



Mary Queen of Ireland Newsletter

November and December 2024

Christmas Holidays!

We would like to wish all of our students and families a very Merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. We have had a wonderful first term at school, with so much progress, hard work and achievements already.

Our school will close **at 12pm on Friday 20th December**. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers to school on this day, and they may bring a small treat to school. We will reopen for term 2 on **Monday 6th January 2025 at 9am**. Some activities that we look forward to in term 2 include swimming, soccer, World Book Day and our book fair.

Cold Weather

Please take extra care during the cold icy mornings over the coming months. We would ask that everyone walks carefully on the footpaths outside the school in the morning and evening. Children should bring their coats to school, as well as scarves and hats if possible. There are a lot of illnesses going around at the moment. If your child is sick, please keep them home to allow time to recover and to avoid the spread of illness. Please refer to the HSE Illness Chart sent on Aladdin for further guidance on childhood illnesses. We thank you for your cooperation.

Parent's Association

The Parent's Association would like to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all, and a big thank you for the continued support in our school community. A big thank you also to everyone who donated raffle prizes on Friday for our Christmas raffle. A reminder that **Fiver Friday** will take place this week on the 20th December.

MQI would like to thank our Parent's Association for the amazing events that they have carried out in the school so far this year, including a Halloween Activity Day, Bake Sale, non uniform days, Lotto, raffles and Christmas hot chocolate and treats. All activities are greatly enjoyed by our students and staff. We look forward to all their upcoming events in the New Year!

Memorial Garden Service

Thank you to all who attended our Memorial Garden Service on the 26th November. It is an important day in our school calendar where we come together as a community to remember our departed loved ones.

MQI Talent

We are so proud of the talent in our school. From sports to dancing to performing and acting, we have so many gifted students and it is amazing to see them achieving so much so young. A big well done to Connie Rice Byrne who has done amazing in her dance competitions, and to Ruby Lacey, who appeared and sang in a music video called 'Grafton Street Lights', which is available to watch on YouTube. Congratulations also to Caleb Loresca for performing a pop medley on the Toy Show. We are also so proud of Max Lenehan for his amazing work with CTYI in DCU. He brought in a poster to show us the hard work he has done learning about RC motors. Please keep sharing any achievements outside of school with us!

Here is Max with his CTYI poster



Choir Trip to Airport and Nursing Home

Some of our students from the Hawks and The Peacocks will perform Christmas Carols at The Oakwood Lodge Nursing Home, followed by a performance at Terminal 1 at Dublin Airport on 19th December. Our choir sounds amazing and they should be so proud of themselves. A big thank you to Mrs. O'Donoghue for her hard work and rehearsals with our choir.

School Closure

There will be an early school closure on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 12.30pm to facilitate staff training.

Students' News Around the School!

Our Student Council are in charge of this part of the newsletter. This month, they have helped some students from The Peacocks to write some articles for our newsletter.

Active School News

Staying Active in Cold Weather

It is important to stay active even when the days get shorter and colder. Normal workouts at home are one of the best ways to keep fit.

Following along with Just Dance videos on YouTube is a fun and active game that the students recommend. Another way to keep moving is to play active games such as tag, hide and seek and dance battles.

By Sean Lawlor and Caleb Loresca

Hurling Lessons

All classes have been taking part in hurling lessons. Our coach's name is Gordon from the Wild Geese. We have been learning how to throw and catch the ball. We all like to get with our partners and hit the ball. We had lessons every Tuesday and it is a great way to stay active.

By Ella Rickard and Ruby Lacey

Class Christmas Shows

All classes worked very hard on their Christmas shows this year. They have learned lines, songs, dances, and have made props and costumes. The Parrots performed 'Ralph the Reindeer', The Eagles and The Penguins performed Christmas songs. The Hawks performed 'Christmas with the Aliens'. The Owls performed 'The Nativity', and The Peacocks performed 'Matilda'. Well done to everybody!

By Leon King and Mia O'Sullivan

Christmas Carols

We started our carols at 5.30pm in the school yard. Everyone was super excited because we had rehearsed for ages! We started at the front of our school, making our way around the estate while singing our favourite songs such as Jingle Bells, The First Noel and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Afterwards, we all gathered in the hall and had hot chocolate while we enjoyed some more songs from 5th and 6th class. Everyone had an amazing time.

By Madison Dufficy Rowe and Abi Quinn

The Christmas Roadshow

The performers were organised by Dublin Airport, and they started by welcoming us all to the show. There were elves doing dances and backflips, and they got us to do some loud singing and fortnight dances so Santa could find our school. Then Santa came out from behind the ambulance! We enjoyed the show a lot and it made us all feel full of Christmas spirit!

By Samuel Mengis and Max Lenehan

Here is a photo of our students enjoying the Christmas Roadshow!



Green Schools News Clean Air Week

This year, our Green Schools theme is Travel and Global Citizenship. We celebrated Clean Air Week as part of this. We had a visit from our local travel officer Jennifer. She taught us that we should tell people to turn off their engines when the cars are not moving because they let out gas that is very bad for the air. She told us that surprisingly, children breathe twice as much as adults, so we need clean air. Did you know that a car left running for 1 minute would fill up 150 balloons with bad gases. We learned that cow's burps let out toxic gases too! We had lots of fun learning about clean air.

By McKenzie Bolte and Lily Rose Dolan