



Newsletter

Monday 5th February



St. Joseph's Primary School

Mid-Term Break

The school will close at 12:00 on Friday 9th February for the start of the mid-term break. Next week, St Joseph's will be closed from Monday 12th until Friday 16th February and will reopen on Monday 20th February. There will be no dinners provided on Friday 9th due to the early closure.

Pyjama/Onesie Day

There will be a pyjama/onesie day on Friday 9th February, in support of one of our designated charities for the year - the Cancer Fund for Children. As with all our non-uniform days, the contribution is voluntary, and a suggested donation is £1.

Parent workshops

Improving Mental Maths is a whole school focus this year. To assist you with helping your child we are offering Mental Maths parent workshops, with Tina Adair, from the Education Authority. The workshops will run from 09:00 - 10:00 in the school hall on the following days:

Wednesday 7th February - Foundation Stage (P1 & 2)

Thursday 8th February - Key Stage 1 (P3 & 4)

Friday 9th February - Key Stage 2 (P5, 6 & 7).

PTA news

Thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time and energy for the recent PTA cake sale - it was a great success and raised £460 for school funds. Special thanks to Gemma for taking the lead in organising this. The next meeting of the PTA is on Thursday 22 February at 19:30 in the school.

The remaining events planned for 2018 are:

- The Confirmation Tea on Sunday 25th February. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the PTA.
- A quiz night in the Parochial Hall on Friday 23rd March; further details of how to buy tickets will be available soon.
- The PTA will be supporting the Art of Caring exhibition from 12th to the 15th April. This event contributes significant funds to the PTA every two years so your help would be greatly appreciated.
- The Community Fun Day on Saturday 16th June.

Staffing

We are delighted to inform you that Mr Donnelly will be returning to St Joseph's, as teacher of P5B, on Monday 19th February. Many thanks to Miss Toner for all her hard work and commitment over the last 5 months - it has been greatly appreciated.

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 - Ellie Mae(P1A), Toby(P1B), Cillian(P2A), Lewis(P2B), Lily(P3A), Cara(P3B), Jakub(P4A), Ethan(P4B), Kyle(P5A), Lisa Marie(P5B), Dara(P6A), Tyler(P6B), Christopher(P7A) and Shea(P7B).

Success at Strathearn

P7 had a great day out recently, when they participated in a Fun Sports' Activity Day at Strathearn School; the P7s were divided into two team, who came 1st and 3rd in the competition. Time to invest in a new trophy cabinet.

Credit Union Quiz

Congratulations to our two teams from P7 - Maxim, Colm, Ethan & Aaron and Fintan, Peter & Rory, who recently participated in a local round of the Credit Union Quiz. Both teams came 2nd in their age group and were narrowly beaten in a nail-biting finish.

Lego workshop

P6 and P7 recently took part in a STEM Aware Lego Workshop designed to encourage our budding engineers to be creative and solve some really exciting problems! Leo, Grace, Lucy, Malachy and Cara

made an tower than was an astonishing 186cm tall! They have been selected to represent St. Joseph's at the Belfast Schools' Lego competition in the Harbour Commissioner's Office on 8th March 2017. Well done!

Storyteller visit

On Monday 5th February, the boys and girls from P1-P7 were given the opportunity to listen to expert storyteller, Liz Weir, tell us stories from near and far! They were also given the chance to heard how Liz creates her stories and find out about life as an author. We hope many of our boys and girls have been inspired to write their own!

School Improvement

Mr Donaldson attended Day 6 of the First-Time Principals' Induction Programme.

A pupils' survey was undertaken by all pupils.

Staff continued working on developing a line of progression in Mental Maths.

The first cycle of Performance Review and Staff Development (PRSD) classroom observations was completed.

Miss McCullough attended the latest day of SOLAS training in Reading Recovery.

Mrs McAlister attended the latest day of SOLAS training on Tackling Underachievement in Maths.

ADHD training was delivered to P1-3 teachers and classroom assistants.

GL reading assessment for P3 and 4 was completed.

Clubs

We are now working on the new after-school clubs timetable for the remainder of the Spring term, details of which will be sent out to you on Wednesday 7th February.

Please note that there will be no tennis club on Friday 9th February due to the half day finish.

Lost Property

Please keep checking our lost property box for 'missing' items; if you are enquiring about smaller items e.g. watches/jewellery, talk to our building supervisor, Mr Fay, who keeps these belongings separately.

Online Safety

There will be a presentation on bullying this week by the PSNI to P7A and P7B.

World Book Day

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 1st March. The main aim of the day is to encourage children to explore the delights of books and reading. To celebrate this, pupils are invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book (and bring in the book if they have it). We will also have a special assembly in school, where some children will be given an opportunity to read an extract from their favourite book. This is always a great event and hopefully will continue to foster in children a love of reading.

Parent/teacher meetings

The annual parent-teacher meetings for all pupils will take place in the school from Monday 12th March until Friday 16th March. To facilitate these meetings, all classes will finish at 2pm this week.

Ban on peanuts/nut products

A reminder that there is a ban on peanuts and all nut products in the school - this is due to the fact that we have pupils with allergies to these particular food products. Thanks to our P7s for designing and displaying informative posters around the school and highlighting this issue to the whole school community.

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

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| Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February | Mid-term break Break (school closed) |
| Wednesday 21st February | First Reconciliation Parents' Meeting at 19:00 in the Parochial Hall |
| Sunday 25th February | Sacrament of Confirmation at 11:30 in St Colmcille's |
| Monday 12th March - Friday 16th March | Parent/teacher meetings |
| Tuesday 13th March | Sacrament of First Reconciliation at 18:30 in St Colmcille's |
| Monday 19th March | School Development Day 4 (School closed for pupils) |
| Sunday 25th March | 'Do This in Memory Of Me' at 09:30 in St Colmcille's |
| Friday 30th March - Friday 6th April | Easter holidays |
| Wednesday 18th April | First Communion Parents' Meeting at 19:00 in the Parochial Hall |
| Sunday 22nd April | 'Do This in Memory Of Me' at 09:30 in St Colmcille's |
| Monday 7th May | Early May Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 8th May | School Development Day 5 (School closed for pupils) |
| Sunday 13th May | First Holy Communion for P4A at 11:30 in St Colmcille's |
| Sunday 20th May | First Holy Communion for P4B at 11:30 in St Colmcille's |
| Monday 28th May - Tuesday 29th May | Mid-term break |
| Friday 29th June | Last day of term |