

# Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

December 2018



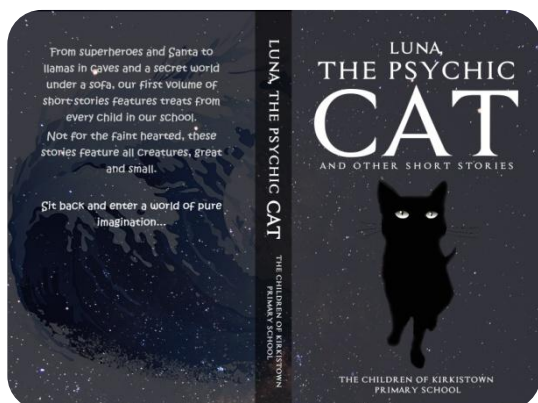
## Every child a published writer!

Learning together,  
building for the future

It gives me great pleasure to announce the arrival of our first whole school book of short stories. **Luna, The Psychic Cat and other short stories** is now available to purchase on Amazon by clicking the following link:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Luna-Psychic-Cat-other-stories/dp/1729782639/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543396987&sr=8-1&keywords=kirkistown+primary+school](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Luna-Psychic-Cat-other-stories/dp/1729782639/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543396987&sr=8-1&keywords=kirkistown+primary+school)

Weighing in at a massive 334 pages, the book features a written story by every child in attendance at Kirkistown Primary School by the end of October 2018. Congratulations to each and every child on now being a published author and a special mention to Rowan from P6 whose work was selected as the cover story. We look forward to publishing more of your works in the future! Our thanks go to our wonderful PTFA for funding the artwork for the book.



### Luna, The Psychic Cat: and other short stories Paperback – 23 Nov 2018

by Kirkistown Primary School (Author)

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Paperback

£6.74

2 New from £6.74

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From superheroes and Santa to llamas in caves and a secret world under a sofa, our first volume of short stories features treats from every child in our school. Not for the faint hearted, these stories feature all creatures, great and small. Sit back and enter a world of pure imagination...

## Kirkistown Choir Christmas Single!

Hot on the heels of our first published book comes the release of our 2018 Christmas Single! **Together For Christmas** was written by Mr Graham, conducted by Mr Irwin, recorded in the Montgomery Hall and mixed at Hop Pole Studios in Manchester. The artwork was designed by Jordan. I think you'll agree it sounds fantastic.

Our thanks go to our wonderful PTFA for funding the mixing costs of our Christmas song. The single can be streamed online and is available as a free download from our music website: <https://kirkistownprimaryschool.bandcamp.com/>



## PTFA Events

### Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair took place on Tuesday 04 December between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. The event was superbly well supported and the atmosphere was really lovely. I would like to thank Mrs Perry, Mrs Finegan and Mr Finegan for the hard work and dedication to make the occasion magical. Thanks to your support, over £900 was raised. The funds will be used to benefit the whole school community. If you would like to help contribute your time or skills to the PTFA, your support would be warmly welcomed.

## Pantomime Reminder

On Thursday 20 December 2018, the whole school will visit 'The Mac' in Belfast to watch the Elves and The Shoemaker. The trip is very kindly being subsidised by our wonderful PTFA who are very kindly covering the coach hire for the whole school.

As before, we will stop to eat on our way to theatre and will arrive back at school later than usual- a perfect opportunity for families to have a long day of last minute christmas shopping or even a simple day of relaxation if needed.

We would be grateful if any final permission slips and monies could be sent in to the school office as soon as possible, please.



## Tennis Club

Following the Christmas break, I am delighted to announced that we will have a tennis club available in school. The club will run throughout Spring Term on Mondays from 2-4pm with the first hour being for children in Key Stage 1. Facilitated by Paul Watt of AGP Tennis Academy, the sessions will cost £2 per child. Look out for a letter coming home very soon!







## School YouTube Channel

We have a growing presence on YouTube with over two hours of maths tuition freely available to help with homeworks, pre and post learning. The video content is primarily for key stage 2 learners but more content will be added over time.

Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Kirkistown Primary School to find out more.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Children are invited to wear suitable a Christmas Jumper to school on Friday 14 December 2018 in exchange for £1 to be donated to Save the Children.



**Save the Children**  
**CHRISTMAS  
JUMPER DAY**

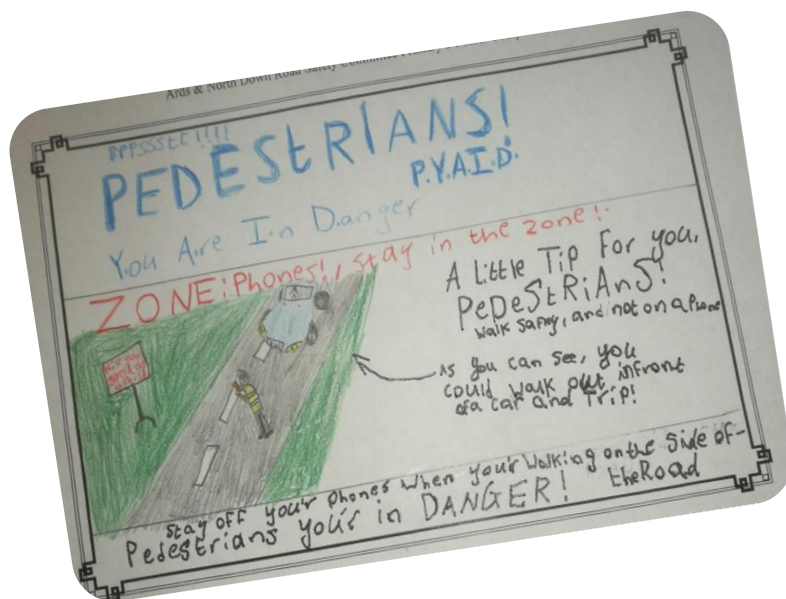


## Text Messaging Service

We have recently sent out several text messages to parents, testing that our text messaging system is functioning well. We wish to be able to use the service to keep the community informed of developments at school. If you didn't receive these messages, please inform us as soon as possible so that we can update your contact details.

## Road Safety Winner!

Congratulations to Isaac from P5 who was selected as one of the winners of a recent Road Safe NI poster competition. Isaac's artist talent bagged him a fantastic £10 gift voucher and a framed copy of his winning artwork. On behalf of us all, congratulations.



## Class Assemblies

Thank you to all our friends and family who have attended our Autumn Term Class Assemblies. I hope you were very proud to see the breadth of learning taking place within each of our classes. As Principal, I have personally been delighted with how the children have presented their learning. My thanks go to each of the class teachers and to the school community for attending and helping prepare their children. I will write to you in the near future to outline dates for our Spring Class Assemblies. In the meantime, an open invitation is extended to our weekly Celebration Assemblies.

## Healthy Break Reminder

The Public Health Agency recommend water and milk as the most suitable drinks for young children. Fruit juices, smoothies, sparkling water and drinks labelled 'no added sugar' or 'zero' are not recommended and are discouraged as part of our mid morning break.

Foods containing a lot of sugar and /or salt eg- cereal bars, pancakes, scones (plain and fruit), fruit bread, malt loaf, brioche, croissants and Danish pastries- are not recommended.

We want all our children to be healthy and well. We therefore encourage children to have a healthy morning break consisting of fruit, a vegetable snack or crackers.



## Christmas Choir Performances

A reminder that our fantastic school choir will be very busy representing school across the Peninsula this December. The choir will perform a small set of songs including our Christmas single. You can catch the choir as detailed below.

### **Tuesday 11th December-**

The Peninsula Choir Sings Christmas at Portico, Portaferry- 7 pm until 8.30 pm

### **Friday 14th December-**

Trinity Presbyterian Community Carols, Cloughey – 7.15 pm until 8.30 pm

### **Wednesday 19th December-**

School Carol Service- 6.30 pm until 7.30 pm



## Christmas Nativity

Children in Reception, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 have been very busy learning lots of new songs and learning their lines for our Christmas Nativity this year. They would be delighted if you were able to come along on either the Tuesday afternoon (18 December- 1pm) or else the Wednesday evening (19 December – 6:30pm – 7pm) to watch them perform 'The Inn-Spectors'.

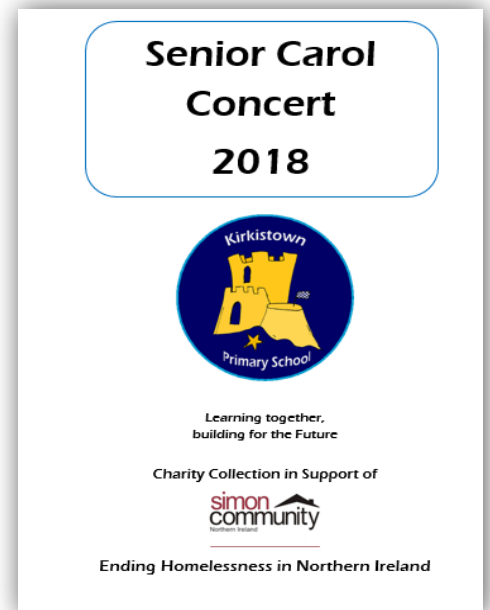
Children performing on Wednesday evening should arrive back at school at 6pm to allow them time to prepare and get into costume.

## Carol Service

The Key Stage 2 Carol Service will take place after the Nativity on Tuesday 18 December starting at 2pm. An evening Carol Service will take place following the nativity on Wednesday 19 December from 7pm – 8pm. At both Carol Services there will be a collection in support of the Simon Community.

## Shared Education

Primary 3 and 4 had a fantastic W5 experience last month alongside their peers from St Patrick's, Ballygalget. Just a few days later, Primary 5 and 6 participated in a multi-sports morning at Portaferry Sports Centre where children participated in circuit training, football, unihoc, yoga and mindfulness. Both classes had a fantastic time!



# Parent Governor Election

Following the recent vote to elect two Parent Governors, I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Judith Jones and Mr Mark Finegan have been elected as a result of your votes. A total of 52 votes were cast as follows:

<b>Mark Finegan</b>	<b>21 votes</b>
<b>Judith Jones</b>	<b>20 votes</b>
<b>Kerry Miles</b>	<b>6 votes</b>
<b>Cheryl Williams</b>	<b>5 votes</b>

I would like to thank each of the candidates for accepting their nomination and offering to stand. Special thanks are given to Mrs Williams for her service over the past number of years to Kirkistown Primary School. In my short time as Principal she has been a tremendous support both to the school and to me. On behalf of the school community, I express our gratitude.

## Diary Dates

Red font denotes new dates added since last newsletter

Date	Details
Tue 04 Dec 2018	Christmas Fair (5:30pm– 7:30pm)
Fri 07 Dec 2018	Christmas Carols on the Ferry – Shared Education evening event
Tue 11 Dec 2018	School Choir to Perform at Portico in Portaferry
Fri 14 Dec 2018	School Choir to perform at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cloughey (7:30pm)
Tue 18 Dec 2018	Nativity Performance (1pm) and Carol Service (2pm)
Wed 19 Dec 2018	Evening Nativity Performance & Carol Service (6:30 – 7:30pm) → children to be in school from 6pm
Thu 20 Dec 2018	Whole School Visit to 'The Mac' to see The Elves and the Shoemaker- TBC (Letter to follow)
Mon 24 Dec 2018 – Fri 04 Jan 2019	School closed for Christmas
Mon 07 Jan 2019	School closed- INSET day
Mon 11 – Thu 14 Feb 2019	Parent Interviews 1:15pm onwards School Closes at 12:45pm
Fri 15 Feb 2019	School Finishes at 1pm for Half Term Non-Uniform day with £1 donation to school fund
Mon 18 – Fri 22 Feb 2019	School closed for half term
Mon 25 Feb 2019	School Reopens

Mr R Graham  
Principal