



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

### Friday Note

Friday 13 October 2017

No.5

#### Looking back...

##### Great news!

What a week! We are so delighted to have been awarded our **Eco School Green Flag!** This is testament to the hard work of this year's Eco Council but also our Eco Councils of previous years. Our assessor was very impressed with the knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm of our Eco Council members as they gave her a tour of the school grounds and brought her to visit the classrooms. We must say a very special thank you to Mrs Hunter whose quiet passion for all things green has brought our eco thinking to another level! Thank you Katrina! Now that we have our flag we just have to find a flag pole to hang it!

#### Meadowbridge Primary School Table Quiz

A big well done to Aoife, Conn, Molly and Daniel, our P6 and P7 pupils who took part in Meadowbridge Primary School's Table Quiz on Tuesday afternoon. This was the first time we have ever entered a team to this quiz and I was so proud of our pupils' performance! Their general knowledge was superb! Well done!

#### Primary 1 Curriculum Meeting

Thank you so much to our Primary 1 parents who attended our Primary 1 curriculum meeting on Tuesday evening. There was a great turn out. Thank you too to Mrs McManus, Mrs Crilly and Mrs Gorman for delivering the information so professionally.

#### 50 years and still going strong!

We would like to congratulate Mrs Mary Smyth who has been with St. Joseph's for an amazing 50 years this year. Mary started St. Joseph's in 1967 and she is still with us today in a voluntary capacity every Thursday morning providing extra musical tuition to our pupils. Thank you Mary!

#### Finance Update

You may well have seen a lot of media coverage about the current budget pressures facing schools in Northern Ireland. In St. Joseph's we are not exempt from this. We ended the financial year in March 2017 with a deficit of just over £45 000. This falls within 5% of our overall annual budget. As a school we are currently in exceptional circumstances and the Finance Committee on our Board of Governors recognise this and as such have not approved any cutbacks in services for children at this point. We hear of local schools charging for stationary or asking parents to provide their own. We have not taken this route as we acknowledge the financial pressures on all families in the current climate. Our big fundraiser of the year is Freddy Fitness. We would ask parents to please support this event in the form of sponsorship. If not obtaining sponsors then the minimum cost of participating for each child is £4. Thank you so much for all your support as always!

#### Post-Inspection Update

On Thursday of this week we had our third Post-Inspection Action plan review meeting. I am pleased to be able to tell you that both the Education Authority and CCMS Advisers present at the meeting were overwhelmed by the progress made from our last PIAP review meeting in April and commented on the amazing school improvements made so far as well as the knowledge, commitment and passion from the learning area coordinators. At this point we do not have a date for a follow-up inspection but the timescale would suggest that it will happen this year at some point before May 2018.

#### Numeracy and Literacy Book Scoops

Last week Miss Clarke, our Numeracy coordinator and Mrs Hanna, our Literacy Coordinator carried out our Baseline book scoops for the year. This involved taking a range of books from each class and analysing these against medium term planning as well as our success criteria in each of these learning areas.

#### Special Educational Needs

This week teachers updated their IEPs for pupils in their class along with Mrs Connolly, our SENCO. Mrs Connolly also observed a Literacy Learning Support lesson.



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### ICT Book Scoop

Next week Mrs Gould, our ICT coordinator will be analysing ICT evidence through a 'virtual' book scoop. This means she will be examining ICT pieces of work from a range of pupils in each class, ensuring they fit in with ICT planning and that they meet the developmental needs of the children. We'll keep you posted!

### £1 Coins

REMINDER: From now on we cannot accept the old round £1 coins for payment. Thank you

### Looking ahead...

### Roots of Empathy

We are so lucky that Miss Gallagher in Primary 3 is trained to offer this programme to our pupils. The purpose of Roots of Empathy is to build caring, peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. It teaches children emotional literacy and to have empathy towards others. This year Miss Gallagher will be delivering the programme in P3 Ms Kitt's class. Our little 'teacher' accompanying Miss Gallagher will be baby 'Tom McCann', Rory and Annie's newly born baby brother!

### PTA News

**Tuesday 17th October:** PTA meeting at 7pm in the school staff room. New members and volunteers are always more than welcome! Please come along if you can.

### Reporting to Parents

\*\*\*\*\***Reporting to Parents Week beginning: Monday 23 October 2017**\*\*\*\*\*

REMINDER: The school will close at 2pm each day to facilitate reporting to parents. There will be NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES that week.

Monday 16 October 2017	Tuesday 17 October 2017	Wednesday 18 October 2017	Thursday 19 October 2017	Friday 20 September 2017
<b>Maths Week Ireland</b>  8 weekly assessment week in P3 – P7  Literacy: Collegiate Book Discussion  3pm: C2K training for teachers on Using SIMS Effectively for assessment  Reporting to Parents Appointment Letters out	<b>Maths Week Ireland</b>  8 weekly assessment week in P3 – P7  P5 – P7 Choir at 8.20am  Pottery: P3 Ms Kitt & P6 Mr Gallagher  ICT Virtual Book Scoop  11am Energy Efficiency talk for P6 and P7  PTA Meeting at 7pm in school staff room Healthy Planning session 2.15pm–4pm P4–P7	<b>Maths Week Ireland</b>  8 weekly assessment week in P3 – P7  Transfer Club at 8am  Tempest Photographer in school for P1 photographs  Friends School pupils delivering science in P6 Mr Gallagher  Healthy planning session 2.15pm–4pm P1–P3  Girls Gaelic match at Lamh Dearg at 2pm	<b>Maths Week Ireland</b>  8 weekly assessment week in P3 – P7  P2 Miss McAnerney Parent Assembly  Mrs Fleming at C2k online safety briefing from 12.30pm	<b>Maths Week Ireland</b>  8 weekly assessment week in P3 – P7  Mrs Fleming at Assumption Grammar School Open Day for Principals

Have a lovely weekend!  
Pauline Fleming (Acting Principal)



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