



December 2022 Newsletter

I am delighted to inform you that the Education Authority application portal will open on Tuesday 10th January 2023 for Nursery and Primary 1 admissions for September 2023. The admissions criteria will be published on the Education Authority website on Tuesday 13th December.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our prospective children along with their Parents/Guardians to our open afternoon on Monday 12th December. Our Nursery will be open from 2pm-3pm, while our Foundation Stage area (P1 & P2), will be open from 2.15pm-3.15pm. Please contact the school office if you would like to arrange an individual tour of our exciting school environment.

Monday 12th December 2022

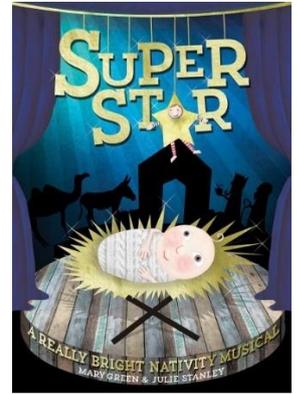
open day

Nursery 2-3pm

**Foundation Stage P1& P2
2.15pm-3.15pm**

~Learn ~ Believe ~ Respect ~ Achieve ~

Recordings of all shows will be available on DVD.



Our Primary 1-Primary 4 Children will be performing 'Superstar- The Nativity' on **Wednesday 14th December and Thursday 15th December** in the school assembly hall. 2 tickets will be allocated to each family who has a child within these year groups. **There will be no brothers' and sisters' club on these days.**

If your eldest child is in Primary 1 or 2 you will be allocated 2 tickets for Wednesday's show.

If your eldest child is in Primary 3 or 4 you will be allocated 2 tickets for Thursday's show.

Both performances will be held at 1.30pm. Siblings will have already enjoyed a performance of the show during dress rehearsals.

Tickets will be issued week beginning Monday 5th December.

Please note P1 & P2 children: for health and safety, as well as child protection- all children must be collected after the performances at 2.45pm from their normal collection point. P3 & P4 children should be collected at 3pm as normal.



Our Nursery children will be performing 'The Nativity' on Friday 16th December at 9.30am in the Assembly Hall. Each child in the nursery will be allocated 3 tickets for the performance. Tickets will be issued week beginning Monday 5th December. They have a full school day as normal.



Friends of Good Shepherd Christmas Fundraising

The school will hold 2 fund raising endeavours. Winners will be announced on Wednesday 21st December.

1. Raffle- details of prizes announced in due course... £2 a ticket available on parent pay.
2. Split the Pot- £1 minimum entry. Place **£1 or more** into the envelope issued by the school labelled with your child's name. One ticket will be randomly chosen with half of the money raised going to the named ticket holder and the other half going to school funds. The larger the donation, the more money 'in the pot' to win!

Thank you for your continued support of the school.



All children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers to school on Tuesday 13th December for their Christmas Dinner (even if taking packed lunch).

They are also welcome to wear them on Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th December if they wish. Wednesday 21st December is non-uniform also.

Top Of The Hill *Christmas* **Appeal**



Once again this year Hillcrest Trust and Hillcrest Youth Club in conjunction with Waterside parish will be supporting families and individuals over the Christmas period. We are asking if you can donate no matter how small, it will be much appreciated.

Items we need include the following:

- *Non perishable Goods; Tins, Cans, Jars and Dried Foods
- *Tins of Biscuits, Sweets or Selection Packs
- *Toiletries or Gift Sets
- *New - Children's Toys/Clothing (all sizes)

Please leave donations to An Chroí, Trench Road by Friday 9th December

Thank you for your ongoing support!

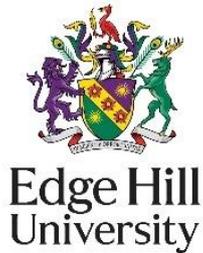


Staff Gifts

Whilst we, as staff really appreciate your gifts at Christmas, this year we would like you instead to either contribute to a local charity, perhaps donate to a local foodbank or shoebox appeal, or to give a little extra to a deserving family member in what has been a very challenging year for many.

Important Dates in December: Please note the individual dates for school clubs as we navigate a busy time in school.

Date	What's on?
1/12/22	Maiden City Soccer 3-4pm Primary 5-Primary 7 only
2/12/22	Formal written homework ends for December
2/12/22	St. Cecilia's College Christmas Workshop P7 Girls
3/12/22	AQE Transfer Assessment P7
5/12/22	Afterschool Yoga with Lorraine P4-P7 3-4pm
6/12/22	Multi-sport after school club- WEEK 1 OF NEW BLOCK 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7 Book in here: https://forms.office.com/r/Ck94CZj4sM
7/12/22	Dance Club- WEEK 1 OF NEW BLOCK 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P7 Book in here: https://forms.office.com/r/Ck94CZj4sM
8/12/22	St. Mary's College Visit P7 Girls
12/12/22	Open Afternoon Nursery 2-3pm, Foundation Stage 2.15-3.15pm
12/12/22	Afterschool Yoga with Lorraine P4-P7 3-4pm
13/12/22	NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS TODAY
13/12/22	 Christmas Dinner- children welcome to wear their Christmas Jumpers Please book in via Microsoft forms to give us an idea of numbers: https://forms.office.com/r/p3Utj8Yzam Please pay via Parent Pay if you are not in receipt of free school meals £2.60
14/12/22	NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS TODAY
14/12/22	NO BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' CLUB
14/12/22	Primary 1, 2, 3 & 4 Christmas Show @1.30pm in the Assembly Hall
15/12/22	NO BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' CLUB
15/12/22	Primary 1,2,3 & 4 Christmas Show @1.30pm in the Assembly Hall
15/12/22	Seasonal Walk with Sustrans P5 classes
16/12/22	Oakgrove College Cross Country Event
16/12/22	Nursery Nativity Show 9.30am in the Assembly Hall
19/12/22	Bike Sale 1.30pm-4pm
19/12/22	NO YOGA THIS WEEK- FINAL SESSION WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY 2023
20/12/22	NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS TODAY
20/12/22	Nursery Finish for Christmas Holidays- full school day as normal
21/12/22	NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS TODAY
21/12/22	Half Day. The School Closes for Primary 1-Primary 7 at 12noon. Non-Uniform. School dinners will be available for those entitled to free school meals and paying pupils only. If your child normally has a packed lunch they shouldn't bring one to school as they will be leaving at 12noon.
School Reopens on Wednesday 4th January 2023 Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!	



We are delighted to welcome Miss Lauren Fitzpatrick on teaching practice from Edge Hill University. Miss Fitzpatrick will be under the direction and support of Mrs Chambers in Primary 2.



Learning starts at 9am every day. It is important that your child is punctual for school. School gates open from 8.45am. **Breakfast club is open from 8.10am. No need to book in for the breakfast club- £1 a day per child.** **Please enter the school grounds via the Nursery pedestrian gate.**



Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? on the app and ensure that notifications are turned on. This is our central means of communication.

Covid-19 Information

- Check your child's temperature every morning before they come to school
- If your child is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school
- If your child tests positive for Covid-19 they can return to school after 3 days if they are well enough
- Please keep us informed to keep our school community safe 😊

Safeguarding Information



I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents/guardians that **no cars are permitted inside the school grounds at any time** unless this has been pre-arranged with Mrs McCafferty or you are a blue badge holder. Please share this information with grandparents and childminders as refusal often causes offence. **Please ensure that the school gates are kept clear. Cars should not be parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates at any time.** Please talk to your child about general road safety. Please cross the road using the school crossing patrol. Enter and exit the school using the pedestrian gates only. Once your child is collected from school, please keep them beside you at all times. These measures are in the interest of everyone's health and safety. Thank you!

Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mrs M. Hegarty)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Dr M. Gormley)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Maria Harley)

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs S. McCafferty). Other members of Safeguarding Team:

Mrs P. Houston/Mrs R Warne /Mrs F Desmond/Mrs M Mc Cormack/Mr D Herron.

School policies can be found on the school website under the 'My School' section. There is also a wide range of support information for parents in the 'Parents Section' of the school website. This is updated regularly.



Wishing our entire school community a safe and happy Christmas from all the team at Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School