When we went into his office there was a table that had sandwiches and buns on it, then we talked about the Round Tower and they said that they might make a fairy trail. Then I got a picture with the mayor and he gave me a goody bag. It was a wonderful day, my mum and gran were delighted.



St. Vincent De Paul Hampers



St Vincent De Paul Society seek to find and help those in need. On Friday 29th November, Mr McCormick presented an assembly for the children explaining the work St. Vincent De Paul undertake. This year, as in previous years, we reached out to our parents and children in an effort to help those families in need in our community. As always your generosity knows no bounds, the response was overwhelming. We and St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank you, our P.5, 6 and 7 parents and children, very much for your donations. The hampers will be greatly appreciated.

ATTENTION CHILDREN, PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN CROSSING THE ROAD ON FOOT, ON A BICYCLE OR A SCOOTER.....



Find the safest place to cross then stop.
Stand on the pavement near the kerb or the edge if there is no kerb.



Give yourself lots of time to have a good look all around.
Make sure you can see if anything is coming and drivers can see you.

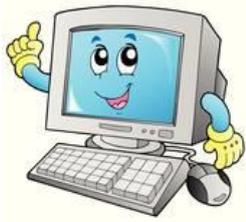


Listen carefully because you can sometimes hear traffic before you can see it.
Never cross the road whilst chatting to people, listening to your iPod or talking on your mobile phone.

BE AWARE EVEN WHEN YOU ARE IN SCHOOL GROUNDS OR CAR PARKS

SCHOOL WEBSITE!

Please take some time to visit our school website! There you will find all the information you need about school. You can meet the classes and learn about the interesting events happening in school. There is a translate engine, so the website can be viewed in other languages. Please select a language of your choice from the drop down list on our homepage. In addition, there is, a 'scrolling announcements sections' on the top of the homepage – this will draw your attention to any current activity in the school.



stcomgalls.co.uk

Christmas Holiday Dates and Arrangements

The school will close for Christmas Holidays on Friday 20th December at 12noon for all pupils. This is a NON uniform day. There will be NO Breakfast Club and NO Tuck or Lunches on Friday 20th. THERE WILL BE BUSES AT 12NOON ON FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER! As normal, additional parking for collection on this day will be provided in the front playground of the school. *Please follow the direction of the staff. School will re-open on Monday 6th January.

**The Board of Governors, Principal & Staff
Wish you all a Happy & Peaceful Christmas,
see you in 2020.**

