**Newsletter**

**20th November 2015**

Dear parents, carers, staff and friends,

**Delivery of National Flag**

As part of the special programme for schools, we were visited on Wednesday by two Air Corps Sergeants from the Irish Defence Forces. We had a special ceremony where they presented us with the Irish flag and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation.

6th Class showcased their fantastic Irish dancing and several children helped to read sections of the Proclamation and introduce different parts of the ceremony. The children spoke clearly and confidently and asked lots of excellent questions. 4th, 5th and 6th Class sang the Irish national anthem, Amhran na bhFiann beautifully. We were very proud to accept the flag and look forward to inviting parents/carers to our flag raising on 15th March 2016. Our thanks to all of the children and teachers who prepared for the ceremony so well, especially Aedin our Irish Dance teacher and Mr. Kerr who prepared our readers and the display of our national flags.

You can see the photos from the ceremony on our website or on Twitter @stmarysdorsetst.

**Board of Management**

At our meeting for parents this week, I’m pleased to announce that Ludmila, mother of Jakub, in Senior Infants was nominated and elected to the school’s Board of Management. We are still looking for a father – please let us know if you are interested.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

5th Class had 99% attendance this week and were closely followed by 2nd Class with 98.3%! Well done to both classes.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

You should have now received a letter inviting you to your child’s parent-teacher meeting next week. This is a great opportunity to speak to your child’s teacher about their progress. Please let us know if the appointment doesn’t suit you and we will do our best to find an alternative time or date.

**Dates for your diary**

25th November – Meeting for parents/carers of those making First Communion

1st December – 3rd Class to Fighting Words

2nd December – Meeting for parents/carers of those making Confirmation

4th December – 6th Class to Lir Academy

**Sunday, 6th December** – Parish Family Mass at 10.30 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, Berkeley Rd

**Sunday, 13th December** – Parish Carol Service at 3.30 p.m. at St. Joseph’s, Berkeley Road.

22nd December – School finishes at 12.00 noon for Christmas Holidays

**English Classes for Parents/Carers**

Sr. Pauline is available to work with parents on a one-to-one basis to help support those with English as an additional language. If you would like to improve your English skills – please come and let us know. We will introduce you to Sr. Pauline, who will be delighted to help.

Have a lovely weekend,

Éadaoin Kelly

Principal