



St. John of God G.N.S. January Newsletter 2018

EVENTS IN JANUARY

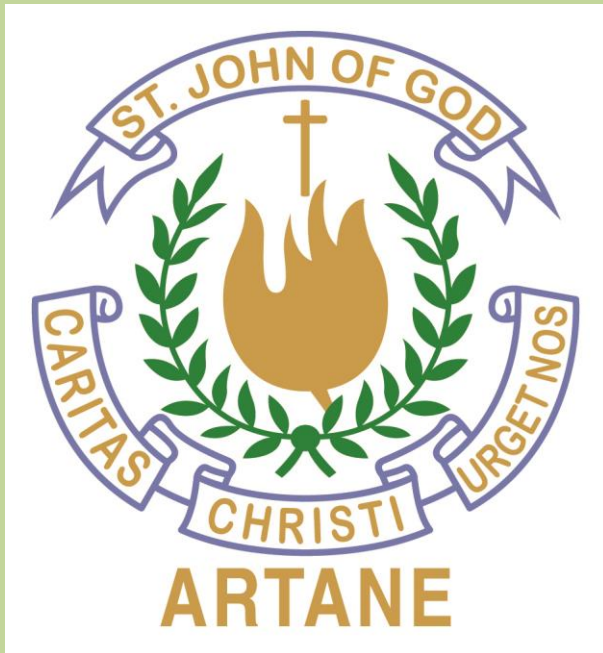
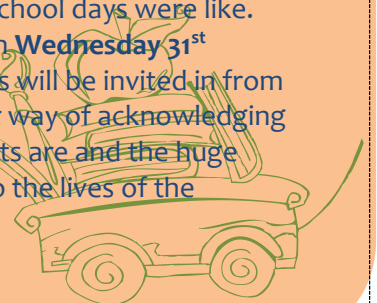
FRIENDSHIP WEEK

Friendship Week is a chance for us all to focus on what we can do as a school community to make sure we cater for individual differences in a caring and empathetic way. Each class will explore how we can promote friendship, inclusion and kindness in school. We will also explore the different types of bullying and what we can do to protect all children from bullying. A copy of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy will be sent home to each family during Friendship Week, which will run from **15th- 19th January**.

In conjunction with Friendship Week, the Parents' Association have organised a guest speaker to come to the school on **Monday 15th January at 7.30 p.m.** to discuss the crucial topic of **internet safety**. This event is not to be missed if you are interested in learning about how your child is communicating and who they are interacting with online. The cyber world is changing at breakneck speed and it is so important that we arm ourselves with knowledge so we can keep our children safe from harm. This event is free of charge and open to all parents/caregivers/relations who would like to attend.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week will run from **29th January- 2nd February** and will include 3rd, 4th and 5th class leading the school in prayer services. This will include **Grandparents' Day**, a day in which grandparents are invited in to share with the children what their own school days were like. Grandparents' Day falls on **Wednesday 31st January** and Grandparents will be invited in from **11.00-12.00**. The day is our way of acknowledging how amazing grandparents are and the huge contribution they make to the lives of the children.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

A warm welcome back to all our girls. We hope you all enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Although January has the reputation of being a boring and dull month, we here in St. John of God will do our best to make it a fun, exciting and action-packed month for the girls. We will be focusing on **attendance and punctuality** especially in January to help us get the New Year off to a great start. Keep an eye out for an information leaflet for parents on attendance entitled **"Every Day Counts"** which will be sent home with the children during the month. As usual, our door is always open so check in with the school if you have any concerns about your daughter and how she is getting on emotionally or academically. We will have greater success by working closely together to help your daughter reach her potential. Happy New Year everyone 😊

TAG RUGBY

The children from 1st-6th class will be learning how to evade tackles and touchdown in glory as we engage in a 4 week introduction to Tag Rugby. Raymond McCabe is a development officer with Leinster Rugby and will be in on Tuesdays to coach our girls during January.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

Colm McDonald, G.A.A. development officer for Dublin will continue to take the whole school for their football sessions every fortnight. Colm has been doing great work developing skill level and love for the sport with the girls.

HOMEWORK, ACTIVITIES AND BREAKFAST CLUB
The Homework Club, Breakfast Club and Activities Club focusing on coding/computer programming and general skills are back running this week.

LIBRARIAN

We are looking for a parent volunteer to offer some time each week (could be as little as an hour or two a week) to work in the school library. They would be trained fully beforehand and we would be delighted with any offers of help. If you think you would be interested in this position, please let me know.

PLAY THERAPY

The school has hired a play therapist to come in and work with some children on a weekly basis. If you feel this is something your daughter could really benefit from, please talk to me. Please also be aware that the waiting list for the play therapist may be quite long.

ROAD SAFETY

The topic of Road Safety will be to the fore on **25th and 26th January** when the school will be doing a programme called **Street Smart** which teaches children about road safety in an interactive way.

STAY SAFE AND RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY

All classes are commencing the **Stay Safe Programme** and will be covering Sexually Sensitive Issues over the coming term. If you would like to view the material being covered please make an appointment with Aisling on 086 0439773.



6th Class holding their beautiful Christmas Wreaths

The **Confirmation Service of Light** will be held in St. John Vianney Church on **Tuesday 30th January at 6.30p.m** for those making their Confirmation this year.

The Parents' Association will be having a meeting on Thursday 11th January at 8.00p.m. and all are welcome to attend this meeting.

Aisling Gleeson is organising **Maths for Fun** for **Senior Infants** for the next four weeks starting today at 9.00 a.m. Each session lasts 30 minutes with about 15 minutes spent going through the games with the parents before they go in to the class. The children love seeing their parents in their class helping them. If you have a child in Senior Infants and want to get involved in one or all of the sessions contact Aisling on 086 0439773. The dates for Maths for Fun are **9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th January.**

Aisling will also be in touch with the parents of girls in 6th class over the coming weeks to help with the transition to secondary school. If you would like to make an appointment with Aisling for any reason, please contact her on 086 0439773.

Wishing everyone a great 2018.

