



Newsletter no 16 / Winter Term / 23rd December 2016



January	Time	Event
Tue 10 th	8.45 18.00	All Pupils Return Ski Information Evening, Jackson Hall
Sat 14th		Ski Trip Departs (return 21 st January)

Headmaster's Headlines

The Prince's Trust: A great effort by **Robert Burke**, **Elliana Gordon** and **Sophie Shiel** who organised the bun sale earlier this week, raising an impressive £266.00 for the Prince's Trust. When one adds in the R3 Hot chocolate sales of £59.65 (Well done, R3!), £8.89 from the Christmas Penny Post (we need to charge more than a penny) and the £320.00 raised by the Christmas Jumper Day it all comes to an impressive total of **£654.54**. Thanks to Mrs McCartney for coordinating.

Early Years Nativity Play: Another great effort by Early Years staff and all the children who worked so hard to make of our production The Nativity such a success on Wednesday. Any doubts that events like this are worth the effort are quickly scotched when we see the sheer enjoyment on the faces of our children as they took part and of the proud parents and grandparents as they look on. Great stuff.

The Nice List: Speaking of great efforts, Rudolph the Red Nosed Range Rover roared into Rockport today as Santa himself visited the children before the school Christmas Lunch. The Early Years children were so happy and excited to sing for him in Santa's Grotto (the Old Library) and no one was left out. Many thanks on behalf of all the children to the PTA volunteers and to the Catering staff for cooking 260 turkey dinners so close to the end of term.

Carol Service: It has been a long term (and I know we are probably the last school on Earth to close for Christmas) but as I write we are at last putting the finishing touches to the annual School Carol Service which happens tomorrow (Friday) in St Philip and St James' Church in Holywood at 1045 (pupils need to be seated with their Form Teacher promptly by 1030). This (along with the Nativity) is another one of my favourite events of the year and a great way to end the Winter Term. For the whole school community to get together on the last day of term is special indeed and, as tradition dictates, the children will shake hands with their teachers as they leave the church. I look forward to seeing you there tomorrow and to be able to personally wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

George Vance
Headmaster

A Continental Christmas

On Monday 19th December around 20 pupils attended the Modern Languages Continental Christmas Party at lunchtime, where they enjoyed European Christmas music and tried festive food from around the continent. One of our R10 pupils from Madrid brought many traditional Spanish Christmas treats from her home city. To add to the authenticity of the party, one of our R8 French pupils brought in a homemade Three Kings Day cake ('La Galette des Rois'). Following tradition, everyone carefully ate their bit of cake to see if their slice had the hidden trinket inside. Fatima in R8 was the lucky one and consequently crowned 'Queen' of the party! Joyeux Noël y ¡Feliz Navidad!



K Megarry

Teacher of French and Spanish

Junior Choir carolling at Richmond Nursing Home

On Wednesday 21st December 2016, the Junior Choir brought some festive cheer to Richmond Nursing home by sing a variety of traditional and pop Christmas songs. The pupils' performance received a rapturous round of applause from the residents, with some residents joining in with the singing. Pupils wished the residents a Merry Christmas and were treated to juice and chocolate as thanks.

V Carson

R9V Form Teacher



Ski Information

All ski trip monies should now be with the school bursar. If you have an outstanding balance, please pay the bursar **immediately**.

There will be a ski information evening on Tuesday 10th January at 6pm in the Jackson Hall.

All passports are to be handed to Mrs Christine Hamill in the school office on your return in the New Year. Many thanks.

S McIlveen
R11S Form Teacher

Senior Choir spreads Christmas cheer at Victoria Square!

Following last year's success, the Senior Choir were asked to make a return visit to Victoria Square this year to sing Christmas carols in aid of *Children In Crossfire*. The girls sang beautifully and helped raise support for a very worthy cause.



R8 English Christmas Poems

The year 8 classes have been getting into the festive spirit and writing their own Christmas poems. Below are two lovely poems from Georgia McKissick and Daniel Parker to bring a little Christmas cheer!

It's Christmas Again

Oh! Yay! Hay!
It's Christmas again!
The bells are ringing along with cheering
Homes are filling and the roads are clearing

The present unwrapping
Is a time of giving
Where families are gathering and joining in laughter
Oh! yay! Hay! It's Christmas again!

The Christmas tree stands with its lights so pretty
And the Christmas dinner is sitting oh so neatly
Christmas spirit is building quickly
Oh! Yay! Hay! It's Christmas again!

Daniel Parker
R8M



L Hobson
R10H Form Teacher



Christmas Time

Snow is falling,
the weather is cold.
The fire is burning
flames of orange and gold.

Joy and laughter
surrounds the world.
In each country
different carols are heard

The dining table
Is old and long,
weary from Christmases
long since gone.
And then, (at last!) we have a short rest
Five or six days at best!
Until, all around the world we hear,
A cry! A shout! 'Happy New Year!'

Georgia McKissick
R8M

Miss Fitzpatrick's Retirement Dinner with the Boarding Students

On Tuesday night Rockport's Boarders wanted to mark Miss Fitzpatrick's retirement after 27 years of dedication with a surprise dinner where they had the opportunity to look after Miss Fitzpatrick on her final night on duty in the Boarding House.

Miss Fitzpatrick was escorted down to the Dining Hall for supper as usual, or so she thought, only to be told that she was being whisked away for a meal out with the Boarders and Boarding Staff. Many thanks to the Old Rockportians in Pier 36, Donaghadee who were in on the plan from the start.

The setting was perfect and the meal was a lovely occasion for Miss Fitzpatrick to regale us with tales of Boarding and Saturday School and to spend some quality time with the Boarding students who she has dedicated so much of her time to over the years. The Boarding Students would like to wish Miss Fitzpatrick a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and good wishes for a long and happy retirement.



Return to Boarding after the Christmas Break

Hopefully you have already forwarded your child's return information to Mrs Christine Hamill at schooloffice@rockportschool.com. We require this information in advance to enable us to arrange airport collections should they be required.

The Boarding Department will be open for students on **Monday 9th January from 6pm**. Please notify the office or boarding directly by emailing dtoland@rockportschool.com if it is your intention to board that evening in preparation for the new term.

Dawn Toland
Head of Boarding



Parent Alert!!!

Please check the attached sports timetable for next term and ensure that your son/daughter has the appropriate gear for each sport.

Development Golf squad members have been issued a letter with a permission slip to be handed in to me on the day they return (10th January).

The Sports Department would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas but '*Keeepp* Exercising'!!!!

Gail Holland

Head of PE & Personal Development Faculty