

Newsletter – September/October 2019

It's unbelievable to think that September has come and gone and we are now preparing ourselves for October. The children all settled back to school life very quickly and have applied themselves to the very best of their ability.

I want to thank the school community for the way that I have been officially welcomed into this great school. I appreciate the kindness afforded to me and I very much look forward to working with you to continue this journey of school improvement.

Kind regards,
Declan Murray
Principal.

Reporting to Parents

P2 – P6 teachers will be reporting to parents during the week beginning Monday 21st October. School will close at 2pm every day to facilitate these meetings. There will be **NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES** that week. Homework club and Cool Kids club will remain unaffected.

In order to ensure the safe pick up of pupils from the school during that week we will implement the following arrangements:

- All P1 – P3 children with no siblings in P4- P6 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

Quiz Team

Good luck and best wishes to Hannah Rush, Finn Lappin, Oisín Farrell and Ronan Southwell who will represent St. Joseph's Primary School in the upcoming inter-schools table quiz hosted by Meadowbridge Primary School on Wednesday 16th October.

Charlie's Fundraiser for the Children's Cancer Unit Charity

Fintan and Clíodhna are running a charity fundraiser for the Children's Cancer unit on Saturday 16th November in St. Patrick's Parish Centre and would love your support. If you would like to run a stall or a craft workshop, please contact Maura 07879 867733 (stalls will cost £20). If you would like to donate any prizes for tombola or the ballot, please leave them into the school or the parish centre. This will be a lovely day for friends and family to get together for a great cause.

Mathletics

Mathletics is now open and ready for use for all children P2 – P7. P1 children are currently being registered and teachers will be in touch when this is up and running. Children have been given their passwords and their courses have been set. As detailed at curriculum meetings, recommended time for children using Mathletics is 40 minutes per week. Please ensure that the children complete the practice questions (gold bars) before completing the test in each area. Reminder - children are only awarded certificates for completing the curriculum areas, not Live Mathletics. Gold certificates will be presented monthly at assembly as well as Mathlete of the month from each class.

Mathletes of the Month for September

Class	Name	Activity Points
P2 Miss Mc Anerney	Isaac Mc Keown	4,590
P2 Mrs Crilly	Stella Magee	1,510
P3 Miss Clarke	Matthew Mc Conville	10,300
P3 Mrs Gould	Holly Mc Cann	5,200
P4 Mrs Hanna	Megan Mateer	4,430
P4 Mrs Connolly	Daniel Johnson	11,480
P5 Ms Kitt	Ethan Mc Keown	6,940
P5 Mrs Gorman	Sebastian Morrison	3,640
P6 Mrs Gartland	Hannah O' Neill	6,480
P6 Mrs Fleming	Olivia O' Neill	6,530
P7 Mrs O' Hare	Erin Mallon	1,780
P7 Mrs Mc Cambridge	Maria Mc Lorinan	2,320

KS2 Winners:

P6 Mrs Gartland 77,760

KS/KS1 Winners:

P4 Mrs Connolly 55,460

Gold certificate winners: Andrew Mc Lorinan (P5), Joanna Guo (P2), Tomasz Figlus (P3), Bronagh Bradley (P3) and Megan Mateer (P4).

Well done to the boys and girls for their successes. We look forward to seeing how our Primary One children do during the month of October.



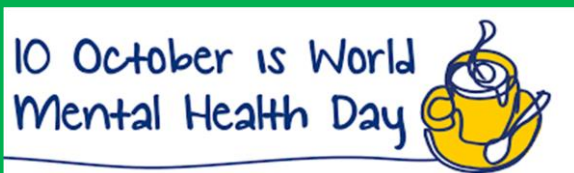
‘Being the best that we can be’

World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10th October we are asking pupils and staff to wear something yellow i.e. socks, hair clips, hair bobbles, hats or scarves in support of this charity. ***This is still a uniform day mixed with a splash of yellow somewhere.***

Please refrain from using make-up or hair dyes as these are not permitted.

We are asking for £1 as a voluntary donation per pupil. All money raised will be directly shared by the World Mental Health charity and our own ‘spirit of Charlie fund’. We really appreciate your support with this.



Sports Teams

Best of luck to the school teams for next week as we have children participating in the following:

- Antrim Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic for boys
- Flahavan's Athletic League
- Antrim Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic for girls

Team photographs and match reports/results will appear in the next Friday note home to parents.



Halloween Holidays

School will be closed to pupils from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November for Halloween holidays. We will reopen on Monday 4th November at the usual times.



Halloween Dress Up Day and Activities

On Friday 25th October the children will have the opportunity to come to school wearing their Halloween costumes if they choose. Masks are not permitted as they can scare the younger children.

Please note there is no charge for this day as we asked for contributions during the World Mental Health Day activities.

Mrs Rasa Braskiene will be carrying out activities and crafts for the P1 and P2 classes on this day. We are asking for the support of two parents/grandparents that could give a commitment on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th October to assist with the planned activities. If you can help please leave your name with Mrs Gibson in the school office.



Value of the Month

Our “Value of the Month” for October is courtesy. ***“Life is short but there is always enough time for courtesy”*** (Ralph Emerson).

Please help reinforce this message and our value of the month by talking with your children and highlighting examples of courtesy around the home and whenever you see examples of it outside.

Curriculum Meetings

We had very impressive parent attendances at our recently held curriculum meetings. It certainly is a positive sign that the partnership between school and the home is continuing to grow in a constructive way. Just a reminder that if you need you contact a teacher please make an appointment through the school office. Many thanks for your continued support.

‘Being the best that we can be’

P1 classes settling into life at St. Joseph's Primary School



‘Being the best that we can be’

October dates for your diary!

Monday 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 CAT4 Assessments
Tuesday 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 CAT4 Assessments P6 Basketball coaching P4 Tennis coaching
Wednesday 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 CAT4 Assessments Pottery lessons for P3 (SC) and P6 (PF) Cumann na mBunscoil Gaelic Day for boys
Thursday 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 CAT4 Assessments World Mental Health Day Flahavan’s Athletic League with Mrs Gartland
Friday 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 CAT4 Assessments P5 Ms Kitt parent assembly at 9.30am P5 Swimming P7 Badminton coaching GAA Fundamentals for P2 & P4
Monday 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths Week Ireland
Tuesday 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 Basketball coaching
Wednesday 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 & P7 Quiz Team attending Meadowbridge PS Pottery lessons for P3 (BG) and P6 (SG) P6 German and Spanish lessons
Thursday 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of Maths Week Ireland
Friday 18 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P1 class photographs P5 Swimming P7 Badminton coaching GAA Fundamentals for P2 & P4
Monday 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P2 – P6 pupil reports
Tuesday 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P2 – P6 pupil reports P6 Basketball coaching
Wednesday 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half term ‘House’ treat in the school canteen P2 – P6 pupil reports P7 classes attending Friends School for the production of Oliver (9.30 – 11.30am) P6 German and Spanish lessons
Thursday 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 Mass in St. Patrick’s Church at 10am P2 – P6 pupil reports
Friday 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P5 swimming P2 – P6 pupil reports Halloween dress up day

Adverse Weather Policy

During October the arrangements for school closures, through the ‘adverse weather policy’ are shared with parents.

This 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 will consider the checklist below to see if it is necessary to close the school

The principal and senior leadership team will begin the process by answering these questions related to the safety of pupils and staff:

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 team will complete a Risk assessment based on the answers. They will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 ‘No’ to any of the 7 questions

If a decision is made to close

- Here in St. Joseph’s PS we have a text message service to inform parents if the school is closed and again when the decision is taken to reopen
- All parent contacts will be sent a text message
- Radio Stations – BBC Radio Ulster will also be informed
- We will use our twitter feed to communicate the closure



‘Being the best that we can be’

September 2019 Award Winners

Primary 1

Value of the Month: Friendship	Ella Nokes Markeisha Louizsalva
Pope Francis Award	Martha Dowds Jack Jess
Writer of the Month	Orlaith Kerr Natalia Zabicka
ICT Whizz of the Month	Cormac O’ Reilly Eunan Mc Crudden
Spirit of Charlie Award	Oisin Plumb Erin Breslin

Primary 2

Value of the Month: Friendship	Madison Heatley Precious Aderbigde
Pope Francis Award	Tilly Lawlor Conor Schuman
Writer of the Month	Ruta Braskuite Adam Dempsey
ICT Whizz of the Month	Anna Mc Laughlin Lilia Bowman
Spirit of Charlie Award	Conor Feeney Ollie Neill

Primary 3

Value of the Month: Friendship	Sean Ellis Sunni Jerome
Pope Francis Award	Nora Quinn Patrick Mc Sparron
Writer of the Month	Darragh Moran Hollie Mc Cann
ICT Whizz of the Month	Olivia Ferris James Nokes
Spirit of Charlie Award	Mya Jennings Neesha Pollock

Primary 4

Value of the Month: Friendship	Tom Shanley Massa Najib
Pope Francis Award	Nicola Zabika Lila Grace Cunningham
Writer of the Month	Kian Kennedy Gabija Ramanauskaite
ICT Whizz of the Month	James Mc Laughlin Jay Corr
Spirit of Charlie Award	Ryan Mc Caffrey Daisy O’ Brien

Primary 5

Value of the Month: Friendship	Olivia Mc Donnell Klara Heyes
Pope Francis Award	Georgia Rooney-Reid Sarah Abraham
Writer of the Month	Eve Trimble Johnny Tohill
ICT Whizz of the Month	Ollie Gould Olivia Moore
Spirit of Charlie Award	Rose Magee Neil Jayan

Primary 6

Value of the Month: Friendship	Rosie Wright Sophie Mateer
Pope Francis Award	Olivia O’ Neill Emma Mc Kibben
Writer of the Month	Isaac Lagan Charlie Carleton
ICT Whizz of the Month	Nara Beggs-Mc Cormick Ronan Southwell
Spirit of Charlie Award	Freya Jose Jack Mc Cann

Primary 7

Value of the Month: Friendship	Sophia Mc Conville Jonah Dunlop
Pope Francis Award	Ella-Rose Watson Tomas Fay
Writer of the Month	Oran Lynch Hannah Rush
ICT Whizz of the Month	Eoghan Rua Rowlands Barra Noble
Spirit of Charlie Award	Erin Mallon Kieran Marsden