

C.B.S. PRIMARY SCHOOL **JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER**

FIRST NEWSLETTER TO BE SENT VIA E-MAIL

65 people will today receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail. We are delighted to see so many taking the electronic option and we believe that this figure will increase each month. I'm sure that over the years some newsletters never saw "the light of day" once they went into the schoolbags!

E-mailing the newsletter will guarantee that families will be kept up-to-date. As a Green School, we are very conscious of the environment and reducing the amount of paper used in school is in keeping with the Green School philosophy. The electronic option will also give us the opportunity to brighten up the newsletter with colour photos. If you are reading the paper version of this newsletter you can still supply us with your e-mail address to receive future newsletters electronically.

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. CUMMINGS!

We were delighted to hear the happy news of the birth of Mr. Cummings' first child on Saturday 7th January. We wish himself and his wife every blessing as they set out on a new stage in their lives with their beautiful daughter.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Everybody enjoyed the Carol Service which was held in Bride Street Church on the day that the Christmas Holidays started. It was a nice celebration and a fitting way to begin the holidays. The accompanying photo (e-mail version only) was taken on the day by our school caretaker, Ger Dwyer. Ger is a very talented person and he has a keen interest in photography.



NEW SIGNS

We are very pleased with our new signs which were manufactured by Crosbie Brothers Ltd. and erected in December. We are proud of our name and the fact that the Christian Brothers network has been providing education in Wexford Town since 1849.



ENROLMENT IN SECOND LEVEL SCHOOLS

I would like to remind you again about enrolling your son in the second level school of your choice. There are three second level schools for boys in Wexford town. I have detailed relevant information below. You could phone the school to request an enrolment form or access the form on-line.

- C.B.S. Secondary 9141391 www.wexfordcbs.org . Forms can be completed on-line.
- Wexford Vocational College. 9122753 www.wexfordvocational.com . The form can be printed, completed by hand and forwarded to Wexford Vocational College.
- St. Peter's College 9142071 www.stpeterscollege.ie . The form can be printed, completed by hand and forwarded to St. Peter's College.

There has always been a strong link between C.B.S. Primary and C.B.S. Secondary Schools. The number of applications to C.B.S. Secondary school currently exceeds the number of places. This is set to continue due to the increase in the birth rate. When there are more applications than places available the following criteria, in this order, will apply when deciding who will be admitted.

1. Brothers of current or past pupils
2. Sons of staff members
3. Sons of current or former members of the Board of Management
4. Sons of past pupils
5. **Boys who have completed three years education in and Edmund Rice Schools Trust (C.B.S.) Primary school.**
6. Remaining place will be allocated on a first come first served basis from the date the school received the Registration of Intention to Enrol Form.

This information will be of interest to many parents in town. Feel free to pass on the admission criteria.



GREEN SCHOOL UPDATE

As part of our ongoing Green School programme we have been continuing to work on litter and waste management in the school with great success. We are keeping rubbish to a minimum and there are only 1 - 1½ bags of rubbish being collected by our litter wardens each week. The cost of disposing of litter in the school is still being reduced and the school continues to look very clean and tidy.

Our Green Flag status will be due for renewal in March 2013. To retain this status we need to maintain the work which helped us to achieve the Green Flag and we must also complete the 7-Step Green School programme on the next theme in An Taisce's list – the theme of Energy.

Our work on energy has already begun. The Green School committee is currently carrying out an audit/survey in the school to ascertain where and what types of energy are being used throughout the school. The survey will be analysed by the committee, with the involvement of all pupils and staff, in order to identify measures which can be taken to try to improve the school's energy efficiency. Following this an action plan will be drawn up which will help us to achieve the improvements that have been identified. All members of the school community will have a role to play. We will then begin the work of implementing the ideas and strategies outlined in the plan and we look forward to seeing the improvements that will be made.

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH CLASSES

Conversational English classes are held every Tuesday between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. in VTOS (Behind Traynor's Hardware) on John Street. The classes would suit people for whom English is not their first language. An information sheet is available from our school secretary.

MILK

Small cartons of milk will be available again this term at a cost of €8.

CLOSURES

The school closures for this term are as follows:-

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February – Mid Term Break.

Monday 19th March – Public Holiday.

The last day of term will be Friday 30th March, with school closing at 12.45 p.m.

UP-TO-DATE CONTACT NUMBERS

We would appreciate being informed of any changes to contact phone numbers, both landlines and mobiles. In particular, we ask that you ensure that we have an up-to-date mobile number to receive messages from the school via Text-a-Parent.

ATTENDANCE

School attendance rates for the first term were as follows:-

September – 95.4%, October – 95.7%, November 95.3%, December 92.9%. Traditionally, December is one of the lowest figures each year and whereas December 2011's figure was the lowest in this school year it was an improvement on December 2010 which was 91.3%. As ever, I encourage you as parents to try to have your son attend school as much as possible.

Jos. Furlong
Principal
January 2012