



Newsletter

Monday 2nd October



St. Joseph's Primary School

PTA update on the Blues and Boogie night fundraiser.

The main band will finish by 23:30, so anyone with a babysitter can be home before midnight. There will be a disco with bar until 00.15. If you can't get a babysitter then think about a girls or lads night out - go on you deserve it! Also, if you book a block of 6 tickets you can reserve a table by texting Steven on 07909381280. Please book tickets via <https://event.gg/7272/> or see a PTA committee member.

Interactive whiteboards

Thanks to the funds provided by the PTA, we are delighted to inform you that three new Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs) have recently been installed in P3A, P4A and P7B. Although this is an expensive outlay, the IWBs were badly needed and replaced existing boards which were no longer fit for purpose. The new boards are much sharper and greatly enhance the learning experience provided to the pupils.

School Crossing Patrol

There will be no School Crossing Patrol at the junction of the Sandown Road and Upper Newtownards Road On Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th October. Please ask your child(ren) to be very careful if crossing at these lights during this period.

Healthy Snacks

The school has a healthy-eating policy in place and encourages pupils to bring in healthy foods for both break and lunch. The pupils are generally very good at what they bring in for snacks and we thank our parents for their support and ask you to continue helping us to implement this policy by sending in healthy options with your child(ren) and avoiding the non-healthy alternatives. Advice and guidance on healthy breaks can be found at http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Healthy%20Breaks%20for%20Pre-school%20A5%20Leaflet%2007_17.pdf

Dates just in

The Christmas Carol Service will be held on Wednesday 13th December for parents of children in P1- P3 and Thursday 14th December for parents of children in P4 - P7.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 13th May for children in P4A and Sunday 20th May for children in P4B.

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 September - Micheal(P1A), James(P1B), Joseph(P2A), Jack(P2B), Noah(P3A), Maria & Aoife(P3B), Christo(P4A), Frances(P4B), Daniel(P5A), Tara(P5B), Aaliyah(P6A), Sarah(P6B), Nina(P7A) and Valentin(P7B).

School Council

The local school council elections were held on Friday with a record number of candidates putting themselves forward to represent their class. As we go to press the votes are still being counted - you will be informed of the successful candidates in the next newsletter.

Book Fair

The annual Scholastic Book Fair will take place in the school foyer this week. Pupils will be given the opportunity to purchase books each day and parents will also be able to buy books after school. This is a great opportunity to encourage your child to read and also has the extra benefit of providing commission to the school, which is used to purchase novels and other books for the class libraries.

Maths Week 2017

Maths Week Ireland runs from 14th to the 22nd of October. During the week children will have lots of opportunities in school to engage in fun-filled problem solving activities designed to challenge them. For more details visit <http://www.mathsweek.ie/2017>

Parent volunteers

Thank you to our core group of parents who are supporting reading in St Joseph's by giving up their valuable time and working with individual children on a weekly basis.

Time to read

Time to Read is a volunteering initiative, developed by Business in the Community and supported by the Department of Education. It aims to improve literacy, foster a love of reading and build confidence and social skills of children at Key Stage 2 in local primary schools. This initiative has been operating in St Joseph's for quite a number of years and we are delighted that once again the programme is *up and running* for the year.

Time to code

Time to Code is a new pilot volunteering programme run by Business in the Community, in partnership with Code Club, which aims to help school children gain IT and coding skills, build confidence, and develop team working and problem solving abilities. In St Joseph's we are introducing this programme in P4A where three volunteers will work with the children one hour per week during the autumn term.

Parent/teacher meetings

In response to feedback requesting an earlier opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss pupil progress, parent/teacher interviews have been arranged in the school hall on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th October between 14:15 and 17:00. This is based on the secondary school system where teachers are available between set times with no specific interview times arranged for individual pupils. The usual timetabled interviews will be held in the Spring term. Please note that classes will end at 14:00 on those two days to facilitate the interviews.

School Development

Six members of staff received training on the Management of Anaphylaxis in schools on Monday 18th September.

Mr Donaldson attended the East Belfast Principal's Group cluster meeting on Thursday 21st September.

Miss McCullough (SENCO) attended training on Reading Recovery on 26th September.

Mr Donaldson attended day 1 of the 'First-Time Principals' Induction Programme' on Friday 29th September.

The schools's EA advisor met with both the Senior Management Team (SMT) and the staff as a whole to review actions and impact of the School's Development Programme.

As part of our internal standardisation programme, staff met to assess samples of writing using CCEA's Levels of Progression.

Curriculum teams met to review action plans.

Accommodation & maintenance update

The Heating System Replacement scheme has now commenced and is due to continue until March 2017. Approval has been granted for a replacement roof at the front of the school; as yet we have no date as to when this work will start.

Parking in Holland Drive

Local residents have been in contact with the school and are politely requesting that parents and childminders do not park across driveways or obstruct access to properties, especially in Holland Drive. We appreciate that with the local traffic congestion, it can be difficult both dropping off and picking up children from St Joseph's. However, if you would be considerate to our neighbours during these busy periods, it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks you for your cooperation on this matter.

Thanks from the Polish Community Association

Thanks to all the parents of St Joseph's for your response to the appeal for bed clothes etc... on behalf of the Polish Community Association.

The Voice

The ITV programme *The Voice Kids 2018* are looking for children aged 7-14 to take part. If this would interest you and your child, please contact Mrs. Vance asap. The closing date for registration is 15th October and registration forms can be downloaded from the official website.

Office matters

This is the last week we will be able to accept old £1 coins in St Joseph's as they cease to be legal tender from 15th October.

Now here's an answer

In the last newsletter we asked:

Cameron saved £20. She wants to buy a CD for £7.36 and a purse for £6.98. Will she have enough money left over to buy a yo-yo for £3.99 after she buys the first two items?

Yes she will as she will have £5.66 left after buying the first two items.

Now here's a problem

As a special treat you are able to buy an ice cream for your break. Each ice cream cone can have three scoops of ice cream on top of each other, from the choices below:

- Strawberry
- Vanilla
- Chocolate

How many different combinations of ice cream could you have with those flavours? You are allowed to have one flavour more than once.

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 2nd October at 9.15am	P7 curriculum meeting at 09:15 in the school hall
Tuesday 3rd October	P6 curriculum meeting at 09:15 in the school hall
Friday 20th October	PTA Blues and Boogie Night at Shandon Park Golf Club
Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th October	Parent/teacher interviews from 14:15 to 17:00 in the school hall
Friday 27th October	School closes at 12 noon for Hallowe'en Break
Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November	Halloween Break (school closed)
Friday 8th December	Staff training day (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 13th December Christmas Carol Service	Christmas Carol Service at 11am for P1-P3 parents
Wednesday 14th December	Christmas Carol Service at 11am for P4-P7 parents
Friday 22nd December	School closed at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays
Monday 25th December - Tuesday 2nd January	Christmas Holidays (school closed)
Wednesday 3rd January - Friday 5th January	Staff training days (school closed for pupils)
Monday 8th January	School re-opens - start of Term 2
Sunday 13th May	First Holy Communion for P4A at 11:30 in StColmcille's
Sunday 20th May	First Holy Communion for P4 at 11:30 in St Colmcille's