

Dates for your Diary

Friday 14th December

Santa visits St Helen's Junior School

Friday 21st December

School closes for Christmas Holidays @ 12noon

Monday 7th January 2019

School re-opens @ 8.45am

Tues 15th & Wed 16th January 10am -12noon

In the school, Application for enrolment for Junior Infants Sept 2019

Thursday 7th February Grandparents' Day

For the Grandparents of 1st Class children

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February incl

School Closed Mid-term Break

Monday 21st March 2019

School Closed Bank Holiday

Friday 12th April 2019

School closed 12 noon Easter Holidays

Monday 29th April 2019

School re-opens @ 8.45am

Monday 6th May 2019

School Closed May Bank Holiday

Monday 3rd June & Tues 4th June

School Closed June Bank Holiday

Saturday 11th May 2019

First Holy Communion

A Word from the Chairperson...

Once again your response to the Voluntary Donation was magnificent. The Board thanks you for your generosity in what are still difficult financial times for every family. The Board relies to a great extent on this source of income to maintain the school's excellent educational facilities.

The Board welcomes the decision of the Department of Education and Skills to pay the Minor Works grant again this year. This grant of €12,000 is used to cover minor structural repairs and furnishing.

The Board extends its sympathies to the family of Brendan Hennigan, RIP, who died suddenly on 21st November. Some of you will remember Brendan, first as a teacher then as Deputy Principal and finally as principal of St Helen's Junior School, for a number of years before moving to a Special School in 2003. Brendan was instrumental in the set-up of the ASD classes in the school, one of the first schools in Ireland to do so.

The school are delighted to be rolling out the features of the School Connect App. This is an app exclusively developed for school communication. It is intended to keep parents/guardians in touch with school activities and will greatly improve communication between school and home. This will be much more cost efficient with reduced texting and paper usage costs and, as all the functions of the app are rolled out, will help support the administration of the school.

The fathers' representative of the Board, Conor Kennedy stands down this year as he no longer has any children in the junior school. He has contributed to the work of the Board and I would like to thank him, on your behalf. Mr Niall O'Neill, is the new fathers' representative, and we welcome him to the board.

Greetings to all from the Board for a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year



CATCH UP

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, ST HELEN'S JUNIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL, PORTMARNOCK, December 2018.

A word from the Principal...

As always, it's difficult to believe that Christmas is upon us. Yet again, we seem to have skipped a season, jumping from our extended wonderful Summer into a wet windy Winter.

Yet it seems some time ago since the junior infants' first day in school. They are all settled and enjoying their new learning environment. We were also delighted to welcome 5 new pupils into the Cabhair Centre last September. A big fáilte romhat to Grace, Faye, Seán, Alex and Maria. And a very special welcome to the new pupils throughout the school, Gavin and Jack.

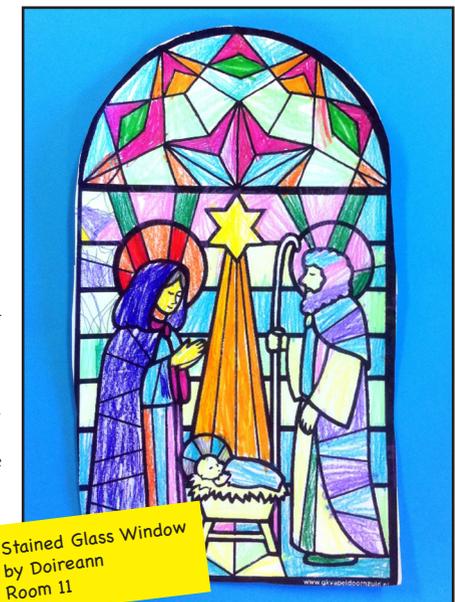
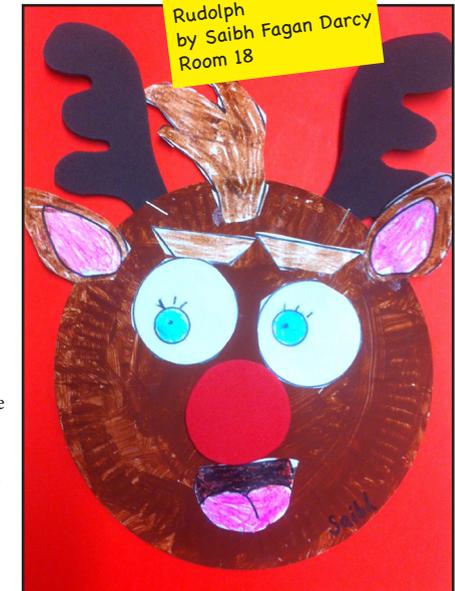
Over 300 Shoeboxes headed off to Eastern Europe thanks to the children's generosity and €466 was sent from the children to charity after their Hallowe'en dress up day- well done boys and girls! Well the Dubs did it again! We're hoping they might make a visit to bring Sam Maguire, once again to visit us here in St Helen's Jnr. Of course, the big question is, will it be 5 in a row in 2019? We sure hope so! We'd love to see them not only outdo their current record of 6 wins in 8 years but to make the 5 in a row! Now the Secretary and the Deputy Principal here might not feel as passionately about that as the rest of us but when in Rome...

The corridors are filled with the beautiful sweet sound of children singing as I write, as all the classes prepare for their Christmas sing-a-long. Michael, our caretaker is generally to be found up a ladder at the moment decorating the corridors and the hall- that's when he's not building a grotto! Serious hard work is on-going and nerves are beginning to act up as the day of the big performance lures- and that's just the teachers!

The former and current staff of St Helen's Junior School wish to offer their sincere condolences to the family of the late Brendan Hennigan RIP, former principal of this school. We were shocked and deeply saddened at Brendan's sudden death on 21st November. Brendan taught in our school for 24 years. He served as Deputy Principal for 20 years and for Principal for the last 4 before he moved to a Special School in 2003. He will always be remembered for his innovation, a strength which prompted him to embrace the opportunity to set up asd classes in the school. St Helen's Jnr was one of the first schools in the country to do so, at a time when supports for such a project were all but non-existent! What Brendan began has become the wonderful Cabhair Centre which we have here in the school today, supporting 18 children with autism from North Dublin. We were delighted to invite Brendan & his wife Anmarie to the re- launch of the Cabhair Centre 2 years ago, having completed an extension & improving facilities for the children. We are delighted to carry on the work which he started. Ar dheis De go raibh an am dilis.

Finally, may I wish each of you a happy peaceful Christmas!
Nollaig Shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh!

Miriam Dowdall





Santa's Elves
Room 12

