

## Year 11 Newsletter

# It's all about St. Genevieve's!

Year 11 Christmas Edition

December 2007 Christmas Special

## WHO WOULD YOU NOMINATE FOR A VISIT FROM SANTA? SINEAD CHOSE HER MUM...

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Your Competition Letters to Santa	1-5
Ban Christmas? You Decide!	6
Year 11 Student in USA	7
Xmas in China	8



### SOME REMINDERS:

- Back to normal school on Tuesday January 8th 2008
- St Genevieve's open night is on Tuesday January 15th 2008

Dear Santa,

The person I am closest to is my mum. I really know she deserves a special treat. My mum is called Jacqueline and she works in the Royal Victoria Hospital. She helps people in lots of wards like Maternity and cancer wards, feeding people and helping them and cleaning everything up. She enjoys her job and works very hard. She works full time, 5-6 days a week. Everyday before she leaves for work she makes us all dinner and makes sure we all eat well and healthily. When she comes home from work she cleans up, helps my two younger sisters with homework and makes us all our tea before bed.

I've been with my mum almost every day ever since I was born. She is a great friend to me and very trustworthy. I tell her everything. She has a very funny sense of humour and is very sarcastic. She always has me laughing. Even when we argue we don't stop talking for long because she's my mum and she never judges me on anything I say or do. She's taught me how to work hard and respect everyone and even when I don't do well in something I pursue, she tells me how proud she is.

My mum had problems when she was younger; she's been awfully

sick and suffered a few things, but she's always pulled through. She does everything she can do to make sure my sisters and I are happy with our lives.



Dear Santa ..... Teresa Keenan wrote her letter as a poem....see her poem and other YR 11 letters on Eng corridor notice boards

We go out shopping together and talk about fashion and hair styles. She's a young mum so she understands my hobbies and what I like. My mum says she accepts me for who I am and tells me not to take things too seriously when I'm young as I have my whole life in front of me.

My mum and dad have set up a bank account for university. She says she wants me to do well in life and wants only the best for me and will help me in anything I need in life. She tells me how much she loves me all the time and always compliments me. She always listens to

people, makes them feel comfortable and is a really genuine with anyone she meets.

My mum was really close to her grandmother, my great-grandmother, who lost a lung to TB so that it was very hard for her to breath and cope with everyday things in life. My mum looked after her everyday of her last years, cleaning, cooking and feeding her. She was always there for her hospital trips, making her feel comfortable and secure. Then a few years ago she passed away. My mum was broken hearted, cried a lot and was very depressed. She found it hard to cope but she stayed strong and was still able to care for the rest of the mourning family.

My mum's a fighter. She has been through a lot. She is beautiful and smart. She loves to read. I know she deserves a treat. I would love for you, Santa to take her on a shopping spree, to a relaxing spa and to have her hair done. She would really enjoy it and would be so grateful.

Sinead  
Russell.

Winner !!!

See inside for more competition winners and letters.....

## “DEAR SANTA..” COMPETITION WINNERS!!!

Dear Santa,

This year I'm not writing for myself. No iPods, no computer games, no stuff...but for my Granda. This year has been very difficult for him. A couple of months ago I thought he wouldn't be here. He has been an alcoholic for as long as I can remember. I was never close to him and sometimes, I would avoid him.

This year his liver shut down – three quarters of it because of alcoholism. He has tried so hard over the years to stop but the drug, that people underestimate, almost got the better of him.

But after a near-death experience, his life has transformed completely. The flat he had lived in since the divorce from my granny, with his bedroom in the living room, smoke-scented rooms and a dirty bathroom were all left behind when he got his new flat with two bedrooms, bright colours and smell of fresh paint.

He's coming round for Christmas dinner this year. Usually not looking forward to it, but this year I'm so excited.

He calls me his little princess and I

never knew what that really meant until during what he thought was his last hour, he told me what I meant to him. I feel so close to him now that he has got out of hospital and stopped drinking. It would be the best Christmas ever if you could give him what he would love and cherish – the strength to live the rest of his years happy with family and friends. Let this Christmas be the start of that gift.

His brother Michael Morgan died this year and his heart was broken so if you could also please make him able to talk about it. I am afraid if he keeps it bottled up inside he'll return to drink. So please Santa, make my letter mean something to you and give my Granda the Christmas he deserves.

Yours, Christine Hartley

Dear Santa

The person I would like to nominate would be my daddy. He is an amazing person. He is a psychiatric nurse and helps people everyday of his life and never once have I heard him complain. He has been attacked in work and had verbal abuse thrown at him and yet, no complaints.

Winner !!!

He is a good father and a good husband. He never asks for anything in return and every month when he gets his pay it goes straight to his family. I can go to my dad with any problems I have and know he's always there for me. Many girls don't have that with their dads. Just recently my daddy got brought into hospital with a suspected minor heart attack. It was a hard time for all of us. He had tests done and there was thankfully nothing wrong with his heart. It turned out to be diabetes. We were all so glad to see him home safe and sound. He is a healthy man so it came as a shock that he was sick.

My daddy loves writing stories and is very good at it. He came second place in a BBC writing competition and got his story published in an American magazine, "Apax". At the moment, he is in the middle of writing a book for an author called Mary Dora Russell. It is about life in Northern Ireland in the 60s and 70s and what it was like growing up then. Mary Russell is a very successful writer in America and told my daddy she will help him to get it published. My daddy is really excited and I love seeing him so happy.

I know for a fact my daddy won't ask for anything this Christmas which is why I have nominated him. I know even this letter would be an amazing gift for him but I would love to get him £100 worth of book tokens for Waterstones as he is never out of the place. And a nice holiday for him and my mum, to a place of their choice just to relax and have a break.

My father is an amazing man and I love him so much. I might not always show it and we sometimes fight – in fact we fight a lot – but we always make up! I want him to have a wonderful Christmas and know how much we love him. He is one person in the world who certainly deserves it.

Emma Nolan 11E

Winner !!!

Dear Santa

The person I am closest to is Christine Hartley. The first time I met her in First Year, my first impression was that she talks a lot. I didn't start by being close to her but fate brought us together. We grew to be good friends. The thing I like about Christine is that she is very kind. No matter what is going on in her life, she is always worrying about everyone else.

In Primary school Christine was bullied. It hurt her as it would hurt anyone else. It was an awful thing to experience but she pulled through and she is a very loving, gentle and kind person. Now she

goes to Youth Initiatives and Crosslinks where she helps other people and learns about bullying and racism which I think helps her. When she was 12 her aunty died. It was an awful thing to hear when she told us. She died of breast cancer. After that Christine ran all around Stormont to raise money for Breast Cancer.

Her grandfather was in Hospital this year when three quarters of his liver shut down and he was ready to die. Christine stayed strong and worried about everyone else except herself.

I think Christine deserves a treat as she is a very special person and

she is very loveable. She would do anything for anyone. She deserves a spa treatment and to have her hair done. She is truly a good friend.

By Sarah Grieve.



Winner !!!

# Who did you think was special enough to deserve a Santa visit.....?

DEAR SANTA,

FOR CHRISTMAS, I THINK YOU SHOULD VISIT ALL THOSE KIDS WITHOUT ANY KIND OF FAMILY.  
SHONA MARTIN 11E

Dear Santa,

My request is an odd request but the person I would like you to visit this Christmas is my Auntie Lily who passed away a year ago. I want her to have a lovely Christmas as I can no longer be there to make sure she has a really nice one and I would also like you to make her day very special and the best Christmas she has ever had. I know it is something that only a magical individual like you could do. My auntie Lily is very special to me as she used to make sure my sisters and brothers and I had a fantastic Christmas. She would always make sure I had what I wanted and made sure I was always happy. Now I want to do the same for her. She was important in my life as every Monday, one of my aunts and I would go to her house and help her with her shopping and do her house work so we were very close and it felt like we were friends.

The present I want you to give her is a day on earth ,one last Christmas with us, as we miss her so much and I would like to see her one last time because when she died I didn't get to say goodbye. It would be magical for my family see her and say a final goodbye. Thank you very much and I hope you can help make my Christmas even better than normal.

Paula Torbitt 11c

Catriona Dornan nominated her two friends Bronagh Mc Peahe and Kerri Mc Veigh.

Debbie Mc Mullan nominated her two school friends Bronagh and Kerri

Seana Deacon nominated the children of Catholics Caring for a special santa visit.

Dear Santa, This year I think my granny deserves visit from Santa. She looks after my brother and I and is hard working and caring .She also helps me with my homework and listens to all of my prob-

lem. She deserves a very special Christmas this year as she has been struggling to deal with my Granda's ill health at the moment. I think she needs the gift of support from everyone around her. She also deserves a break as her house is never empty and she runs around making lunch ad tea for everyone. She has the patience of a saint as sometimes she has to make food for up to forty people. So this Christmas my granny really deserves the gift of support and maybe some time alone to relax. STACEY MC CRUDDEN 11R



Dear Santa, I think the poor child orphans of Africa deserve a really good Christmas this year because many of them have no mums or dads because they have died from Aids or HIV, so they have no family, no school, no home, no education and sometimes have to walk 5 miles for water and 5 miles back again. The presents that I would give them would be nice things to

cheer them up e.g. clothes, a toothbrush, toothpaste and toys and dvds of my favourite singers and songs to cheer them up as they always make me happy when I listen to them. They are Shayne Ward, Westlife, Leona Lewis and Ant and Dec. Please do this for me Santa.

Tomaisin Crowe 11H

Sarah Templeton 11S nominated her parents.



This year I would like my mummy to have a special Christmas. All year long she runs around after me and my two sisters. She helps us do out homework, makes our dinner, does all our washing and on top of that she cleans our whole house and is also repeating her GCSE maths to help me do well in mine. She is a classroom assistant in St. John the Baptist boy's school, so she

comes in every day with a sore head and is very stressed out . She is a very caring, friendly, loving mother who does everything for our family. Sometimes my daddy has to go away for work in England and she has to look after us by herself day in day out. She drives my sisters and I to Irish dancing five days a week. So this

is why I think my mummy deserves a very special Christmas this year.

Andrea Devine 11R



# MANY OF YOU NOMINATED YOUR GRANDPARENTS....



Dear Santa, I would like to nominate my granny, Adeline to get the gift of rest from Santa. She is a fantastic person who is always looking after my two cousins and helping my auntie Joanne with her house work. Please Santa, stop her this year from running about after everyone else!! Sarah Mc Grogan 11T

Dear Santa, Visit my Granda please! Why? Because he has been through a lot in his life and now deserves a good treat. He has lived through the troubles, his best friend was shot when he was young; he has a dislocated shoulder which means he can't do much; he has heart problems and has nerve damage in his head because of an accident. It has been a hard life for him. But my main reason is that I love him and I know he is very proud of me. When he was in hospital, he told the nurses that I was really smart and brilliant at playing sports and he told them how much he loved me. Now I want him to know I feel the same.

If he was relieved of his health problems for one day, it would make him (and me) very happy . Thank you, Shauna Dornan 11T

Dear Santa, I think my Granda deserves a good Christmas and this special visit from you . I love my Granda very, very much. He always takes me out at the weekend. He has bought me lovely jewellery which I will always treasure. When my Granda comes up to our house on Christmas day, I feel happy because although he is a quiet man, he can be very funny and tells great jokes. Sometimes we watch the Christmas shows on TV and the house feels full and busy with him in it. As special present, I would love him to be give something that would remind him of my granny, maybe a special card with a photo of my granny on it. I might even do that myself. But I would also love to

give him a brand new Mustang car that he could drive on Christmas day! Thank You, Donna Berry 11H

Dear Santa, Please visit my uncle Michael who is experiencing so many difficulties in his life at the moment. He recently lost his brother to cancer who was my dad, then a few years on he was diagnosed with cancer himself, then his wife became sick also. I would love for him just to have a peaceful Christmas with his family. It seems like such a simple request but it is something I know would make a difference and we need your help. Kate Collins 11T



Dear Santa, Please visit my granny, Kathleen. I think she really deserves it because she has arthritis and struggles everyday walking. When I am out with my granny, I feel bad because she's in pain a lot of the time and although she is not a moaner it is hard for her not to complain when she is suffering so much. I would really like her to have a day when she doesn't have to struggle with her bad knees. So could you make my granny have a day without her arthritis as a special Christmas gift? Orlaith Berkery 11T

Dear Santa, The person I would like to nominate is my granny, Catherine. She is a super person but unfortunately she has had cancer for a very long time.

My granny used to live on her own but moved in with us when she became unwell. The cancer was caused by my granny's smoking although she tried her best to give up. She tells me all the time never to start as it is a terrible addiction. When I heard that my granny had cancer, I was very sad but unfortunately you have to live with it. It was very hard because my granny just buried my Granda when she found out she was ill herself. So as you can see, life has been tough for my granny this year and if I had one wish I would wish that my granny would feel better and enjoy herself on Christmas day.

Please make it a happy day for her to remember always. Thank you, Lauren Hanna 11T

Dear Santa, This year for Christmas would like to give my dad a very special gift. He is kind, generous, loving man and lately he has been under a lot of pressure because of his job. This year for Christmas all I want is for my daddy to have the gift of no worries. Nicole Mc Kenna 11R

Dear Santa, I would like to nominate my granny, Sylvia for a visit from you. I'm choosing her because she just lost her mother Mary, who was my great granny. It will be very hard for us all to cope because this will be our first Christmas without her. She passed away in August. We will all miss her very much this year as we are all used to seeing her around her family especially at Christmas time

but I think my granny will miss her the most as it was her mother and I think it would be awful not to have your mummy at Christmas time. I just want to ask if you could lift the sadness and grief of our family and my granny. It is Christmas and I know we should all enjoy our-

selves just as she would have wanted us to. Emma Mc Crudden 11T

Keeva Moore nominated her granddad who is a " special person in her family".

So many Year 11s entered this competition. It was impossible to print all your letters!! So big thanks to everyone and apologies to all those not included in this edition. Look out for next term's competition!

# Lucky Mums and Dads nominated for Santa visits....

Dear Santa, For Christmas, this year, I would like you to pay a special visit to my mummy. She works in a nursing home five days a week, helping elderly people who are mental illnesses as well as having many physical disabilities. I really want her to enjoy a week away in Bulgaria with someone of her choice as she deserves a break and time to relax and enjoy herself with out the responsibility of her children around or having to cook and clean in the house. She loves Bulgaria and had booked a holiday there before but my dad became ill and it had to be cancelled. I know very much she would appreciate this and I hope that you choose her for a special visit . Thank you, Sinead Irvine 11T

Dear Santa, I strongly believe that my mummy, Frances, deserves a fantastic Christmas this year because last September her mother died and she misses her so much. Last Christmas was particularly difficult for her as it was the first Christmas ever she had been without her mummy and I can only imagine how awful that would be. My granny used to live with us from Wednesday to Friday so I was also really upset when I heard that she had passed away. I would love to give my mummy and daddy a weekend away to relax to Spain as they don't always

Dear Santa

The people that I would like you to visit this year are all the children who live in poverty. Poverty not only means a lack of food, clothes or a home but not having a school, education and the opportunity to live life to the full. These are all the things we take for granted. We sometimes do not know how lucky we are with the gifts we receive and it is easy to forget that Christmas is not the happy season it is for everyone. Every year on Christmas morning when I get up with my wee sister and see her shocked and happy face, it makes me think of those poor children who are not be able to do that. I can imagine the children asking their mothers and fathers, "Why did Santa not come to us but went to

have time to themselves. My mummy is a kind and funny woman and really cares a lot about other people. She is a great listener and supports so many of her friends when they are in trouble. My mummy always spends so much of her own time selecting our Christmas presents so I think that time would be a most precious gift for her. Deborah Hawkins 11H

Suzanne O'Kane nominated her parents

Dear Santa,

Please give a present to my Mum, simply because she does everything for my family and I. Michaela Hawkins 11T

Other year 11 s who nominated their mums...Amy Murray 11R... Lauren Crawford 11R Sarah Brady 11R

Dear Santa, My mum is so caring and loving. She always thinks about other people before herself and would do anything for her family and friends. She is a single parent and works so hard to provide for my brother and I and she never lets us down. There is no-one like her. Please treat her to a two week holiday with her friends and no children! Love Carla Campbell 11T

the other children?"

The mother can only say,

"Santa must have forgotten to stop at us".

This year I think we should all be Santas to the poor children of the world.

Nicole O'Neill 11c

*Thank you to all those who contributed to this issue of your newsletter and who helped us remember that the true spirit of Christmas is thinking of others.*



Dear Santa, I think my mummy deserves a break this Christmas. She is a very important person to me and I would love if she could get a visit from David Beckham as she really loves him. My mummy is always there for me although sometimes we argue. I know it's not her fault and she's just busy. My wee brothers are always wanting something and always moaning and fighting. Even I lose my temper with them a lot. I hate to see my mummy upset or angry because then it puts me in a bad mood. Making my Christmas wish true would make me very happy. Rachel Ox 11R



## CHRISTMAS JOKES HO!HO!HO!



What king is the children's favourite at christmas time? **Stocking!**

What's the most special part of the body at Christmas? **MistleTOE!**


What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? **The Christmas one has Noel!**

What's Mum's favourite Christmas carol? **"Silent Night!"**



# SEASON OF GOODWILL OR SEASON OF GREED?

## Some Year 11 English Students present their views on Christmas



Buy this! Buy that! I want this! I want that! Yes, Christmas time has arrived! The lovely season of me, me, me! Time to go out and start buying gifts for people you are forced to buy for, just so you look good. Christmas has turned into the season of faking and hoarding. It has become the season of materialism, consumerism and gluttony and you can see it everywhere you turn during these advent weeks, there's no escaping the insane madness of shopping centres everywhere and TV ads greedily trying to make you part with your money and buy more than you need. Shops encouraging you to buy "the perfect gift for your loved ones" but let's face it, it's just to put more money in their pockets. Do we have to give expensive just to show we love someone?

Parents worry about what to buy their children and even get into debt because they too have forgotten what the real meaning of Christmas is. Their children think it is just to fulfil their wish list of wants and to compete with their mates on who gets the most presents or most expensive. It's even become about what you wear on the big day!!! Does any of this sound like celebra-

tion in the true spirit of Christmas, a season for thinking about how we love our families, sharing with others, remembering the birth of Jesus and giving to those who have less than us!? We don't think so. To us it sounds like the season of greed, selfishness and envy.

And it doesn't stop there! The media contributes to this materialism and consumerism—every year there is a new Christmas song which, surprise, surprise, we are all either forced to listen to or forced to buy and usually unrelated to the real message of Christmas. If you pick up a magazine or newspaper, all you read about are the latest fashions, gossip of the so-called celebs and what new fads we are supposed to be following! Do you think Jesus was worried about what he looked like on his birthday? Teenagers often spend hundreds of pounds just on clothes alone! And it's not they who pay for them, it's the parents! It is a disgrace to have such silly contests. And don't get us started on the house decorations! Enormous electric bills at the end of Christmas just to make your home look like a ridiculous, gigantic light bulb!

Christmas tis the season to be GREEDY! . How much of your shopping budget will you be spent on those less fortunate than you? Will you really care about the children in the developing world or just about our own wants this Christmas?

A holy day? More like think about yourself day! People have definitely forgotten about the true spiritual meaning of Christmas!! Buy a few pressies for family, have an extra treat on Christmas day and think of the real meaning of the day. Escape the greed trap and enter into the true meaning of Christmas— it won't cost you a penny!

By Meabh Farrelly; Sarah Heatley; Camilla Mc Kenna; Michaela Hawkins 11T



Ba humbug. Whinge, whinge, whinge. That's all we hear from those scrooges who only see the bad in this magical season of Christmas. But please, sit back, relax and just think for a minute about the wonderful festivities and good will cheer at this glorious celebratory time. No doubt you are smiling in bliss at this very moment.

Stingy, greedy, gluttonous? I don't think so! Look at all the charities providing gifts and food for those without, particularly at Christmas. They don't get their contributions from hot air! People in our communities give, give, give. In fact, Northern Ireland is one of the most generous parts of the UK. Is this bad?

It's the only time of year that work colleges come together and have a big Christmas dinner, good for staff morale and fun! Now, is that bad?

And of course, it's a special magical time for children. Don't you remember getting excited as a young child or perhaps you have younger brothers and sisters who eagerly await Santa's arrival. Please don't try and convince me that this is bad!

Admit it, you are looking forward to Christmas Day and for all the right reasons.

Christmas is all about goodwill, appreciating what we have, thinking of others and giving to those who could

do with a helping hand as well as its main purpose celebrating the birth of Jesus. The three wise men give Jesus gold, myrrh and frankincense and so when we give gifts, we are just continuing the tradition. Besides it is a great opportunity to show those we love that we are thinking of them. How can that be selfish or greedy?

At what other time of year do people have the chance to really spend time with their whole family and isn't it fun telling old stories and singing Christmas carols. Who would want Christmas banned? We would all miss it, even those who moan about it being materialistic and consumerist.

And who would want to put a stop to the Christmas card tradition! Sending Christmas cards started in Britain in 1840 when the "penny post" public post deliveries began. Traditionally Christmas cards show religious pictures of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, or part of the Christmas story. It is a way of contacting friends, you haven't seen in years and originally it was cheaper than sending a letter to allow as many people as possible to send them, a lovely idea we're sure you'll agree.

So what do you think? Do you agree with the scrooges or with us who see the magic, wonder and goodness in this special

winter season? Like anything it is what YOU make of it that counts. It's the season of good will so just enjoy it and make it a season of warmth and good will to all. Merry Christmas.

By – Kelly Monaghan, Sarah McGrogan, Bronagh McWilliams, Emma McCrudden & Michaela Press 11T



# CROSS COMMUNITY ACROSS THE WATER

YEAR 11 FIONA KELLY REPORTS FROM THE USA

Hi, my name is Fiona Kelly and I am a 4th year student. Over the 2 week Halloween break, I was in America with a group called Friends Forever. The group is a mixture of Catholics and Protestants. It's a cross community project. As a member of St Teresa's



Fiona with fellow Friends Forever participants

Youth Centre, I was asked to attend an informal meeting to discuss the project. I sat an interview and a few days later, I got a phone call to say I was accepted onto the project.

We had a few meetings where we got to know each other. There were 10 in the group- 6 Protestants and 4 Catholics. They were the same age as me and the oldest was 17 years old. I don't know what schools they went to but we all came from all over Belfast. In the meetings, we did ice breakers to get to know each other and we also talked about what we were

going to do in America. Gary and Stacie were the adults who came with us. They were the group leaders.

When I arrived in America, we visited the local high school called Narragetsset High School. The school wasn't really that big but while we were there, it was there pep rally and all the students where dressed up in different colours, like freshmen, the new students, wore black, juniors wore blue, softmors wore green and

*"We had to walk along a log suspended in the air. It was scary!"*

seniors wore silver. We also went to Bryant University which was brilliant It was massive too. We did a high and low rope course where



we had to walk along a log up in the air about 20 feet. It was scary! but great fun and we got to know each other better. We got to meet the Mayor of Pawtucket and visited American police and fire stations. We even got to go into the jails it was really fun as well. We were even allowed into the jails but luckily they contained no prisoners. They have prisons for boys and girls there too which was a bit scary.

We attended a gala dinner where we had to provide entertainment for the guests- we did the Cha-Cha slide dance. We had to wear something dressy. I was wearing black trousers, a turquoise top and black boots.

We met up with a group called Progress Latino, a group of students from Central Falls High School. We did lots of activities with them like salsa dancing, t bowling and I even got my picture in the local newspaper for getting a strike in bowling. We also went to an American football game. The America kids are just like us and agree the real America is not life the TV. We then stayed in Rhode Island, the smallest state in the union,

just out side Boston. Visiting America was terrific and it really brought us all together. I hope to go back again some time.

Fiona Kelly 11H

## AMERICAN CHRISTMAS CARAMEL POPCORN!

Thanks Tomaisin Crowe for recipe!

### Ingredients:

- 14 cups plain popped popcorn 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup (or golden syrup)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda (bicarbonate of soda)
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 225F (110C, very cool).

Spread the popcorn in two greased baking dishes .

Mix the brown sugar, syrup, butter and salt in a saucepan and bring to the boil over medium heat, stirring to make sure it is all blending together. Stir and boil the mixture for 5 minutes.

Remove from the heat and add the baking soda and vanilla. Be careful, as the mixture might foam up a little. Quickly pour it over the popcorn and toss around a little to coat.

Bake for 45 minutes, stirring now and again.

Put greaseproof paper down on your table and tip the caramel popcorn out, breaking it up as you go. Allow to cool . Eat! Yum! Merry Christmas!

*We wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Christmas and every good wish in the New Year.*



## Do they celebrate Christmas in China?

Well, the answer to this question is both YES and NO.

If you walked around a Beijing, China's capital city, 20 years ago, you probably wouldn't have seen many signs of Christmas. This is because Christmas is a Christian holiday and not many Chinese people are Christian. However, if you were to visit those same Chinese cities today, you'd see signs of Christmas everywhere you looked! On the Avenue of Eternal Peace in Beijing, China, there are Christmas displays everywhere. Many Chinese people celebrate by decorating their houses with Christmas trees, cooking and eating special foods, and spending time with family and friends, just like Irish people. For Chinese people, Christmas is not as important as New Years Day. In Belfast the local Chinese community enjoy great celebrations for the Chinese New Year- Look out for



dragons and fireworks in Belfast city centre on 7th Feb when the Chinese New Year is celebrated! And everyone can join in!

*Thanks Year 11 Digital Tech class for this research!*

### School Council Update

The school council is a chance for us the pupils to have as much say in the school life as teachers. It is the chance to put ideas forward to help change and promote new things in the school.

The council had a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. We had many different ideas and suggestions to give to senior management.

Myself and Stephanie went along to the meeting and discussed the ideas that were put forward. Senior management were accommodating and have compromised on the following suggestions such as:

More seating in the hall and music in the hall have been changed.

- They are discussing with Interserve about getting more bins on the corridor.
- Homework diaries will be in colour next year
- Hoping to have waterproof fleeces for 6<sup>th</sup> years next year.

If you have any suggestions you would like put forward, speak to your class representative or come and speak to myself or Stephanie. Jenny Mc Cavana (Head Girl)

### A CHRISTMAS TOAST

The Sleigh bells ring,  
The children sing,  
"Santa is class!"

As parents lead them to mass.  
Snow is falling, we hope,  
As Christmas is calling.

Advent calendars opening,  
Christmas presents unwrapping.  
Mistletoe hanging,  
Crackers banging.

Christmas dinner,  
A joyous time.

Families gather  
And raise a toast that

Christmas brings peace and happiness

To all.

By Alexandra O' Connor

11T

## WHY NOT BUY A GLOBAL GIFT THIS YEAR.....

5 FRIENDS—  
£2 EACH?

### CHICKS

For £10.00

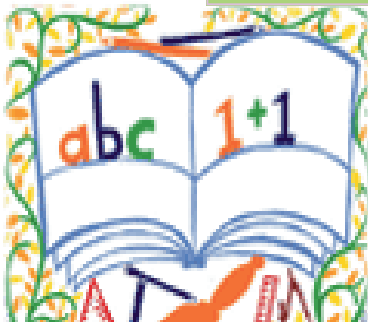
—The gift of chicks will provide a family in East Africa with food and income



A CLASS—£2.00 EACH?



A CLASS—£1.00 EACH?



### SCHOOL PACK

For £17.00—The gift of a school pack will teach Burmese refugees how to read and write.

### MOTHER AND BABY CARE

For £40.00—The gift of mother & baby care will provide medical equipment, training and safer child births for people in Somalia.

### TROCAIRE GIFTS

See Miss P Jago or Mrs Lytle if

interested

**Happy Christmas Everyone!**