



# Mountnorris Primary School

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**Principal:**

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Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the dark nights are creeping in and extra lights are making an appearance in each of our homes, we are reminded that Christmas is just around the corner. As many of you know, December is a very busy month in MPS and we have a number of activities planned for all the family to enjoy. We are also very aware that with the busyness of this period, it's difficult to keep on track of all that is going on, so below is a list of important dates/events for your diary.

## **School Concert – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

After the success of last year's performance, we have decided to continue to offer a morning performance at 10:30am and an evening performance starting at 6:30pm in Mountnorris Presbyterian Church Hall. Each class will be performing either a song, dance, poem or short sketch and we look forward to watching our talented pupils on stage. Tickets are £5 per person (consider it as a voluntary donation) and these can be purchased using the 'School Money' app or by contacting Mrs Anderson in the school office. At this stage, we are limiting it to 3 tickets per family and would kindly ask that you attend either the morning or the evening performance, to ensure that every family has the opportunity to see their child on stage. The online system will open on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 10am and will close on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 12noon. Any remaining tickets will be sold from 9:30am on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, on a first come first served basis, by contacting Mrs Anderson in the school office.

On the morning of the performance, pupils should be left to school, as normal, and class teachers will walk them down to the church hall at 9:30am. Pupils will not need their school bags, only a snack for during the interval. After the performance, pupils can go home early at 12noon, but should be collected at the church hall rather than at the school. For any pupils remaining in school, staff will walk them back up to school and normal home time arrangements will still be in place, however, there will be no after school clubs on that day. School dinners will be available for any pupils staying in school. In preparation for the evening performance, we would kindly ask that pupils be at the church hall for 5:45pm.

The Parent Support Group will be selling drinks, crisps and snacks during the interval at both performances and it would be greatly appreciated if you could support this as all money raised will be used to purchase new school resources.

## **An Afternoon of Christmas Joy – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

The Parent Support Group are organising a Christmas afternoon for all the family to enjoy, in the school playground, from 12noon – 3pm. There will be a nativity scene, Christmas sing-a-long, facepainting and stalls to make Reindeer food and write a Christmas wish. Families can also pay to get their photograph taken with Santa and hot drinks, hotdogs and snacks can be purchased throughout the afternoon to keep you warm. This is not exclusive to MPS families, so feel free to share the post on the school's Facebook page or personally invite friends and family members to get a glimpse of our lovely school.

## **Mountnorris & Tullyallen Presbyterian Church Carol Service – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

The school choir and recorder group will be taking part in the Carol Service at Tullyallen Presbyterian Church on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Pupils who are attending should wear full school uniform and meet in the church hall at 6:45pm.

*School App: Download 'School Jotter' and select 'Mountnorris Primary School'*



### **Christmas Pantomime – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Pupils in **Reception-P4** will go to the Marketplace Theatre, Armagh, on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. They will have an early lunch at 11:45am and will leave school at 12:15pm. Pupils should wear full school uniform, including a coat, and they can bring their water bottle with them as a small snack will be provided by the school during the interval. We will be returning to school for 4pm and pupils can be collected from their class teacher at the back playground gate. Home times may change due to circumstances beyond our control so keep an eye on the school app for any updates/notifications.

Pupils in **P5-7** will be travelling to the Grand Opera House, Belfast, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We will be leaving school at 11am. Pupils should wear full school uniform, including a coat, as well as bringing a packed lunch. A small snack will be provided by the school for pupils to eat during the interval. We will be returning to school for 5pm and pupils can be collected from their class teacher at the back playground gate. Home times may change due to circumstances beyond our control so keep an eye on the school app for any updates/notifications.

### **Christmas Dinner in School – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

The Christmas dinner for pupils will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and this can be booked and paid for using the 'School Money' app. We would kindly ask that this is booked by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, to allow the kitchen staff time to prepare for the big day. Pupils can wear a Christmas Jumper and accessories on the day as we will be completing the 'Santa Daily Mile' walk in the morning and after lunch they can relax and watch a Christmas movie.

### **After School Clubs**

All after school clubs will finish on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and will return the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### **Carol Service at Loughgilly Church of Ireland – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

The school choir and recorder group will be taking part in the Carol Service at Loughgilly Church of Ireland on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Pupils who are attending should wear full school uniform and meet in the church at 6:45pm.

### **Santa Visit – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Last year we were thankful for the help of 2 PSNI officers for safely bringing Santa to school after he got lost, but hopefully he will know his way this year. Santa will be visiting each class in the morning and the school council have organised a movie afternoon and they will go round each class and sell some festive treats for £1. This week will be non-school uniform to allow pupils to dress in festive clothes and enjoy the different festive treats in school.

### **Christmas Games – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

The school council have asked for a 'Games' morning. On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, pupils will be going around the school and will be completing different festive challenges. This will be a fun morning for all pupils to enjoy.

### **Christmas Holidays**

School will finish for all pupils on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12 noon and we will re-open on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout this term. It has been a busy term, but we are always so thankful for the support from all our families. I would also like to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and God's richest blessings for 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. M Foster  
Principal

