

Newsletter – November 2017

Welcome back after our Halloween break. We hope you all had a lovely mid-term. This is a short term but a very busy one. There are only 7 weeks until we finish for Christmas so December will be upon us soon. As always enjoy this busy newsletter.

Pauline Fleming

Anti – bullying week

The annual Anti-Bullying Week takes place from 13th – 17th Nov. This year's theme is "All Equal, All Different, All Together". In St Joseph's we aim to provide a secure and loving environment where all our pupils can develop to their full potential. Anti-bullying is always at our core but, during this week, we bring it to the fore to raise awareness for children and parents. Each year group will focus on anti-bullying through workshops, activities and assemblies. The NSPCC will visit the school this week to deliver workshops and the Community Police will deliver a specific workshop on cyber-bullying.

Primary One will explore Bullying using Incredible Years Puppets. There will also be Emotions workshops.

Primary Two will explore being 'Different but Equal' through Rainbow Fish activities.

Primary Three will use drama activities and hot seating using 'Toy Story' to explore Anti-Bullying Playground scenarios.

Primary Four will create online Anti Bullying posters and participate in Circle Time activities on friendship.

Primary Five will also create online Anti Bullying posters and use story scenarios on different types of bullying.

Primary Six and Seven will create I-Movies and Ms Therese Gorman will deliver Creative Voices Workshops on Anti Bullying. The NSPCC & PSNI will visit the school to conduct workshops on cyber bullying.

All our great work will be available on Seesaw and Twitter #allequalalldifferentalltogether

Our 'Care and Respect' booklet will be issued to you. Please take the time to discuss the booklet with your child. If you have any questions, worries or concerns regarding bullying then please don't hesitate to contact us.

BOOK FAIR - week beginning Monday 25th November

Once again we look forward to welcoming our annual **Scholastic Book Fair** to the school. This is a great initiative in which we are able to purchase lots of new books for our school based on the amount we sell. As always the Fair will be led and run by our P7 pupils as a business - a great opportunity to develop their sales and marketing skills! Please support the Fair and with Christmas coming it's a great chance to purchase those all-important books as gifts!

Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families!

*Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the World Meeting of Families 2018. From 21 – 26 August 2018, families from all over the world will gather to celebrate their lives together to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. Catholic schools have been invited to participate in a 1 year catechetical programme ahead of August 2018. The theme of this programme is: **Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families.***

During this year we will reflect on and celebrate the relationship that exists between home, school and parish through participation in 4 sub-themed catechetical moments.

The moments are as follows:

Moment 1: Families of Hope November 2017

Moment 2: Families of faith January 2018

Moment 3: Families of Love Lent 2018

Moment 4: Families of Joy April/May 2018

Moment 1: Families of Hope November 2017

This moment is rooted in our belief in the promise that Jesus made when he said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die.' Our hope is that death is not the end but at the end of our time here on earth we will be reunited eternally with Jesus in heaven. Pope Francis writes that hope is an essential part of family love.

In St. Joseph's we will be following these moments during our religion lessons this year.

Mrs Fleming received the best ever letter in the post last week when she received a letter from Charlie and Nancy! In it was a lovely Halloween card lots of news from Bristol. Please keep Charlie and his family in your prayers as I know they deeply appreciate it!

‘Being the best that we can be’

Value of the Month

Our “Value of the Month” for November is RESPONSIBILITY. There is always a lot of talk about rights but with rights come responsibilities. This is a particularly apt value especially as we will be celebrating ‘Anti-Bullying Week’ in November.

“The price of greatness is responsibility”

Winston Churchill

PTA News:

We had a very busy but productive PTA meeting on Tuesday night with lots of planning taking place for future events. As you know, the PTA had their most successful year to date last year as thanks to your continued support they raised over £9,000 to support the school and your child's education.

So far this year the PTA have purchased stationery for each class and paid for the annual pantomime deposit.

Over the next few years the PTA plan to replace all the Interactive Whiteboards in classrooms with new Clevertouch Smart Boards. All funds raised by the PTA at future events will go towards this project. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Coffee Morning:

Thank you to everyone who came along to the recent Coffee Morning. It was lovely to welcome so many parents, both old and new. We hope to make this a regular event!

Christmas Cards:

All Christmas Card designs have now been sent off to the Class Fundraising company. In a few weeks you will receive your child's sample card and an order form.

Christmas Bazaar:

Thursday 7th December from 5pm-7.30pm.

This is always a wonderful event and a great way to start our Christmas celebrations in St Joseph's.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at the Bazaar please leave your name into the office or leave us a message on our Facebook page.

Christmas Concerts December 2017

Primary 1 and Primary 2 will once again take to the stage to put us well and truly in the mood for Christmas.

The dates for the two Christmas shows are:

- **Thursday 14 December at 9.30**
- **Friday 15 December at 9.30am**

Tickets will go on sale on **Monday 13 November** and will cost £4 each. We will limit tickets to 4 per family until all families have been accommodated and then open up the remainder for sale after that.

House System

Congratulations to our P6 & P7 pupils who applied for the roles of House Captain and Vice-Captain. We were very impressed at the standard of applications received. The Pupils were very engaged and showed great enthusiasm, maturity and commitment. Thank you to all who applied and congratulations to the new Captains and Vice Captains detailed below.

Houses	Captain	Vice Captain
Beziers	Emily Scanlon	Tadhg McMaster
Vincent	Richard Mathew	Sarah Joseph
Pierre	Klara Sloan	Rebecca English
Denise	Charlie Dooley -McLaughlin	Katie Longley
Galihac	Matthew McGuinness	Lucy White
Hennessey	Eoin Ryan	Kiera McLorinan

ICT is going from strength to strength in St Joseph's. This year we will be celebrating our first ever **Code Week** 27th November - 1st December. The children will have a wonderful opportunity to participate in various coding activities from BeeBot and ProBot to Sphero, Scratch and Tynker and LOT'S MORE!!!!!! The children will learn to develop their computational thinking and will problem solve through various practical activities. Skills for the future! Keep an eye on our twitter feed and SeeSaw for photots!

‘Being the best that we can be’

Post-Inspection Update

Literacy

- 1. Targets** Following assessments in PTE in May, teachers in P4 – P7 have looked at their class data and set targets which are built into their planning. Targets are focussed on the learning and teaching and are linked to specific areas in Literacy. These targets are shared with the pupils too so that they know the steps they need to take in order to make good progress in their learning.
- 2. Book Call** As part of our monitoring and evaluating cycle a book call took place and this involved looking at a range of Literacy and Creative Writing books across the whole school. The following areas of strength were identified overall:
 - Literacy activities are well matched to the learning intentions in overviews and planners
 - Clear evidence of a range of planned activities taught and carried out by pupils.
 - Across the whole school, the vast majority of Literacy related activities are linked directly to class theme/topic
 - Specific reading learning outcomes evident in pupil activities in Literacy books
 - Learning intentions from the Grammar overviews are evident through reading and writing activities, short exercises and tasks to reinforce. Extended vocabulary work is evident to consolidate and reinforce
 - Differentiation was evident throughout in the form of scaffolding tasks for less able, frameworks, less amount, different activities
 - **Marking for Improvement:** Commentary from teacher indicates level of support given, specific feedback relating to the learning intention – a lot of evidence to suggest teachers are using Assessment for Learning e.g teachers are providing pupils with clear strategies to help the pupils to improve their learning.
- 3. Literacy Support** Children have been identified and have begun a programme of Literacy support tailored to their specific needs in Literacy.
- 4. Lexia** We are pleased to be able to offer 50 places to target a range of skills practise for specific areas in Literacy. This is a personalised learning programme which closely matches the child’s needs.

Numeracy

Target Setting:

Following PTM Assessments in May, teachers in P4 – P7 have looked at their class data and set targets for children. Targets are linked to specific areas for improvement in Numeracy which were highlighted in the PTM tests. These targets have been shared with the pupils so that they are aware of how they can improve their learning.

Numeracy Support:

Through data analysis and discussions with teachers, children have been identified to take part in a Numeracy support programme tailored to their specific needs in Numeracy.

Book Call:

In October, as part of the monitoring and evaluating process, a book call in Numeracy took place. The co-ordinator analysed 6 Numeracy Books from each class across the school, including Problem Solving Books in Key Stage 2. The following areas of strength were identified:

- Throughout the school children continue to take part in a wide range of learning experiences in maths to develop their mathematical thinking, knowledge and skills.
- Numeracy activities are well matched to the learning intentions in monthly planners.
- Clear evidence that practical work is taking place through photographs being included in books.
- Lots of high quality Problem Solving and Word Problem tasks being completed throughout the school, especially in KS2.
- Children are beginning to develop skills to help them solve Word Problems using the RUCSAC method (P3-7).
- Tasks are being differentiated to suit the different abilities within each class.

- Photographic evidence being used to showcase learning that is taking place.
- Problem Solving books in Key Stage 2 are of a very high quality.
- Marking for Improvement – teachers’ comments identify areas for improvement and children are given opportunities to go back and correct mistakes.

Numeracy Observations:

As a further part of the monitoring and evaluating process, Miss Clarke carried out Numeracy Observations in each class. The focus of the observations was the teaching of Word Problems. The following areas of strength were identified:

- In all lessons observed, the children were using a wealth of mathematical language whilst developing their ability to solve word problems.
- All children in P3-7 are becoming familiar with the RUCSAC method of solving word problems.
- All children in Foundation Stage are developing their understanding of mathematical language through the use of stories, visualisation tasks and practical activity.
- Learning intentions and success criteria are being shared with the children at the beginning of each lesson.
- Children were able to explain their thinking and describe what they were doing with confidence.
- In the majority of lessons observed children were using their knowledge of the strategies of mental calculation with confidence to help them find solutions to the problems.
- ICT is being used more effectively to enhance learning experiences in Numeracy across the school.
- In all lessons observed differentiation took place to ensure that the needs of all children were catered for.
- Children were working well in pairs and in groups to solve a wide range of word problems.

ICT

In October, as part of the monitoring and evaluating process, a Virtual book call in ICT took place. The co-ordinator analysed 6 pupils’ ICT tasks from each class P3-7. The following areas of strength were identified:

- All children spoke about their regular use of the ICT suite and using ICT in their classrooms especially iPads
- Throughout the school the children took part in a wide range of ICT activities to develop their ICT skills across the 5 E’s (Explore, Express, Exchange, Exhibit and evaluate)
- All children could talk about the CEA ICT task they had completed and the specific skills they had to use.
- ICT is well matched to the Learning intentions in the monthly planners.
- Clear evidence of ICT being used across the curriculum especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Clear evidence that iPads are being used through photographs and children’s discussions on apps.
- Children in KS2 are beginning to evaluate their tasks
- CEA Tasks are being differentiated to suit the different abilities within each class.

Seesaw

Our ICT coordinator, Mrs Gould attended training during the Summer and is now a Seesaw Ambassador. All teachers attended training on using Seesaw this term. Seesaw is a student-driven digital portfolio which empowers students to independently document what they are learning at school and this is shared then to parents.

‘Being the best that we can be’

Dates for your diary!

Mon 6 Nov	Pupils return after school Refresher Week in Learning and Teaching 3pm: Literacy Collegiate Book Discussion
Tues 7 Nov	P3 Ms Kitt and P6 Mr Gallagher at pottery in Island Arts Centre Mr Gallagher: Beginning Teacher Course: SUB: Ms Gorman Refresher Week in Learning and Teaching Road of Hope Shoebox Collection Day Mrs Fleming at C2K Inspire conference in Titanic Refresher Week in Learning and Teaching Miss McAnerney at CCEA ‘Sharing Maths Ideas’ at St. Joseph’s PS, Crumlin 2.15pm – 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P4 – P7
Wed 8 Nov	Transfer Club at 8am P3 at tennis Refresher Week in Learning and Teaching 2.15pm – 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P1 – P3 Friends School: Science Workshops with P6 Mrs Hanna 2pm – 3pm P6 at tennis
Thurs 9 Nov	P1 – P4 Awards assembly Refresher Week in Learning and Teaching 11am CCMS Alana Willis meeting Mrs Fleming Mindfulness for P7 pupils <i>P7 Netballers at Leisureplex - 1.45-4.00pm</i>
Fri 10 Nov	Mrs Refresher Week in Learning and Teaching P5 – P7 Awards Assembly P5 at swimming
Mon 13 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week Mr Gallagher at Beginning Teacher Course SUB: Ms Gorman Tickets go on sale for P1 and P2 Christmas Concert 3pm Mathematics Collegiate Book Discussion
Tues 14 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week P3 Ms Kitt and P6 Mr Gallagher at pottery in Island Arts Centre Healthy planning for P4 – P7 teachers from 2.15pm – 4pm Mrs Fleming at C2K Training from 12.30pm Foundation Stage Literacy Workshop: Reading and Writing in Primary 1 and 2 at 6pm
Wed 15 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week Transfer Club at 8am (Mrs McCambridge only) P3 at tennis Mrs Fleming at CCEA training Healthy planning for P1 – P3 teachers from 2.15pm – 4pm

	P6 at tennis Friends School: Science Workshops with P6 Mrs Hanna 2pm – 3pm
Thurs 16 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week Flu Vaccination for pupils Mrs Gould at CCEA ICT Coordinator training Digital Leaders’ Assembly for P1 – P4 PTA Meeting at 7pm
Fri 17 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week Flu Vaccination for pupils Digital Leaders’ Assembly for P5 – P7 P7 at badminton P5 at swimming
Mon 20 Nov	3pm ICT: Coding Workshop for teachers Board of Governor Meeting at 6pm
Tues 21 Nov	
Wed 22 Nov	Pupil Conference 1 P3 at tennis
Thurs 23 Nov	
Fri 24 Nov	P7 at badminton P5 at swimming
Mon 27 Nov	CODING WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH’S! 3PM: Healthy Planning Session for all teachers
Tues 28 Nov	CODING WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH’S! P2 Miss McAnerney and P5 Mrs Gartland at pottery in Island Arts centre 11am: Energy Efficiency Talk for P6 and P7 2.15pm – 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P4 – P7 Mrs Fleming at Lisburn Principals’ Meeting at 2.15pm
Wed 29 Nov	CODING WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH’S! Transfer Club at 8am 2.15pm – 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P1 – P3
Thurs 30 Nov	CODING WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH’S!
Fri 1 Dec	CODING WEEK @ ST. JOSEPH’S! P5 at swimming Safeguarding Team Meeting at 8.30am

Please remember to keep an eye on the Friday Notes for dates, activities and extra information.

Thank you!

‘Being the best that we can be’

September Award Winners

Primary 1

Value of the Month: Friendship	Ella McDermott Lucy Brownlees
Pope Francis Award	Annie Murphy Nathan Taggart
Writer of the Month	Isla Corr Holly McCann
ICT Whizz of the Month	Darragh Moran Max McDonnell

Primary 2

Value of the Month: Friendship	Cillian Oakes-Campbell Lucy Jess
Pope Francis Award	Aubrey Rose O’Reilly Francesca McConville
Writer of the Month	Patrick Feeney Matthew Schumann
ICT Whizz of the Month	Adam Maloret Kian Kennedy
Mathlete of the Month	Sam Bowman Nicholas Badoi

Primary 3

Value of the Month: Friendship	Elle Dowds Rose Magee
Pope Francis Award	Ciara Wilkinson Andrew McLorinan
Writer of the Month	Kori Jennings Eve Trimble
ICT Whizz of the Month	Fearghal Hale Roisa Maginness
Mathlete of the Month	Ethan McKeown Caleb English

Primary 4

Value of the Month: Friendship	Jack McCann Olivia O’Neill
Pope Francis Award	Kaitlin Stewart David McCay
Writer of the Month	Ruby Lavery Eimear Rafferty
ICT Whizz of the Month	Hannah O’Neill Sarah Duffy
Mathlete of the Month	Wjociech Tunkiewicz Michael Radcliff

Primary 5

Value of the Month: Friendship	Sabrina Brown Anna McDonnell
Pope Francis Award	Hannah Dougherty Tomas Fay
Writer of the Month	Callum Agnew Katie Roche
ICT Whizz of the Month	Eoghan-Rua Rowlands Barra Noble
Mathlete of the Month	Imogen Murray Barra Noble

Primary 6

Value of the Month: Friendship	Daniel Maguire Katie Longley
Pope Francis Award	Yzabelle Pacia Katie Neill
Writer of the Month	Lucia McConville Molly Gribbon
ICT Whizz of the Month	Tadgh McMaster Kamilla Kowalczyk
Mathlete of the Month	Yzabelle Pacia Rebecca English

Primary 7

Value of the Month: Friendship	Mia Law Aoife Doherty
Pope Francis Award	Ray brady Ronan Boylan Richard Mathew
Writer of the Month	Mia Law Ella Maloret
ICT Whizz of the Month	Ronald Mathew Ryan Walker
Mathlete of the Month	Cillian Quinn Caitlin Finlay

Mathletics Class Awards

Congratulations to Miss Clarke’s class (80 860 points) and Mrs Gartland’s class (89 450 points) who won the class awards for Mathletics in Key Stage 1 and 2

Mathletics Gold Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved ‘Gold Awards’ in Mathletics in September:

- Nara Beggs-McCormick (P4)
- Finn Lappin (P5)
- Charlie Dooley-McLaughlin (P7)
- Ella Maloret (P7)

‘Being the best that we can be’