



## *'Being the best that we can be'*

### **'Friday Note'**

**Friday 21 October 2016**

**No.4**

#### **Looking back...**

##### **Post Inspection Update**

Last week (Monday 10 October 2016) we held our first 'Collegiate Book Discussion' in school. Each teacher from P1 to P7 brought a range of books from their class in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT. We collectively looked at the 'Success Criteria' in each of these subjects and looked at the books for evidence. We were very pleased to see a range of evidence of the following:

##### **Literacy**

- A range of writing in all of the books.
- Use of 'Free Writing' books across the year groups to raise the profile of writing

##### **Numeracy**

- A wide range of problem solving activities in all year groups
- A range of practical materials being used to support the teaching of Mathematics and Numeracy
- Differentiated work in Mathematics

##### **ICT**

- The delivery of a range of ICT activities to develop pupil knowledge and skill across all year groups
- ICT being used effectively in classrooms to enhance pupil experiences

We have established a means of tracking pupil progression in ICT across the whole school which teachers are currently working on.

The coordinators for each of these areas summarised the improvements made as well as the further targets for improvement and presented this to the Board of Governors at their meeting on Monday 17 October.

In November, both myself and Robert Thompson (School Development Officer EA) will be observing lessons in Problem Solving in Mathematics and Numeracy in every classroom.

#### **Safeguarding**

As you will be aware there were a number of safeguarding issues raised in the ETI Inspection Report in May. The Department and the EA have plans in place for works which will be beginning in the next few weeks. These works are completely funded by the Department of Education and are not coming out of the school's allocated budget. They are as follows:

- Fobbed entry on all outer doors in the main school and in both mobile classrooms.
- Gates in the following areas:
  - ❖ At the bottom of the ramp at the rear of the school
  - ❖ At the end of the second mobile classroom down to the bottom playground fence
  - ❖ Just above the current barrier (staff car park) from Mrs Hanna's classroom and across to the fence at the ramp
  - ❖ To the left of the staff car park and across to Mrs Hanna's classroom.

These works are designed to allow us to control access to the school grounds and drawings of the proposed works are on the school website now for you to view.

#### **School Surveys**

Thank you to all of you who completed parent surveys this week. These are in the process of being analysed and we will send you the results in the week after Halloween.

#### **Nara McCormick**

Yes.... Nara got to shake hands with Tim Peake on Tuesday of this week. She shared all of her exciting experiences with assembly yesterday. What a great occasion for Nara and thank you for sharing it with us here in school.

#### **Parent assemblies**

We have already had 2 parent assemblies this term. Mrs Gartland's P5 class got the year off to a super start last Thursday with a beautiful assembly on 'Friendship' which was our value of the month in September. Miss Beatty's P2 class welcomed their parents yesterday for a lovely assembly on Autumn and being thankful. Thank you so much to both classes and well done!

#### **Sporting News!**

Well done to our P7 pupil 'Fionn Dobbin' who last week picked up the Belfast Media Group Award for '**Inspirational Young Golfer of the Year**'. We are so proud of you Fionn. You are a great ambassador for St. Joseph's.



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### PE Uniform

Don't forget P1 and P2 children wear their PE uniform into school on PE days. P4 children going to tennis on Mondays should wear their PE uniform to school on that day. Aside from that all other pupils should bring their PE gear into school to change into on PE days.

### Looking ahead...

Monday 24 October 2016	Tuesday 25 October 2016	Wednesday 26 October 2016	Thursday 27 October 2016	Friday 28 October 2016
<b>Reporting to Parents – please see your appointment letter</b>  P4 Tennis	<b>Reporting to Parents – please see your appointment letter</b>  BANK DAY – 1.30pm in the Assembly Hall  SALTO Gymnastics – with P2 pupils  Halloween Art workshops  Mrs Fleming at First time Principal Training at EA	<b>Reporting to Parents – please see your appointment letter</b>  Freddie Fitness day – come to school in your PE gear!	<b>Reporting to Parents – please see your appointment letter</b>  Halloween dress Up Day! Come to school to scare your teachers! Remember it's a PTA Fun day too so donations of £2 please. Thank you.  P1 and P2 Pupils Spooky walk!  Halloween Art Workshops	<b>Reporting to Parents – please see your appointment letter</b>  <b>EXCEPTIONAL CLOSURE DAY SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN</b>  <b>TEACHERS REPORTING TO PARENTS</b>

### Bank Day

We have teamed up with First Trust bank in Lisburn to help us to set up bank accounts for the children in our school. In order to open an account, all you have to do is come along to the school this Tuesday from 1.30 – 3.30pm with your 2 forms of ID a utility bill and Passport/Driving License and staff from First trust will be here to the all the details and open the accounts. After that we will be arranging a banking day when pupils can bring in their savings and First trust bank will collect and mark up books etc.

### Canteen Changes

In response to our pupil surveys we are making some changes to the P4 – P7 'second lunch'. Pupils told us that they found the canteen too noisy and it was hard to talk to their friends. So...from Monday 24 October, P4 and P5 children who take lunches will take their lunches in the canteen. P6 and P7 children who take lunches will have their lunch in their classroom. We believe this will significantly reduce noise in the canteen and will ease lunchtimes for pupils and staff. We'll let you know how it goes!

### Keeping Healthy!

The nights are getting longer and the days shorter...and I have been talking to pupils about the 3 things that can keep us healthy in Winter: plenty of sleep (so early nights please), eating healthily (healthy breaks please) and a little exercise (have fun at break and lunch please)

Only one week to go until mid-term break! Enjoy your weekend!

Pauline Fleming  
Acting Principal

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