

Newsletter – March 2019



Welcome to our March Newsletter. It's hard to believe that we have reached March already! March marks the start of Spring and what glorious weather we have had this week.....Spring has sprung.

March is a busy month in school with parent consultations and our Lenten charity fundraising. As usual we will keep you updated with our Friday Note, Twitter, Seesaw and texting service.

Pauline Fleming, Acting Principal

Reporting to Parents

This month Primary 1 - Primary 6 teachers will be reporting on pupil progress.

Parent Consultations will take place in the week beginning Monday 11 March.

School will close for all pupils at 2pm to facilitate these meetings and there will be no after school clubs. Places in COOL KIDS MUST be booked by today Friday 1 March.

Please note the following pick up arrangements for that week:

All P1 - P3 children with no siblings in P4- P7 must be picked up at 1.45pm at their normal pick up point

P4 - P7 pupils with siblings must be picked up at 2pm at their normal pick up points



Celebration of the Sacraments for Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 7

We are looking forward to celebrating the sacraments of First Confession and Confirmation with our Primary 3 and Primary 7 pupils this month

Primary 3: First Confession

First Confession will take place on **Thursday 28 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 7 March at 9.30am**. This will take place in the school assembly hall and teachers will share important details about First Confession with you then.

Primary 7: Confirmation

Confirmation for Primary 7 pupils will take place on **Thursday 21 March at 11am** in St. Patrick's Chapel.

In preparation for making their Confirmation parents are invited to our 'Service of Light' on **Tuesday 5 March at 7pm**. Important information about Confirmation will be shared with parents then.



Michael Longley Poetry Workshop

We are so delighted that the celebrated poet, Michael Longley will be visiting our school next Tuesday. Michael's grandchild Katie is currently in Primary 7 so Michael will be working with our Primary 7 pupils and helping them to strengthen their poetry writing skills.



'Being the best that we can be'

The Momo Challenge

It has come to our attention that some pupils have been talking about the 'MOMO CHALLENGE' in school. We want to make you aware of this very dangerous challenge that appears to be gaining popularity with children and young people.

Momo is a new viral game that encourages players to perform a series of challenges to meet 'Mother Bird' - a disfigured character (inspired by Japanese art) with bulging eyes and untidy black hair on a chicken-like body.

Light-hearted and fun at the outset, this game experience quickly darkens, absorbing players who are encouraged to perform acts of violence and self-harm through a series of progressively risky challenges. Originating in Mexico, it is easily accessed through social media shares (predominantly Facebook and YouTube) and is rapidly spreading across the world.

Please follow this link to a MOMO factsheet for parents. Please also take time to talk to your children about the importance of confidently saying "no" to invitations to play games from strangers.

<https://2j39y52a62gm1afygb3g1xbu-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MOMO-Online-Safety-Guide-for-Parents-FEB-2019.jpg>

Shrek the Musical

Rehearsals are well under way for our fantastic, fun filled show **Shrek**. The Primary Seven children are working so hard at learning the routines, words and tricky songs. We hope our whole school community can support our show at the Island Hall on May 9th @7pm. We'll keep you posted with ticket details closer to the time.



Values of the Month

Our "Value of the Month" for March is RESILIENCE

"Don't leave home without it...you were born with Bounce-Back Ability"

Ty Howard



Shared Education

We continue our Shared education programme with Harmony Hill.

What a great success our P2, P4 and P7 programmes have been this year.

P2 - The children from both schools have had a 'Play Day' in Ballynahinch. Later this month the children will meet up at each other's schools for outdoor play days.

P4 - The children took part in a variety of shared workshops in the Linen Museum, St. Joseph's and Harmony Hill. The P4 children took part in drama activities, played street games, made gas masks, saw some guns used in the war and learned about the life of an evacuee.

P7 - Children took in drama workshops, learned some stage combat, sang 'Where is the Love' by the Black-Eyed Peas together, did some amazing art based on Banksy and took part in the fantastic trade game where they learned about inequality in the world.

The staff have benefitted from some fantastic courses, including 'Playful learning in practice', 'Thinking Skills and personal Capabilities in Key Stage Two' and Mrs Mc Cambridge and Mrs Gartland will be attending STEM and Drama courses later this month. The feedback from staff from every course has been very positive and the children are benefitting in their learning. We will be applying for the courses available in Term 3.



‘Being the best that we can be’

Wear Green for St Patrick's Day

St. Joseph's will be going green for St. Patrick's Day on Friday 15 March. Pupils are encouraged to wear green (NO UNIFORM) on this day. PTA have asked for a donation of £1 towards their fundraising for the school.

PLEASE NOTE: Green hair dyes/sprays are strictly prohibited due to several allergic reactions last year. Thank you for your understanding.



Mass for St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day

We will celebrate the patron Saint of Ireland and the patron Saint of our school with Mass in St. Patrick's Church on Thursday 14 March at 10am. P4 - P7 pupils will attend Mass (weather permitting). Please come along and celebrate with us if you can.



Traffic coming down the lane.

Please can we ask parents to let grandparents, child minders or anyone dropping children off and picking up from school that **NO traffic can come down the lane**. The gate will be locked at 8:45am and re-opened at 9:10am. The correct procedures must be followed by all to ensure the safety of all children. Thank you

LENT

Wednesday 6 March is Ash Wednesday

and this marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time when we prepare for Easter. Traditionally in St. Joseph's it is a time when we fundraise for charities, especially Trocaire. Classes will organise their own special charity fundraising events during the next 6 months. Each class will also have a Trocaire box, so you can send in all your loose change.

Trocaire's theme this year is 'Love can conquer fear.' They share the stories of Maria from Guatemala, Patricia from Uganda and Maya from the Lebanon who all live in fear. Follow this link to learn more:

<https://www.trocaire.org/>



Parent Assembly

Mrs Gartland's Primary 6 class will celebrate their parent assembly on Friday 22 March at 9.30am. Parents of pupils in Mrs Gartland's class are invited along.

Primary Four Evacuee Day

What a brilliant day P4 had when they dressed up as evacuee children. The costumes were fantastic, and some children even brought in some very old toys!

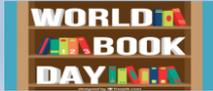
The children took part in many activities to experience life in the time of World War II

- We visited the war memorials in Castle Gardens.
- Learned street games and played these including some old clapping games.
- Wrote evacuee diaries
- Made evacuee lunch boxes.
- Took part in a war time tea

‘Being the best that we can be’

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7 March is World Book Day. The theme of this year's day is 'Share a Story.' To celebrate, pupils will be participating in buddy reading sessions on the day. Pupils are also encouraged to send in photographs of themselves participating in 'EXTREME READING' We look forward to seeing them all next week.



Dates for your diary!

Fri 1 Mar	Appointment letters out for reporting to parents P7 Swimming P4 Badminton Olympic Handball for P6 Planner 5 ends Mrs Fleming at CCEA
Mon 4 Mar	Planner 6 begins P6 Mrs Gartland's class at Lisburn Library 3pm: Maths Development for teachers
Tues 5 Mar	Service of Light for Primary 7 pupils making their Confirmation: 7pm in the school assembly hall Michael Longley Poetry workshop for Primary 7 Indoor Athletics for P6/P7
Wed 6 Mar	Ash Wednesday Mrs O'Hare at STEM Training
Thurs 7 Mar	WORLD BOOK DAY Primary 3 Commitment Service at 9.30am in the school assembly hall Mrs O'Hare at STEM Training Mrs Fleming and Mrs Connolly at RISE Training at EA 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Fri 8 Mar	P7 at swimming P4 at badminton
Mon 11 Mar	REPORTING TO PARENTS WEEK: SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM TO FACILITATE PARENT CONSULTATIONS P6 Mrs Gartland's class at Lisburn Library Lisburn Community Police: Primary 1 Safety Workshop Mrs Crilly: EA Mathematics Course Board of Governor Meeting at 6pm
Tues 12 Mar	REPORTING TO PARENTS WEEK: SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM TO FACILITATE PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Wed 13 Mar	REPORTING TO PARENTS WEEK: SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM TO FACILITATE PARENT CONSULTATIONS
Thurs 14 Mar	REPORTING TO PARENTS WEEK: SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM TO FACILITATE PARENT CONSULTATIONS Mass for St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day: 10am in St. Patrick's Church Mrs Gartland: EA Drama Course
Fri 15 Mar	REPORTING TO PARENTS WEEK: SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM TO FACILITATE PARENT CONSULTATIONS 'Wear Green for St Patrick's Day' PTA Fundraising Day £1 donation (PLEASE NOTE: No green hair dye due to allergies) Mrs Gartland: EA Drama Course P4 at badminton P7 at swimming
Mon 18 Mar	St Patrick's Holiday: School closed
Tues 19 Mar	Mrs Fleming at CCEA
Wed 20 Mar	Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre for Primary 1 Mrs O'Hare STEM Course Primary 2 Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School
Thurs 21 Mar	CONFIRMATION DAY 11AM ST PATRICK'S CHURCH Primary 2 Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School
Fri 22 Mar	Primary 6 Mrs Gartland's class Parent Assembly at 9.30am P4 at badminton P7 at swimming
Mon 25 Mar	Lisburn Community Police: Primary 5/6 Safety Workshop
Tues 26 Mar	Primary 7 Love for Life Day PTA Meeting at 7pm
Wed 27 Mar	Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre for Primary 1
Thurs 28 Mar	PRIMARY 3 FIRST CONFESSION AT 10.45AM IN ST PATRICK'S CHURCH Mrs Gartland: EA Drama Course
Fri 1 March	P4 at badminton P7 at swimming Mrs O'Hare: Shared Education Development Day

‘Being the best that we can be’