

St Joseph's Primary School

Newsletter - April 2016



Dates for your Diary

Mon 4 th	-Return to school for all pupils -After School Activities begin -P2 Miss Beattie's class 'Tree Trail' 9.30-11.00 Castle Gardens
Wed 6 th	-P1 Island Arts Centre Pottery Workshop -P3 Miss McCambridge – Art Workshop (IAC) -P7 Badminton
Tues 12 th	-P7 to St Aloysius 'Inside Out' Workshop -P3 Mrs McCambridge Science Workshop
Wed 13 th	-Primary Six Science Day in the Linen Centre -P1 Pottery (IAC) -P7 – Badminton
Thurs 14 th	-P7 Science Day
Tues 19 th	-P1's Teddy Bear Picnic/Hunt Castle Gardens
Wed 20 th	-Breaking of Bread Service 11am in school -P2 Pottery (IAC)
Thurs 21 st	-P7 Year Group Mass
Fri 22 nd	-Sponsored Activity Fun Day
Wed 27 th	-P7 Badminton -P2 Pottery (IAC)

First Aid

We have recently had a number of members of staff trained in First Aid after an intensive 3 day course. Our First Aid trained staff are:

Mrs Patricia Kelly, Miss Clare Manson, Mrs McGlade and Mrs Emma Noblett.

If your child has an accident at school and First Aid is provided, this information is recorded in our accident book. Remember that not every 'bump and bruise' requires First Aid attention and we are delighted that we have so many staff trained to make informed decisions.

Should your child sustain a bump to the head, it is our policy to phone you, explain the situation and allow you the parent to make the decision on whether or not to collect your child from school.

Parental Responsibility

It is very important to let the class teacher know if there are any changes to home circumstances particularly when children are with mum some days and dad other days. We need to record such arrangements in order to fulfil our duty to both parents. If you have not done so please ask for a Parental Responsibility, yellow form at the office or from your child's teacher.

Staffing

Good communication between the home and the school is very important for you and your child. Teachers are always willing to talk to you about your child's progress as soon as is convenient. Your child's teacher should be your first port of call if you have any issues, queries or concerns. Should your child's teacher be unavailable remember that each of our Heads of Key Stage may be able to help...

Foundation Stage - Miss Delaney
Key Stage One - Mrs Connolly
Key Stage Two - Mrs O'Hare

Mrs Connolly is also our SENCO (Special Needs) and Mrs O'Hare our Acting Vice Principal.

Mrs Connolly is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Mrs O'Hare is the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

St. Patrick's Gaelic Club

Easter Camp 2016

Wednesday 30th April – Friday 1st April

10am – 3pm @ Kirkwoods Playing Fields

Please contact Paul Law 079705 08576

Plaw90@hotmail.co.uk

Olympic Handball P6/P7

The P6 Olympic handballers have now completed all three days of leagues, so we await to see if they have made the finals. The P7 league will begin shortly after the P6 finals so we will keep you informed.

Physical Education

Post Easter, the children will focus on the discipline of dance and then athletics in preparation for sports day. In the final month of June, the children get the chance to participate in various games outdoors as the weather improves, such as tennis, rounders, hockey, hurling and camogie. P3 children will continue to receive Fundamentals coaching weekly and will attend tennis in the dome, P6's will attend weekly swimming lessons at the Leisureplex and our P7's will attend badminton at the racquets club

We would like to thank the racquets club for the excellent coaching in Badminton and Squash which the P5 children received recently.

Active Travel to School – Big Pedal

Mrs Gartland has registered the school once again for the Big Pedal Challenge which runs from the 18th -29th April 2016. This is an inter-schools competition in which schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents cycling or scooting to school. Whilst it takes place over 2 weeks, a schools best 5 days will determine their final position. The results will be recorded in school by each class and collated by the P5 children in Mrs Gartland's class, before they are entered onto the computer. You will be able to see how we are doing by logging on to the bigpedal.org.uk website.



Here, you will also be able to view the prizes available. There will also be prizes awarded for local schools by Sustrans. Pamela, our link officer from Sustrans will also be coming into school during these two weeks to do some workshops on bike maintenance, puncture repair, history of the bike and reducing carbon monoxide and pollution through active travel. We hope you will try your best to travel actively to school as much as possible during these 2 weeks. Remember we have the cycle pods in school and you can also walk or scoot to school. Get active, get fit, and help save our planet!

Lunchtime Play

As the weather has improved, children will be given the chance after Easter to use some equipment at lunchtime. This is being organised by Mrs Gartland who aims to use all the space available to give each year group a chance to practice skipping and ball skills and to ensure that children have the chance to receive most of their recommended 60 minute daily exercise at school. A concern here as always is safety, so we will be reinforcing to the children the need to use these resources safely and respectfully and we ask for your support in this matter by reinforcing the importance of this at home.

Athletics

Congratulations to Fay Powell from Primary Seven who has qualified for the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council team for the Athletics NI sports hall athletics finals 2016. The finals will take place on Wednesday 6th April at Lagan Valley Leisureplex, Lisburn and we wish Fay all the very best of luck.

Swimming Gala

The annual gala this year for P5-P7 will take place on Friday 13th May. The entries for swimming gala (P5-P7) have now been submitted and cannot be changed. More details on arrangements for this day will be sent closer to the time.

MIST Assessments

Our Primary two children will take part in MIST assessments on 5th April and 7th April.

The assessments will be administered by Miss Delaney in normal class time. This is annual assessment for children in this year group. Your class teacher will inform you of the outcome. A text will go home to tell you when these are in your child's bag.

Primary Three to Seven Assessments

We hope you have found the six weekly assessments helpful.

Our next assessments will come home before 22nd April. Please contact the class teacher if you do not receive this.

The assessment will show you how well your child is progressing and the level of work expected in a particular year group.

FOCUS OF THE MONTH

Our April focus of the month is uniform and presentation. Our uniform policy will be sent home at the beginning of Term Three.

Uniform

Please, please write your child's name clearly on each item of uniform particularly jumpers, ties and school coats so that these items can be returned to appropriate class if found around the school.

The yellow 'Lost Property' bin sits at the main Reception area. Please check, or send your child to check if any item has been 'lost' as this is where items are placed if they are not returned to their owner on the day they are found.

ICT Workshops

Primary Three to Primary Six children will take part in ICT workshops.

P3 – P5 Mathematics through Minecraft
P3 – P6 Developing Connected Learning through video making.

THANK YOU TO THE PTA FOR FUNDING THESE.

Cool Kids Summer Information

You should have received the information and booking forms for Cool Kids to be returned to school before May 27th.

Head Lice

Please make checking for Head Lice part of the weekly routine at home. If you discover that your child has Head Lice please arrange treatment and inform your child's teacher immediately.

Calling all amateur photographers

Belfast City Council is running a competition called ParkLife. They are looking for photographs of your favourite views in Belfast City Council parks or open spaces and should focus on landscapes, active spaces or art in the park.

For more information visit:

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/parkphotocompetition
or for more information contact Mrs Gartland.

Congratulations

Well done to Olivia Crilly and Clare Glover who have been selected to take part in the Grand Opera House Summer Youth Project. The girls will take part in the show 'Our House'.

Primary Seven End of Year Show

Our Primary Seven children will perform 'Beauty and the Beast' on 9th June. We would like to welcome Rebecca Leonard (choreographer) to the school once again. Rebecca is highly experienced choreographer and has carried out professional and non-professional shows all over the UK. We are delighted to have Rebecca on-board. She will work with the children throughout term three to help direct the well-known Disney Classic.

School Grounds

As we are coming into Spring we will be looking for volunteers to help us with improving our school grounds. We have a number of areas for improvement and will keep you updated with our plans.

World Book Day

Thank you to those who took part in the extreme reading challenge and all our world book day activities. (See the photographs on the website)

***First Holy Communion
Saturday 14th May @ 10am in St
Patrick's Chapel***

Each year, parents of P3 pupils take on the responsibility of helping organise, prepare and serve the refreshments for pupils and their families after the First Holy Communion Service.

P3 parents can then enjoy the same hospitality being afforded to themselves and their families the following year.

Are you a parent of a pupil in Primary 3? Could you possibly spare a few hours on the morning of First Holy Communion, either from 9-11 or 11-1, to help out?

If so please e mail via the website or phone the school office to volunteer. We will pass the information onto the PTA.

TROCAIRE

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the sponsor money, donations of buns, pizzas, sweets, crisps, games and much, much more. We had a very busy time fundraising and all the money we raised was thanks to you. Our pupils had so many activities to take part in. In P1 - P4 we had a Sponsored Bunny Hop, a Spaceathon, and a Danceathon, In Primary Five to Seven we had so many stalls and sales, bun sales, book stalls, guess the name of the teddy, tuck shops, pin the tail on the bunny, raffles, drink stalls, guess the amount of sweets in the jar, penalty shoot outs (the list goes on) The children were absolutely amazing and so inventive. Thank you so very much. The money we donate will help so many people.

What a character!

Miss McAnerney's P5 class had a visit from local award winning artist, Andrea McCullough- Alderice.

Charlie and the Chocolate factory was P5's book of choice and the pupils modelled and sculpted their favourite storybook characters.

We can't wait to see the final glazed pieces after they have been fired in the kiln.

We were so lucky to have been selected for this fantastic FREE workshop.

Some P7s also got the opportunity to interview Andrea for the Arts Award which they will get a chance to enter later in the year.

BREAK COSTS

Please remember our break is £2 for each child per week. This includes fruit and milk. Parents can pay for the term if they wish.

Term 3

Fruit Only	£13
Milk Only	£13
Both Fruit & Milk	£26

Term Costs

Primary One Clay workshops £6
(£2 per workshop)

Primary Two Clay Workshops
£6 (£2 per workshop)

Primary Three tennis £20 (£8 weeks)

Primary Six Swimming (£22)

These amounts may be paid by the term or weekly to the class teacher.

School Trips will take place in the third term and these will have an additional cost to cover buses and entrance fees.

PTA

Thank you to the PTA (once again) who have helped resources year groups with resources.

Primary One – Play Equipment.

Primary Two – Play Equipment

Foundation Assessment Package – To Build a Profile.

Primary Three – Maths books

Primary Four – Activity based learning Games.

Primary Three to Primary Six – ICT Training

Primary Six Classroom Blinds.

The Whole School Grand Opera House deposit to the pantomime.

Next meeting EGM Tuesday 5th April @ 7:30pm in the Parent's Cabin.

Upcoming Events Friday 6th May
Quiz in the raquets Club.

April – Brown Money Week.

***The Staff of St. Joseph's
would like to thank you
all for your continued
support and look forward
to a successful Term***