



Newsletter

Monday 1 April



St. Joseph's Primary School

Playground supervision

Please note that the playground is supervised from 08:45 each morning, and that, for reasons of safeguarding, pupils are not permitted in school before this time, unless they are attending Sleepy Hollow or the Breakfast Club. We appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

PTA Update:

Thanks to everyone who helped out with the Confirmation Teas on Sunday 24 March, the whole day was a great success.

Quiz Night, Friday 5 April

Tickets are now available to book via the PTA website <http://www.stjosephsps.co.uk/parent-teachers-association.html>. Tickets cost £5 per person and you can book teams of up to eight people.

We also urgently need a some volunteers to help on the night and some small items to be donated as raffle prizes. If you can help please contact the PTA ASAP on stjospta@gmail.com.

Cinema Night, Friday 12 April (*The Greatest Showman*) for P4-7s

Tickets are now available to book on the PTA website <http://www.stjosephsps.co.uk/parent-teachers-association.html>. Places will be limited so pre-booking will be essential. Tickets will cost £4 and this will include snacks, however kids are encouraged to bring their own cushions or beanbags. Fancy dress is optional!!

Marathon/Lap the Lough Fundraiser

This year we have two relay teams running the Belfast Marathon, we also have the PTA Chair running the full marathon and the Board of Governors' Chair cycling 'Lap the Lough'. You can support them and the PTA by donating via the Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/st-josephs-ballyhackamore>

The Community Fun Day, Saturday 8 June

We still require some volunteers to run some workshops for the kids. If you could help please contact the PTA on stjospta@gmail.com. In the past we have had cupcake making and clay modelling and are looking for some new ideas.

Cash for Clobber

The PTA will be organising a collection after Easter, so please start your spring cleaning and put aside any unwanted clothing, textiles or shoes. Remember the more we collect the more we earn.

Citizen of the Month

Every month the achievements and efforts of individual children in each class are recognised in Assembly with our special Citizen of the Month presentation. Congratulations to all our current winners for January- Jacob(P1A), Leah(P1B), Belle(P2A), Neha(P2B), Lucy(P3A), Emily(P3B), Daithi(P4A), Alora(P4B), Frances(P5A), Ava(P5B), Anna(P6A), Cara(P6B), Cara(P7A) and Jack, Louis & Malachy(P7B).

A Confirming experience

Thanks to all involved in the Sacrament of Confirmation in St Colmcille's. A special mention to the P7 pupils who were a credit to the school, the Choir who sang magnificently, and the PTA who gave up their Sunday morning to provide refreshments in the Parochial Hall. All in all, a real team effort that adds so much to the community spirit in St Joseph's.

Hygiene matters

There has been a case of threadworms reported to the school. General advice for preventing infection is:

Do

- wash hands and scrub under fingernails - particularly before eating, after using the toilet or changing nappies
- encourage children to wash hands regularly
- bathe or shower every morning
- rinse toothbrushes before using them
- keep fingernails short
- wash sleepwear, sheets, towels and soft toys (at normal temperature)
- disinfect kitchen and bathroom surfaces

- vacuum and dust with a damp cloth
- make sure children wear underwear at night - change it in the morning

Do not

- shake clothing or bedding, to prevent eggs landing on other surfaces
- share towels or flannels
- bite nails or suck thumbs and fingers

School Crossing Patrol

Please remember that there is still no School Crossing patrol at the junction of the Sandown Road & Upper Newtownards Road.

PE Uniform

Last chance to give your opinion on the PE uniform by emailing stjoesps@gmail.com

Up and coming...

- Swimming lessons continue for P7 at Avoniel Leisure Centre.
- Boys football semi-final on Tuesday 2 April.

Fundraising for Trocaire

During Lent the school will support Trocaire's annual Lenten appeal.

Bring & Buy Sale

As part of our fundraising efforts for Trocaire, P7 will be holding the annual Bring & Buy Sale on Tuesday 16 April in the school hall. As usual, we depend upon your generosity to make the event a success. If you have any old toys, games, books or DVDs that are in good working condition please send them in with your child. On the day, we will have some fun stalls and a raffle, and any items that can be offered as prizes (Easter eggs etc.) will be welcomed. We will also have a 'Bun Stall' and all contributions will be gratefully received. It is always an excellent day, and is waited for with great anticipation by the P7 pupils, who will manage the day, and the younger pupils who get to spend your hard earned money supporting a great cause. Please provide your child with a plastic bag and small change with which to buy their bric-a-brac on the day. All proceeds raised from the event will go to Trocaire's 2019 Lenten appeal. Any items that you wish to offer should be brought to school and left in the staffroom, or with any P7 pupil.

Lost Property

We are clearing out the lost property basket before the start of the Easter holidays. Have a look before then for any missing items.

Dinner money

To help with administration, please ensure that dinner money is paid using ParentPay in advance or on the day that the dinner is taken.

For your information

Please note that the Designated Teacher and Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection in St Joseph's are Mr Donaldson and Mr McDowell respectively.

Reduced school day

Due to the ongoing financial strain on the budget, we are considering saving money by reducing the length of time the children currently spend in the school. The plan is, from September 2019, to start the school day at 09:30 on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and finish the school day on Wednesday and Friday at 13:30 for P1-3 and 14:30 for P4-7. On the 4th week of every month 'normal' school hours would apply.

Although this may cause some disruption to your normal childcare arrangements, we feel that this action is a suitable and reasonable response in the current financial climate.

If you would like to voice your opinion on these proposed changes, please use the following email address aprilfoolsday@stjosephs.com

In the last newsletter we asked:

There are a number of coins on a table. One quarter of the coins show heads. If I turn over two coins, then one third show heads. How many coins are there altogether?

Now here's an answer

There are 24 coins altogether

Now here's a problem

On a farm there were some hens and sheep. Altogether there were 8 heads and 22 feet.

How many hens were there?

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 18 April	12:00 finish for whole school
Friday 19 April - Friday 26 April	Easter holidays
Monday 6 May	Early May Bank Holiday
Saturday 11 May	First Holy Communion for P4A and Evening Class at 11:30 in St Colmcille's
Thursday 16 May	Sports Day for P4-7 at Strandtown Playing Fields
Friday 17 May	Sports Day for P1-3 at Strandtown Playing Fields
Saturday 18 May	First Holy Communion for P4B at 11:30 in St Colmcille's
Monday 27 May - Tuesday 28 May	School Development Days (School closed for pupils)
Friday 28 June	Last day of term (12 noon finish)