



'Being the best that we can be'

'Friday Note'

Friday 24 February 2017

No.17

Looking back...

Another great week for sport in St. Joseph's...it just keeps getting better and better...

A huge congratulations to our Camogie team who made it through to the All County Final this week, the first St. Joseph's and indeed Lisburn team to do so. The girls played very well, once again defeating Christ the Redeemer and going on to fight hard in defence to curtail a strong Glenravel team. The final was a tough match with the girls losing to Ballycastle. They fought hard but Ballycastle just proved too strong in attack. It was an absolute pleasure to take these girls to the final, where they showed lots of the values we aim to instil here at St. Joseph's: determination, resilience, sportsmanship and respect. A special mention to Michael Stewart for his continued dedication to developing camogie and hurling here at St. Joseph's.

'Congratulations to the netball team who represented the school superbly at the Lisburn Area Finals on Thursday. The team won their first match against Central with a score of 11-0. They then played in the final match against Riverdale where they were unlucky to lose 7-6 in extra time. Two fantastic matches and we are so proud of the determination and team work displayed. The players on the day: Enya Daye (Captain), Hannah Gartland, Katie Magee, Shannon Johnson, Katrina Visomirskyte, Moya O'Kane, Eve Watson and Ella Maloret.'

Post-Inspection Update:

Maths Book Call Feedback:

In January Miss Clarke carried out a 'Book Look' in Mathematics. This involved looking at 6 Maths Books from each class in the school. The focus of the 'Book Look' was to see if the work in the books matched the work that had been planned for in the monthly numeracy planners, if work was being differentiated for all ability levels and if problem solving was taking place. The results from the book scoop were extremely positive across all year groups and showed that throughout the school children are taking part in a wide range of learning experiences in Maths to develop their mathematical thinking, knowledge and problem solving skills. Some of the areas of strengths included; high quality problem solving tasks being planned for and delivered, mathematical concepts being explored through practical activity, tasks being differentiated to suit all ability levels, very good use of photographs to showcase learning in books, high quality of presentation and using ICT to enhance learning experiences in Maths.

Literacy Pupil voice Feedback: As part of monitoring and evaluating learning and teaching in literacy, Miss McAnerney recently spoke to children from each class about their experiences of and feelings towards reading and writing in school. Following up on recommendations made in the ETI report, P1-P3 children discussed writing, particularly creative story writing. P4-P7 children talked about the different ways they learn their grammar and punctuation focus using novels and guided reading books. The outcome was very positive indeed! The pupils talked confidently and with enthusiasm and described a wide range of learning experiences taking place in their classrooms. All staff have received feedback and we will now continue to look at any areas for development and ensure continued improvement to learning and teaching in literacy across the school.

ICT Update: On Tuesday 21st February Mrs Gould & Mrs Toman attended i-Learn. It was a fantastic day of teaching and learning with I-pads. They have some great ideas for using iPads in literacy, play, assessment and coding. Mrs Gould's class will be piloting See-saw (a student-driven digital portfolio) from next week.

Professional Development for Classroom Assistants

This continued this week with the EA's Margaret Clarke delivering a session about Autism and ASD. Some of Cool Kids staff were able to join us for the session as well. All in all a very valuable session.

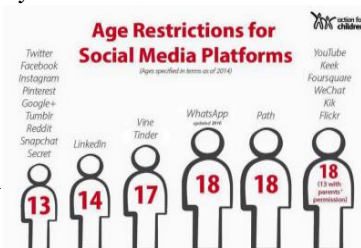
Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. We will have a short service at 11am and ashes will be distributed to P4 – P7 pupils. Louisa, our school cook has also altered the school dinner menu to breaded fish for that day.

First Trust Bank

The next 'Bank Day' will be Wednesday 8 March. First Trust representatives will be here to open new accounts if you missed the last day. Bring along 2 methods of ID – photo and utility bill...and they will do the rest. Keep saving!

Internet Safety We are becoming increasingly aware of children in our school using a wide range of social media platforms and this usage is beginning to spill over into school life as well. I would like to take this



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opportunity to remind parents of the age restrictions on social media platforms. Lisburn City Council are hosting training sessions for parents in 'Cyber Safety' in Lisburn Civic Centre on 15 March 6.30pm – 9pm. To make a booking, contact Children in Northern Ireland directly on 02890401290 or online at www.ci-ni.org.uk/cybersafety.

New Staffing

We extend a warm welcome to Mrs Grainne Adair to P7. Mrs Adair is covering Mrs McCambridge's class until the end of June. Mrs McCambridge has moved to cover P6.

Cool Kids Update

We welcome Mrs Hunter and Ms Vient to our Cool Kids team. Mrs Hunter will be taking a keen interest in the eco surroundings of our school and using the greenhouse more actively during Cool kids. Ms Vient comes with a background in music and dance so...both lovely additions to the Cool Kids team.

You may also have seen some renovation work ongoing this week on our canopy at Cool Kids. We are replacing the canopy and sides with a more solid structure that will be warmer and more durable during the winter months. It is making progress and should be completed in the next week or two. We also had the 2 cabins newly painted over the mid-term break. They are now clean and fresh for the spring!

World Book Day Thursday 2 March 2017

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day's 20th Anniversary (Thursday 2nd March) with pupils from all year groups taking part in a wide range of activities throughout the week. We will once again be hosting the 'Extreme Reading' competition for pictures of the most creative place to read with prizes for each class! Pupils will also receive their £1 book token which can be redeemed for one of the special edition books published. All classes will also take part in the 'Oodles of Doodles' design your own National Book Token where the first prize is £200 in book tokens! Throughout the week, each year group will be engaging in their own activities to celebrate with updates to be posted on Twitter. For more detailed information regarding World Book Day in St. Joseph's, visit the school website on Monday.

Congratulations...

A big congratulations to Grace Mulholland in P6 who is the first child ever to have completed the whole 'Lexia' Programme. We are so proud of Grace who has shown the true values of St. Joseph's in diligence, persistence, hard work and determination. Well done Grace!

Looking ahead...

Monday 27 February 2017	Tuesday 28 February 2017	Wednesday 1 March 2017	Thursday 2 March 2017	Friday 3 March 2017
Mrs Fleming at CCEA Appointment letters for parent teacher meetings in March...check schoolbags Class newssheets out to parents Mrs Crilly at Global Learning workshop 2.30pm – 4.30pm New Maths resource 'Izak 9' training for teaching staff at 3pm	Mrs Fleming at CCEA CPD for classroom assistants on 'Behaviour Management' with Orla Hendron (EA) P7 at pottery	Ash Wednesday Mrs Fleming at CCEA P5 at tennis (last session) Miss Clarke meeting Robert Thompson EA Numeracy Adviser Art and Design CPD Session 1 for fellow teachers from other schools	Mrs McManus Primary 1 Parent Assembly World Book Day P6 boys soccer quarter finals at Laurelhill with Mr Reid	Mrs Fleming at CCEA Mrs Gorman at EA Numeracy Course SUB: P6 Olympic Handball with Mrs Gartland

We are so delighted to see the brighter mornings and nights coming quickly. It means children attending Cool Kids get more time to play outside before and after school. This is so beneficially for them mentally and physically which has many deeper repercussions for their childhood and later life.

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