



'Being the best that we can be'

'Friday Note'

Friday 9th December 2016

No.10

Looking back...

Post Inspection Interim Follow-Up Visit

On Monday we welcomed Jill Garland, our ETI District Inspector and John Murray for our Interim Follow-Up Visit. The feedback from their visit was very positive and we are now well on our way to full school improvement. A letter detailing the feedback was sent out on Tuesday for your information. We hope you had a chance to read it.

Open Night

What a fantastic evening on Tuesday when we held our Open Night. It really was a showcase for all the talent in our school and was a celebration of our pupil centred school. Our choir and folk group entertained parents on the evening and our pupil council and digital leader representatives told parents about their role in school. We are very proud of the children who were excellent ambassadors for St. Joseph's!

Adverse Weather

As we come into winter I wanted to let you know about the DENI and school policy in the event of adverse weather. Our 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 must consider the following checklist:

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 SMT will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 'No' to any of the 7 questions. If the decision is made to close the school, you will be contacted by text using our texting to parents service, we will post the notice on our school Twitter account @stjosephlisburn and we will contact Radio Ulster as well. In doing all of the above we are following strict DENI guidelines.

Christmas Bazaar

What brilliant evening we had at the Christmas bazaar...we are now well and truly in the Christmas spirit. Once again thank you so much to our brilliant PTA who have given up so much of their own time to prepare for the bazaar and to all the helpers on the night as well. We will keep you posted about how much we raised!

P1 and P2 Christmas Show

Tickets are still available from the office for these shows on the 15th and 16th December. Not to be missed!!

Wear your Christmas Jumper to school!

As part of our Christmas celebrations, children will be able to wear their Christmas Jumper to school instead of their school jumper on Wednesday 14 December. This will coincide with our school Christmas dinner. You can make a donation to our charity fund on this day as well.

MATHLETES OF THE MONTH!

There was a misprint in the December newssheet and the following Mathletes of the Month were omitted: Emma Lappin, Jamie Spence, Ethan McKeown and Caleb English. Well done children and keep up the hard work!



Acting Principal: Mrs Pauline Fleming BA PGCE PQH(NI)
Email: pfleming930@c2kni.net

Acting Vice-Principal: Mr Gavin Gallagher BEd PQH(NI)
Email: ggallagher630@c2kni.net
Tel: 92674901 Fax: 9262907
www.stjosephsschool.org
Twitter: @stjosephlisburn



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Looking ahead...

Monday 12 December 2016	Tuesday 13 December 2016	Wednesday 14 December 2016	Thursday 15 December 2016	Friday 16 December 2016
P6 and P7 choir at the PSNI Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Christmas Carol Service at Christ Church, Lisburn. All parents welcome	10am Choir singing in Lisburn city centre at B&M bargains. Come along and hear their lovely singing! PANTO DAY 'Cinderella' at the Grand Opera House	'Wear your Christmas Jumper to School Day' Christmas dinner in the Canteen P4 visiting Santa in the Linen centre 9:30 – 10:45 Mrs Con 10:45 – 11:30 Mrs Gould Choir singing in First trust bank in Market Square at 2pm	P1 and P2 Christmas Concert at 9.30am Choir singing at Thompson House	P1 and P2 Christmas Concert P6 Badminton/Squash – last session

Choir at Christ Church

We are absolutely delighted that our P6 and P7 choir have been invited to sing at the PSNI Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Carol Service. It will be held in Lisburn's Christ church on Monday 12 December at 11am. All parents, grandparents etc are invited to attend. We would love to see you there. We will perform along with Lagan College.

Panto Time

Tuesday 13 December is Panto Day. The pick-up arrangements are as follows:

- Pick up at **4pm**
- **Parents must park in Lisburn Leisureplex car park and walk through to Salto car park where our buses will be parked. All buses will be numbered and you will receive your child's bus number in a note on Monday.**

We would ask parents **NOT** to park in Salto car park as this causes lots of confusion on the day.

MIniversity Winners

Hoping you're feeling in the Christmas spirit. Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Pauline Fleming



Acting Principal: Mrs Pauline Fleming BA PGCE PQH(NI)
Email: pfleming930@c2kni.net

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Tel: 92674901 Fax: 9262907
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