



'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 19 January 2018

No.15

Looking back...

Adverse Weather Closure on Wednesday

Thank you so much for your understanding on Wednesday. Having considered all of the factors and carried out a risk assessment using the key questions below, we felt we had no other option but to close the school. The safety of our pupils, staff and everyone associated with St. Joseph's is always our paramount concern and first priority. We never make these decisions lightly and we fully understand and recognise the complications of childcare that occur when the school is unavoidably closed. Thank you.

Below is our adverse weather policy which was also shared on our December newsheet.

Adverse Weather Policy

As winter is well and truly here, I thought it would be wise to share our adverse weather policy with you at this stage. I love to see the snow but only at the weekend!

This policy sets out the school's action plan for adverse weather. In times of extreme weather, such as a heavy snowfall, the Principal and Senior Leadership Team will consider the checklist below to see if it is necessary to close the school

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team will begin the process by answering these questions related to the safety of pupils and staff:

1. can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
2. can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
3. in an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
4. is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
5. Transport – can buses, meal deliveries, etc., reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
6. If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the Pupil Teacher Ratio acceptable? An acceptable PTR would be 1:30
7. Have local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling, been declared hazardous?

Having considered each question carefully, the Senior Leadership team will complete a Risk assessment based on the answers. They will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 'No' to any of the 7 questions

If a decision is made to close

- Here in St. Joseph's P.S. we have a text message service to inform parents if the school is closed and again when the decision is taken to re-open
- All parent contacts will be sent a text message
- Radio Stations – BBC Radio Ulster will also be informed
- We will use our twitter feed to communicate the closure

Looking ahead....

Catholic Schools Week

As a Catholic school we will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week in the week beginning 29 January.

The theme of this week is "Called to be a Family of Families." This is so apt for our school. We will mark the week with a Mass for P4 – P7 pupils on Tuesday 30th January at 10am in St. Patrick's Chapel. Please come along and join us if you can. We will also have 2 parent assemblies:

- P2 Miss Beatty on Thursday 1 February at 9.30am
- P5 Mr Reid on Friday 2 February at 9.30am

Please join us for these events if you can.

St. Brigid's Day

We will also be celebrating St. Brigid's day on 1st February as part of Catholic Schools Week. Ms Gorman will be demonstrating how to make St. Brigid's Crosses with reeds and rushes. If you can collect reeds and rushes can you send them into Ms Gorman in the week beginning Monday 29 January. Thank you.

Safeguarding and Child Protection: School Playgrounds

We would like to remind parents that children must be dropped off at the top of the playground steps in the morning. As part of our safeguarding procedures parents should not enter into either of the two playgrounds. Thank you.



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Sacramental Dates for P3, P4 and P7

Primary 3: First Confession

First Confession will take place on **Wednesday 21 March at 10.45am** in St. Patrick's Chapel. In preparation for receiving this sacrament parents are invited to come along to a **Commitment Service on Thursday 1 March at 11am**. This will take place in the school assembly hall and teachers will share important details about First Confession with you then.

Primary 4: First Communion

First Communion takes place on Saturday 12 May at 10am in St. Patrick's Chapel. Primary 4 will prepare for receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist by participating in a 'Breaking of Bread' Service on Wednesday 18 April at 11am in the school assembly hall. Parents are invited along to this service and teachers will share important information about First Communion Day as well.

Primary 7: Confirmation

Confirmation for Primary 7 pupils will take place on **Friday 9 March at 11am in St. Patrick's Chapel**. In preparation for making their Confirmation parents are invited to our 'Service of Light' on Tuesday 27 February at 7pm. Important information about Confirmation will be shared with parents then.

Transfer meetings for Primary 7 Parents

Mrs Fleming will be holding 'Transfer Meetings' with parents of all 49 P7 pupils in the week beginning Monday 29 January.

What's happening next week?

Monday 22 January 2018	Tuesday 23 January 2018	Wednesday 24 January 2018	Thursday 25 January 2018	Friday 26 January 2018
Refresher Week	Refresher Week	Refresher Week	Refresher Week	Refresher Week
Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill PS Mrs O'Hare SUB: Miss McKeown	Mrs Fleming at CCEA	P5 at tennis	Digital Leaders' Assembly	Lepra Assesmly P1 – P4 @9.30am
P4 Mrs Gould at Lisburn Library: Please bring along your library card	Pottery P2 Miss Beatty P5 Mr Reid	Mrs Connolly: SENCO Development Day: SUB: Miss Grogan	P6 at Linen Museum 9.30am – 1pm Please bring a packed lunch	P5 – P7 @10am
Fundamentals for P2: Pupils should wear PE gear to school	Mrs Connolly: SENCO Development Day: SUB: Miss Grogan	Literacy Classroom Observations in all classes: Mrs Hanna SUB: Miss McNally	Robert Thompson EA to see Mrs Fleming at 11am	Hive Hackers in P6 Mr Gallagher and P7 Mrs McCambridge
Mrs Connolly: SENCO Development Day: SUB: Miss Grogan	Literacy Classroom Observations in all classes: Mrs Hanna SUB: Miss McNally	Athletics Event for Eve Watson and Anna Broderick	Athletics Event for Eve Watson and Anna Broderick	P7 swimming
Indoor hurling at St. John's 1.30pm – 3pm Mrs Gartland + 8 pupils	Tag Rugby for P7 Mrs McCambridge 1.45pm – 2.30pm: PE Gear	2.15pm – 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P1 – P3		P6 badminton
3pm Healthy Planning Session for all year groups	2.15pm – 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P4 – P7			
CCMS Education Adviser Alana Willis Management Training for Coordinators				
Board of Governor Meeting at 6pm				

Have a lovely weekend!
Pauline Fleming Acting Principal



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