



Newsletter

Monday 4 March



St. Joseph's Primary School

PTA Update:

Confirmation Teas

We still require some volunteers for Sunday 24 March, to date only three parents have come forward. We can't run these events without your support. If you can help out please contact the PTA on stjospta@gmail.com.

Quiz Night

Following the success of last year's event, we are planning to hold another quiz night on Friday 5 April. Tickets will cost £5 per person and further details of how to pre-book will be circulated soon. In the meantime, if you have any unwanted gifts that could be donated as raffle prizes please pass them to a member of the PTA.

Cinema Night

So the kids don't feel left out, we are also planning a cinema night for P4-7s in the school on Friday 12 April. The film will be The Greatest Showman. 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. Details of how to book will be circulated soon.

The Community Fun Day will take place on 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

We have been informed that there will be no School Crossing patrol at Sandown Road/Newtownards Road from 14 February 2019 for 6 to 8 weeks

Confirmation

In preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, there will be a Service of Light/parents' Confirmation meeting this evening in St Colmcille's.

Dance with Duffy Day

At our last School Council meeting we decided that our annual sponsored activity will be a 'Dance with Duffy Day', which will take place on Tuesday 5 March.

Each family has received one sponsorship form and we ask pupils to try and seek sponsors (friends, family, relatives etc...) to support them.

We hope that you can support our event in aid of school funds.

Children may come to school wearing their PE uniform or own sports leisure wear (no football tops please) and may stay in their sports gear all day.

World Book Day

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7 March. The main aim of the day is to encourage children to explore the delights of books and promote the pleasure of reading.

To celebrate this day, pupils are invited to attend school dressed as a character from a book (and bring in the book if they have it). We ask the children to donate £1 to our Lenten campaign for Trocaire.

The children will participate in a range of activities including story-telling, bookmark making, class quizzes and an author treasure hunt! The children will receive a book token at the end of the day that they can spend in any participating bookshop.

We hope to have a wonderful day and celebrate lots of stories and a love of reading. Why not get involved and use our 'Share a Story at Home' activity that has been emailed to you and read with your child.

Parent/teacher meetings

The annual parent-teacher meetings for all pupils will take place in the school from Monday 11 March until Friday 15 March. To facilitate these meetings, all classes will finish at 14:00 this week. Interview times have already been sent home with the pupils.

Internet Safety Workshop

As a parent/carer you play a key role in keeping your child safe online. The internet is a great way for our children to learn, explore and connect with each other. However, it is rapidly changing and we are increasingly aware of the many associated dangers connected with its use. As a school we endeavour to support you as we try to keep your children safe.

With this in mind, we have teamed up with other East Belfast primary schools and the PSNI to organise an Internet Safety Workshop to be held on Wednesday 13 March, 18:30 - 20:30 in Orangefield Primary School. This will be led by Detective Sergeant Elaine McCormill from the PSNI. Elaine has a lead role in online safety and is very aware of the issues being faced in our local area.

Please do take this opportunity to become more informed about the issues of online safety in order to help safeguard your child. If you will be attending, please reply to the email that was sent to you so that approximate numbers of attendees can be ascertained.

Parental tips to help keep children safe on the internet (*Policing and Safety Community Partnership*)

1. Talk to your child. Preventing your children from using the internet or mobile phones won't keep them safe in the long run, so it's important to have conversations that help your child understand how to stay safe and what to do if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable.

Up and coming...

- Swimming lessons continue for P7 at Avoniel Leisure Centre.
- Strathearn School Council visiting with St Joseph's School Council on Friday 8 March.
- P7 at Hawarden Tennis Club on Tuesday 12 March.
- P7A science workshop on Wednesday 13 March.
- St Patrick's Day assembly, led by P5, on Friday 15 March.

Holidays for 2019-2020

The holiday list for 2019-2020 has been emailed to you and is also now available on the school website.

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- Grace(P1A), Fiadh (P1B), Sophie(P2A), Jude(P2B), Louis(P3A), Sariah(P3B), Noah(P4A), Aoife (P4B), Allan(P5A), Mikey(P5B), David(P6A), Eve(P6B), Tom(P7A) and Alfie(P7B).

Childcare Vouchers

The Government closed Childcare Vouchers to new entrants from October 2018. However, existing Childcare Voucher users will remain eligible for Childcare Vouchers provided they:

- Joined the scheme prior to 4 October 2018, and
- Make at least one salary sacrifice (more than £0) within each 52 week period, and
- Do not leave the scheme in order to use Tax-Free Childcare, and
- Do not change employer.

In the run up to the closure of Childcare Vouchers to new entrants during 2018, many parents opened ChildcareVoucher accounts with a small amount, to safeguard their future access to the Scheme.

Remember to make at least one payment into your Childcare Voucher account (more than £0) within each 52 week period to remain eligible.

Special diets

Please note the following Education Authority advice given to the school in relation to special diets in school.

Special diets can be required for a wide variety of medical conditions including food allergies, food intolerance, diabetes and coeliac disease. A medically prescribed diet is one which has been prescribed by a medical consultant, general practitioner (GP) or registered dietitian. In some circumstances diet may be the only treatment of a medical condition or can form a major part of it. Pupils with specific food related medical conditions can be catered for if sufficient information is provided from the pupil's medical consultant, general practitioner or registered dietitian to ensure that school catering services can safely meet the needs of the child.

The Pupil's Parent/Guardian is instrumental in notifying the School and is responsible for informing the School Principal of their child's requirements for a special diet, prior to admission or during the academic year. If specialist dietary preparations and prescription foods are to be provided to the school catering service, only ambient goods can be stored and used and the price of a school meal will remain the same.

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.

My number is both a multiple of 5 and a multiple of 6

What could my number be? What else could it be? What is the smallest number it could be?

I'm thinking of a number.

My number is a multiple of 4, 5 and 6.

What could my number be? What else could it be? What is the smallest number it could be?

Now here's an answer

Problem 1

The number could be thirty, because five and six are both factors of thirty. Another answer it could be is sixty or anything that is a multiple of thirty. The smallest answer will be 30.

Problem 2

The number could be sixty. Another answer is that it could be one hundred and twenty or any multiple of sixty and above. The smallest number is 60.

Now here's a problem

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?

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 4 March	Service of Light/P7 parents' Confirmation meeting at 19:00 in St Colmcille's
Monday 11 March - Friday 15 March	Parent/teacher meetings (classes finish at 14:00 all week)
Monday 18 March	School Development Day (School closed for pupils)
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
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)