



Newsletter

Monday 18 March



St. Joseph's Primary School

PTA Update:

Confirmation Teas, Sunday 24 March

We require donations of baked goods - if you can help out please leave items in the Parochial Hall before 11:00. If the items are non-perishable you can also leave them into the school on Friday 22 March.

Quiz Night, Friday 5 April

We will soon be circulating details of how to pre-book tables for the quiz night. Tickets will cost £5 per person and you can book teams of up to eight people. We also require a few items to be donated as raffle prizes, so if you have any unwanted gifts that could be donated, please pass them to a member of the PTA ASAP.

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

Places will be limited, so pre-booking will be essential. Tickets will cost £4 and this will include snacks. Children are encouraged to bring their own cushions or beanbags. Details of how to book will be circulated soon.

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. Details of how to donate via the *Just Giving* fundraising page will be circulated soon.

Community Fun Day, Saturday 8 June

A volunteer rota will be organised nearer the time. However, we have two immediate asks of parents:

- Workshops - We would like to offer some workshops for the kids as these have worked well in the past. If you could help facilitate a workshop, 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.
- BBQ - We are also looking for someone who would be willing to take responsibility for the BBQ. The PTA will organise all the supplies. However, we would like someone (preferably with a catering background) to take responsibility for food preparation. If you would be willing to help please contact the PTA on stjospta@gmail.com.

School Crossing Patrol

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

Sports Day

The dates for our Sports Days are now in. They are:

- Thursday 16 May from 10:00 -11:30 for P4-7; and
- Friday 17 May from 10:00 - 11:30 for P1-3.

Dance with Duffy Day

Thanks to all the pupils, parents, teachers, carers, family friends and relatives for all your support with this sponsored event. The children had a great day and raised £2,934 for school funds - a fantastic total. Special thanks, of course, to Mrs Duffy, who choreographed and organised the whole event, completing 45 dances and 21,177 steps on the day itself. Dance Mrs Duffy Dance!

School Enhancement Programme, Second Call (SEP2)

As you were previously informed, St Joseph's Primary School has been selected, as part of SEP2, for a refurbishment or extension project. The Department has now authorised work to begin on scoping and preparing a business case for development. Should the business case be approved by the Department, an Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) will then be appointed to take forward the scheme design.

After an initial meeting with the DE, it is evident that we are now in the initial design stage, which should be complete by July 2019. At this point we will then have a better idea as to the scale of the project, the length of time that it will take to complete (if approved) and the planning requirements to maintain the smooth running of the school while this work is ongoing. As and when we know more, we will let you know.

PE Uniform

As you are well aware, the current PE uniform is:

- white polo shirt
- royal blue shorts/jogging bottoms.
- black plimsolls/black or white trainers.

However, as you progress through the school, this becomes less well spotted than the duck-billed platypus, with various, individualised, multi-coloured PE uniforms on display.

We are considering updating the PE uniform from September 2019 and are looking for feedback from pupils, parents and staff alike.

One option is to keep the uniform we currently have, but make sure it is strictly adhered to.

Another option is to change the uniform. Samples of a possible new uniform will be on display from next week and we would like your opinion. These include two tops, three T-shirts and two jogging bottoms (shorts are optional extra). With this option, the plan would be to choose one of each item depending on popularity.

Once we have decided on the PE uniform for September, pupils will be expected to wear the agreed uniform to school on PE days.

You can give your opinion by talking with a member of staff or emailing the school's website <http://www.stjosephsps.co.uk/home.html>

Up and coming...

- Swimming lessons continue for P7 at Avoniel Leisure Centre.
- P7 at Hawarden Tennis Club on Tuesday 19 March.
- P6/7 Gaelic team playing at Grosvenor Leisure Centre on Tuesday 19 March.
- Class Group photographs taken on Thursday 21 March.
- P7 visit to the Radar Centre on Thursday 21 March.
- Anti-litter show for P5-7 on Tuesday 26 March.
- P7B at World Around Us quiz in Mitchel House on Wednesday 27 March.
- Mitchel House pupils visiting St Joseph's for Disability Sport with P2B on Wednesday 27 March.

Trocaire

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

Road Safety

Please heed the advice given to us by the PSNI in relation to parking around the school.

Do not

- park outside or opposite school gates.
- park on pavements.
- park across resident's driveways, entrances or dropped kerbs.
- obstruct the school crossing patrol.
- park opposite or within 15m of a junction.

Always

- keep your speed down and drive carefully past schools as pupils leave.
- respect those who live close to the school.
- leave the middle of the road free, with enough room for others to easily pass through
- check for pedestrians and cyclists before opening a vehicle door.
- ensure your child leaves and enters your vehicle onto the pavement.
- cross any road with extreme care and attention.
- take care when reversing.
- ensure you and your passenger(s) wear seatbelts.

Lost Property

You can find the lost property basket in the shelter area of the playground. Have a rummage, you never know what you might retrieve.

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.

Music fees

The 2nd term music fees for the pupils receiving weekly tuition from the School of Music tutors are now due. The cost this year is £50 per term or £150 per annum and can be paid via ParentPay.

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.

In the last newsletter we asked:

I'm thinking of a number that is 1 more than a multiple of 7. My friend is thinking of a number that is 1 more than a multiple of 4. Could we be thinking of the same number?

Now here's an answer

Yes they could be thinking of the same number. For example, 28, is a multiple of 7 and 4. Plus 1 is 29. So the friend thinks of $28 + 1$ as [one more than] a multiple of 4, and the other person $28 + 1$ as [one more than] a multiple of 7, but still providing the same answer.

Now here's a problem

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?

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 24 March	Confirmation in St Colmcille's at 11:30
Tuesday 26 March	Sacrament of First Reconciliation at 18:30 in St Colmcille's
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)