



## December Newsletter (2025)

### **St. Francis Xavier Junior National School**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a very busy and eventful Term 1 here in St. Francis Xavier Junior School. The children have been busy learning new skills, problem solving and developing their friendships. We are aware that it is a very busy time of year and acknowledge and appreciate the effort it takes getting your children to school, well prepared and on time. As the Christmas break approaches, we wanted to let you know some updates as well as some of the activities that have been taking place in our school over the last two months.

**Junior Infant Enrolments:** Enrolments are now complete for Junior Infants 2026/2027 and emails have been issued in response to applications. We will be working our way through the waiting list after Christmas, if applicable. Any queries, please contact the office at [office@sfxjunior.ie](mailto:office@sfxjunior.ie).

**Science Week:** Science Week took place from the 9th–16th November and was led by Ms O'Connor. This year, our focus was on wind energy. The children created windmills, with second class pupils helping junior infants to make theirs. The week provided many opportunities for creativity, investigation, exploration and discussion.

**Monsters in Dance:** A dance troupe came to visit our first classes and put on a performance grounded in lively choreography and vibrant storytelling. The underlying message of the dance was that friendship can be found in the most unexpected of places.

**Website:** Our new school website is ready to launch after the Christmas break.

**School Maintenance:** New chairs and tables were delivered in November to all classes who needed them. Thank you to Julian and Jack for their hard work that week, delivering tables and chairs to most classrooms.

**Choir:** Our second-class school choir continues to practise weekly. We have been delighted to enjoy their monthly performances at assemblies. This month, first class are the lucky group to hear their recital.

**Moon and Sixpence Puppet Theatre:** Ireland's only travelling marionette (string puppet) theatre came to visit us on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. They treated the whole school to a hugely entertaining, traditional puppet show, full of fun and laughter. Many thanks to our Parent's Association for funding this event.

**School Meals:** Our School Meals tendering process is now complete and we are hoping for delivery of the service in Term 2. As soon as we have further information, we will let you know.

**Trip to Draíocht:** Our second classes visited Draíocht in recent weeks and enjoyed a wonderful tour of the theatre with Sarah. They went backstage, visited the green room and even got to perform on stage! They also enjoyed a visit to the art gallery and choose their favourite paintings. Thank you to Ms. Healy and Sarah for organising the visit and to the parents who kindly helped out on the walk to and from the theatre.

**Christmas Concerts:** The school has been filled with beautiful singing, festive energy and all round Christmas cheer in recent weeks. Congratulations to all the children who performed so brilliantly and made themselves, their families and our school incredibly proud.

**Christmas Jumper Day for Barnardos:** Our annual Christmas Jumper Day this year is for the charity, Barnardos. Barnardos delivers a wide range of support to vulnerable children and families, offering services such as Family Support, Child Support, Post-Adoption and Birth History services, Bereavement support, Learning and Development, and Food Assistance. Together, these services help build resilience and improve outcomes for children affected by poverty, neglect and trauma. We have provided the QR code below as well as on Aladdin, if you would like to contribute directly to the charity.



**Christmas Fair:** Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising our very successful Christmas Fair. As always, a huge amount of effort goes into creating a wonderfully memorable day for all the families of St. Francis Xavier Schools. Well done to everyone involved and a big thank you from the children and schools who are the beneficiaries of the income generated on the day.

**After-school Clubs:** After-school clubs, delivered by our teaching staff will resume the week beginning the 12<sup>th</sup> January. Irish dancing and Savage Arts may have different arrangements.

**Garda Band:** We had the pleasure of welcoming members of the Garda Band last week, much to the delight of both pupils and staff. The hall was filled with singing, clapping and great cheer on Friday afternoon, culminating in a show-stopping closing performance by several members of staff!

**Lost Property:** Lost property will be available to view or collect outside the main door (if dry) on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December from 1.20pm to 2.20pm and Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December from 8.40am to 10am.

**Pupil Safety:** The safety of our pupils is our main priority. Under no circumstances should vehicles enter the school car park, except those with permission to access the designated disability parking space. We kindly ask parents to continue to drive with care and vigilance both outside the school grounds and in the Tesco car park. We also ask that children are regularly reminded to use the designated pedestrian pathway when walking to and from school.

**Thank you:** A sincere thank you, to our recent Chairperson of our Board of Management, Ms. Rachel Lillis, for her dedication, leadership and commitment to our school during her time in the role. Rachel's hard work and support have been greatly appreciated by the entire school community. Mr. Ian Cherry will assume the role for the remainder of the Board's term and we wish him every success in his new role.

**Upcoming Closures:** All children finish at 11.50am on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February: St. Brigid's Day  
Thursday/Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February: mid term break  
Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February: staff training New Curriculum Framework

**Santa Claus:** Finally, just before I was about to hit 'send' on this note, I received a call from a very important bearded man in a red suit. He informed me that all the children in St. Francis Xavier Junior School (not sure about the Senior School, he may have called Mr. McKeown!) are currently on the 'good list'. He assured me that himself and the elves are extremely busy organising themselves for the road to Dublin 15 on the 24<sup>th</sup> December.

On that note, I would like to wish you, the families and friends of St. Francis Xavier Junior School a safe and happy Christmas break. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh go léir. We look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Le meas,

Olivia Barrett

*Principal*

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS