

# Newsletter – September 2018



Welcome back!

It is so lovely to be back starting a new school year. What a lovely summer it was... we hope you all had a safe and happy summer holiday wherever you were. Welcome back to all of our P2 - P7 pupils who returned on Friday and who were looking so smart in their new uniforms. A very special welcome goes out to our Primary 1 pupils who will be joining the St. Joseph's family over the next weeks.

We look forward to another busy and exciting school year and to making new friendships in the coming months.

On behalf of all our staff I would like to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and a successful new school year.

Pauline Fleming, Acting Principal

## Sr Mary Dunne RIP

As a whole school community we are so saddened by the loss of our school chaplain, Sr Mary Dunne. Sr Mary passed away peacefully on Friday 17 August. She was surrounded by her family as she would have wished.

Sr Mary was a very special person in our school. She visited us very regularly and loved being in our school. Our pupils loved it when she came to their class to talk about Jesus' message and we can certainly say that all of our pupils have a closer relationship with God and Jesus because of Sr Mary. Please pray for Sr Mary and her family at this time. May she rest in peace.

Please keep Charlie in your thoughts and prayers this year as he continues to recover. As a whole school community we miss Charlie very much and we can't wait to see him back in school soon. We know he has been busy building lots of beautiful Lego buildings etc. and that his little sister Nancy has been baking lovely rainbow cakes with him! We are all looking forward to him returning to school soon.

## Curriculum Meetings

Each year in September we hold curriculum meetings for P1 - P6. These meetings are very important as they give you a chance to meet the teacher as well as find out about what lies ahead for your child. We will hold our curriculum meetings first thing in the morning after school drop off at 9am - 9.30am.

We hope that at least one parent can attend as these are extremely important meetings and vital information is shared about the year ahead. The meetings will be held in the assembly hall and the dates and times of the curriculum meetings are:

Tuesday 11 September at 9am	P6
Wednesday 12 September at 9am	P5
Thursday 13 September at 9am	P4
Friday 14 September at 9am	P3
Tuesday 18 September at 9am	P2

Our **Primary 1 Curriculum Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday 9 October at 6pm** here in the school assembly hall. This is a very important meeting for parents of Primary 1 pupils. We look forward to seeing you all then.



## 'Being the best that we can be'

### 2018/2019 Staffing

We are delighted to welcome back Ms Therese Hearty and Mrs Andrea Awada to Primary 1 and 2. We wish them both all the very best as they return to the classroom this year.



### New Morning Routines

School will start at **9am sharp**. The morning bell will go at this time. However, there will be no supervision in the yard as all pupils can now go directly to their class from 8.45am until 9am in the same way as P1 and P2. Parents can drop off their P1 and P2 children directly into the classroom. P3 – P7 children can be dropped off from 8.45am unless they are attending Cool Kids. **Please remember that only children attending Breakfast club can be dropped off before 8.45am.**



### Positive Behaviour

In June we surveyed pupils, staff and parents on their views of St. Joseph's. The results of all 3 stakeholders show that addressing behaviour within St. Joseph's is a key area for development.

This will be a key area to improve within our school development plan this year. Staff have already developed a new Positive Behaviour Policy which covers 'Rules, Rewards and Consequences.' This will be shared with you at our curriculum meetings.

As always we will need your full parental support to implement this policy fully within the school.



### Break

This year we will be continuing to offer fruit and milk for break. The price will remain the same as in 2017/2018. Fruit will cost £1.50 per week and milk £1 per week. This means that the total cost of milk and fruit per week is £2.50.

The time taken for teachers to collect money for break, swimming, badminton etc. on a Monday continues to impact heavily on teaching and learning time.

**For this reason, we are asking that ALL MONEY is paid on a MONDAY ONLY.**

Break can be paid termly at the start of the term. The cost for each term is as follows:

#### Term 1

Fruit only	£22.50
Milk only	£15
Fruit and milk	£37.50

#### Term 2

Fruit only	£21
Milk only	£14
Fruit and milk	£35

#### Term 3

Fruit only	£13.50
Milk only	£9
Fruit and milk	£22.50

Alternatively..... if you would like to pay for the year you can do so as well at the start of the year with the following process:

Yearly fruit only:	£57
Yearly milk only	£38
Yearly fruit and milk	£95

**For those pupils bringing their own break to school this can ONLY be fruit, bread sticks or yogurt (frubes).**

**Children MUST only bring water to drink during the school day/class.**

**No juices are permitted.**

### School Dinners

Hot school dinners are available from the school canteen at a cost of £2.60 per meal. Dinner money **MUST** be paid on a Monday for the week or for the particular day that week. Thank you.



## 'Being the best that we can be'

### Afternoon Release for P4 - P7 Teachers

P4 - P7 teachers will continue to have PPA time (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) on two afternoons per week...Tuesdays and Thursdays. Teachers from P1 - P3 as well as our learning support teachers take P4 - P7 classes on these days

This time is beneficial to teachers as well as pupils. The release teachers use their talents to deliver a different part of the curriculum e.g. art/music/ICT. The details are as follows:

Teacher	Tuesday Release	Thursday release
P4MC	Ms Clarke (ICT)	Mrs Crilly (Mental Maths)
P4AH	Mrs Crilly (Mental Maths)	Ms Clarke (ICT)
P5DR	Mrs Awada (Art & Design)	Mrs McManus (Drama)
P5CK	Mrs McManus (Drama)	Mrs Awada (Art & Design)
P6SG	Miss McAnerney (Mental Maths)	Ms Gorman (Art and Design)
P6CG	Ms Gorman (Art and Design)	Miss McAnerney (Mental Maths)
P7NOH	Ms Hearty (Active Literacy)	Mrs Gould (ICT)
P7EMcC	Mrs Gould (ICT)	Ms Hearty (Active Literacy)

**This means that these teachers will bring your children to the top of the hill/back carpark at 3pm and not their class teacher.**

### Year Group Newsletters

Our year group newsletters have proved to be very popular with you in the last two years and we will continue to share these with you on a termly basis via the school website.

The newsletters give you a flavour of what is happening in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT as well as other learning areas in your child's year group. They will be published on the website at the beginning of each term and P1 - P6 year groups will receive their first newsletter at their curriculum meeting and P7 will be on the website in the coming days.



### Look Smart, Think Smart, Work Smart!

It is wonderful to see all of our pupils returning with lovely new school uniforms. As a school we take pride in our uniform. A few things to remember this year:

Black shoes MUST be worn at all time. Trainers are only permitted for PE and sporting after school activities.

Summer dresses can be worn until 30 September. From 1 October until Easter we would like to see all girls in full winter uniform.

Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled as it can be very confusing when changing for PE swimming etc.



### PE Uniform

Last year we introduced a new PE Uniform for P3 - P7. We are hoping that all children will have this uniform in the next 2 years. Our PE Uniform consists of a half zip and Canterbury style bottoms or plain navy shorts/bottoms - No Stripes PLEASE (available in McCall's), both with school logos on and can be purchased from O'Neill's in Kennedy Centre.

Pupils are ONLY permitted to wear this PE Uniform into school on days when they are having PE, swimming, badminton etc. or are participating in a sporting after school activity. This means there have been fewer lost property items as there has been no changing.

### Digital Schools Award!

Towards the end of last year, we applied for our Digital Schools Award. Assessors from Digital Schools will visit the school in the first term to see if we meet the criteria for this award. We are very hopeful that we will as we have worked so hard to update not only our ICT hardware but also our skills as well.

We will let you know when we have a date for the assessment.



## 'Being the best that we can be'

### Catering for Pupils with Special Dietary Requirements

The Education Authority currently provides for **special dietary requirements that have been medically prescribed**, including pupils who have allergies or are for ethical, religious or cultural reasons.

To guarantee the safeguarding of pupils with allergies, or any other special dietary requirement, the following steps should be taken:

1. Parents should complete the Special Diet/Allergy Form available at the school office to inform the school of pupil's dietary requirements and **must provide adequate information/ evidence e.g. letter from GP/dietician,**
2. Principal will inform Louisa, our school cook
3. Principal, Louisa and parent meet to discuss requirements and suitable food provision
4. Pupils dietary requirements are recorded and reviewed annually.

**Please note: Due to safeguarding reasons, we cannot heat up food in microwaves/ovens for pupils at lunchtime.**

### House System

Our House System will continue this year with children in P4 being allocated a new house in line with their sibling, if necessary. Each house will have a house colour and each child will wear a coloured badge to indicate their house.

Teachers, classroom assistants and lunchtime supervisors will be able to allocate house points throughout the week. Mrs Crilly as our PDMU coordinator will collate the points and award House of the week. Each house will have a house colour and each child will wear a coloured badge to indicate their house.

Pupils in P6 and P7 will have the chance to apply to be Vice-Captains and Captains of each house. The first house meeting of the year will take place on **Wednesday 19 September!**



### Exciting PE Opportunities!

This term we will continue to use our local community to offer exciting PE activities to our pupils. Details as follows:

P4 will attend Wallace Tennis Dome for tennis lessons weekly from Wednesday 12 September for 7 weeks. The cost is £2 per session / £14 for the 7 sessions.

P5 will attend swimming lessons in Lisburn Leisureplex from Friday 7 onwards. The cost is £2.20 per session/£28.60 for the 13 sessions.

P7 will attend badminton at Lisburn Racquets' Club from Friday 14 September onwards. The cost is £2.50 per session/£27.50 for the 11 sessions.

It would help us enormously if all sessions were paid for in advance. If this is not possible payment will have to be made on the Monday of the week attending. Thank you.



### Oh yes it's the Pantomime...Oh no it isn't

I know it's hard to believe that we are even thinking of Pantomimes and the sun is still shining but we want to give you advance notice of the date and cost. The Panto this year is "**Jack and the Beanstalk**" and the whole school will be going **Wednesday 5 December** (Further details will be sent out closer to the time).

The cost per pupil is £15. You can pay the full amount straight away or pay in instalments but the full amount needs to be paid before **Friday 19 October 2018.**



# 'Being the best that we can be'

## Values of the Month

Our "Values of the Month" will continue this year. We will consolidate these values with the same values each month. We will be encouraging children to display this value in class, in the playground and at home. We will explore each value during assembly time too. September's value is FRIENDSHIP. As we return to school we are renewing old friendships as well as making new friends. Our quote of the month to support the value of friendship is:

*"Friendship....is not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."* **Muhammad Ali**

We will present awards to those pupils in each class who display the value consistently throughout the month.

## Christmas Concerts

I know...it is only August and we are already thinking about Christmas. We just want to give you advance notice of our P1 & P2 Christmas Concerts. The dates for these are as follows:

- **Thursday 13 December @ 9.30am**
- **Friday 14 December @ 9.30am**

Further details after the Halloween break.



## Seesaw

This is an app we use to communicate directly with you as parents. It allows us to send you pictures of your child or of their work and even reminders about what is happening in school. Teachers will be sending you your own code in the coming weeks allowing you to register.



## Tweet Tweet!

Yes.... Our school twitter feed continues to be an extremely successful way of communicating with you as parents and celebrating our vibrant school. We now have over 560 followers! Our account details are **@stjosephlisburn**. If you haven't already done so, please do follow us for live updates...there's so much to see!



## School Fund

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> term of last year we introduced a new School Fund. We needed to do this because of the extreme financial constraints of our school. We are asking families if they would consider donating £10 per term or £30 per year to our school fund. We have over 270 families in St. Joseph's and if each family donated £10 per term this would give us an income of at least £8100 per year. This would be used to buy essential text books etc. to supplement the curriculum.

I would appeal to you that if you can please donate £10 to our school fund for this term. You can send in the money in an envelope marked school fund to your child's teacher or pay directly to the office. Thank you!



## Exciting News

We will be updating our Cool Kid's play facility around the boat area. Garden Escapes will begin on 28th August when Cool Kids is closed and will continue until week beginning 3rd September.

Cool Kids will still be fully operational during the week beginning Monday 3rd September. We will keep you up to date via text regarding pick up arrangements etc.

## ‘Being the best that we can be’

### Dates for your diary!

Mon 3 Sept	Healthy Planning 3pm - 4pm
Tues 4 Sept	Healthy Planning for P4 - P7 at 2.15pm - 4pm  Target Setting Day for P3 - P7 teachers. Mrs Hanna (Literacy Coordinator ) and Miss Clarke (Numeracy Coordinator) covered by Ms Gorman and Mrs Crilly
Wed 5 Sept	Healthy Planning for P1 - P3 at 2.15pm - 4pm
Thurs 6 Sept	<b>Registration for After School Activities at 8.15am in the school assembly hall</b>  Target Setting Day for P3 - P7 teachers. Mrs Hanna (Literacy Coordinator ) and Miss Clarke (Numeracy Coordinator) covered by Ms Gorman and Mrs Crilly  Mr Reid at Lisburn Primary School Football AGM at 3pm
Fri 7 Sept	<b>P7: AQE Closing date for applications</b>  P5 at swimming
Mon 10 Sept	Learning Support begins  3pm: ICT Coding Development
Tues 11 Sept	P6 Curriculum Meeting at 9am  PRSD Target Setting for teaching staff
Wed 12 Sept	P5 Curriculum Meeting at 9am  P4 at tennis
Thurs 13 Sept	P4 Curriculum Meeting at 9am
Fri 14 Sept	P3 Curriculum Meeting at 9am  P5 at swimming  P7 at badminton
Mon 17 Sept	<b>P1 pupils stay for lunch until 12.30pm</b>  <b>CODING WEEK</b> After School Activities begin today  Twilight Training for teachers 3pm - 6pm: Literacy
Tues 18 Sept	P2 Curriculum Meeting at 9am  <b>CODING WEEK</b>  Healthy Planning for P4 - P7 at 2.15pm - 4pm  Mrs Fleming at Lisburn Principals' Meeting at 2pm

Wed 19 Sept	Healthy Planning for P1 - P3 at 2.15pm - 4pm  <b>CODING WEEK</b>  P4 at tennis  House Meeting for P4 - P7
Thurs 20 Sept	<b>CODING WEEK</b>
Fri 21 Sept	<b>P7:GL Assessment closing date for applications</b>  <b>CODING WEEK</b>  P5 at swimming  P7 at badminton
Mon 24 Sept	<b>P1 pupils: Full day until 2pm</b>  Healthy Planning 3pm - 4pm  Board of Governors meeting at 6pm
Tues 25 Sept	Healthy Planning for P4 - P7 at 2.15pm - 4pm
Wed 26 Sept	Healthy Planning for P1 - P3 at 2.15pm - 4pm  P4 at tennis
Thurs 27 Sept	
Fri 28 Sept	<b>School Development Day: School closed for pupils</b>



**‘Being the best that we can be’**