

# St Joseph's Primary School

## Newsletter - June 2016



### **What's on....**

- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> & Wed 15<sup>th</sup> -Creative Voices and Whole School Art Exhibition
- Tues 14<sup>th</sup> -P7 to Harmony Hill P.S for New Beginnings Workshop 9-2p  
-P6 Meeting @ 7pm  
-New P1 Induction Day @12.30pm  
-Current P1s home @11.30am
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> -P7 Radar NI – Beesafe event  
-P4 Cinema Trip
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> -P7's New Beginnings workshop with Harmony Hill PS
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup>, Mon 20<sup>th</sup> & Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> – ‘Talent Comp’ Heats
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> -P5-P7 Sports Day
- Tues 21<sup>st</sup> -P6 Titanic Trip
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> -‘St Joseph’s Got Talent’ competition  
-P7 Leavers’ Mass
- Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> -P7 End of year Trip to Funtasia
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> -Reports to Parents  
-June Awards Assemblies
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> -Presentation Evening P7 and last Day of primary school for P7’s.
- Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> -School closes at 12 noon

### **New Access Arrangements**

Thank you everyone for your continued support of our new arrangements for accessing the school during the normal working day and for the collection of pupils in the afternoon. The changes have identified some minor teething problems that we are dealing with. We certainly feel that the arrangements allow for greater safety for all of our pupils and hope that you feel the same. Thanks too for communicating any issues with ourselves that you have identified as this helps all concerned.

Remember...the Castle St Entrance is a pedestrian entrance only – vehicular access is for staff members only.

### **Parental Survey**

We recently sent out a Parental Survey to help inform our school development in the new academic year. If you have not returned a form, please do so as soon as possible. This is your opportunity to ‘have your say’ in how our school moves forward.

### **Inspection**

The final Inspection Report following our inspection in early May has at this point not been completed by ETI. Once it is we will make you aware of how you can access it.

### **Annual Reports**

Next Friday (24<sup>th</sup> June) you will receive your child’s Annual Report which will outline how your child has progressed this year and set some targets for development in the new academic year. Included in the envelope will be details of who will be teaching your child next year.



### **Keeping your children safe on our grounds**

Unfortunately we have had incidences of parents allowing pupils to walk along the wall in our back car park and in the area inside the gate near our canteen. Please DO NOT allow your children to walk on this wall as it is very dangerous, especially near the ramp.

### **Cool kids & Homework Club**

Please remember that all collections from **Cool Kids and Homework Club** should be facilitated via the Cool Kids staff at the Cabin near the canteen. It is not necessary any more to visit the office for the collection of pupils from either facility.

### **Mathematics**

We are currently trialling a new numeracy programme with Mrs O’Hare’s class (Year 6 pupils). The children are really enjoying this trial. We hope to purchase this programme for the whole school.



### **Book Amnesty**

Can you please have a search at home for any school books/text books/class library books you may have. As we are approaching the end of the year it important for us to make sure we get all our resources and books in order for the next year so that there is a sufficient supply. Please don't worry if you have a few....we are always glad to see them coming back in at this time of year! Children can just bring them in to their class teacher. Thank you!

### **'Beauty & the Beast'**

Congratulations to every single child who took part in the P7 end of year musical 'Beauty and the Beast'. This long lived tradition in St Joseph's provides wonderful memories for all our Primary Seven pupils as they prepare for second level education.

### **ARTS AWARD**

In St Joseph's we are lucky to have two teachers trained as National Award Assessors. Only one other primary school in Northern Ireland offers this.

The P4s and P7s have been working very diligently on their portfolios and 29 pupils from P4 have been entered for the award. We wish them lots of luck.

P7s will have the option of entering very soon and we are confident they will all be successful. Well done to them all for their hard work and efforts

### ***Creative Voices Exhibition & Whole School Art Exhibition***

***Thank you for all your support at our Art Exhibition.***

***The school hall looked fantastic!***

### **Digital Leaders**

Thank you to all the Primary 5 and 6 children who applied to be Digital Leaders in St Joseph's. We had an amazing response and it was a very difficult task to choose the successful applicants. Congratulations to the following pupils who were chosen to be our Digital Leaders



### **P5:**

Emma Duffy, Noah McGlade, Eoin Ryan, Cillian Quinn  
Ronald Matthew, Jack McMahon, Klara Sloan

### **P6:**

Meabh Quinn, Ana Enrique Gascon, Kiera Quilab, Jake Brady  
Hannah Gartland, Jamie Broadbent, Ryan Heyes

Eric from iTeach came to Assembly to present the children with their t-shirts and badges on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and will come back soon to help the children make an iMovie presentation about their role as Digital Leaders.

The children are very excited and have lots of great ideas as to how they can help teachers and children develop their skills on our new iPads!

### **Thank you.....**

Thank you to Margaret Doherty once again. Margaret has worked with our Eco-team all term. They have grown:  
Potatoes      thyme      tomatoes  
Chives      rhubarb      beans  
rosemary      cucumber      lavender  
onions      strawberries



Thank you to Mr Lagan (Isaac's dad) who came in to talk to the P5 children about Eco Houses. As an environmental Consultant, Mr Lagan was able to give us tips on how to become more energy efficient. He was amazed at how much we already know.

### **Eco Club Members**

The Eco Club are:

Lucy Kelly	Clare Glover
Olivia Crilly	Stacey Devlin
Meabh Quinn	Emily Noakes
Hannah Gartland	Elle Campbell
Shannon Johnson	Lewis Hooke
Cera Noble	Moya O'Kane
Katie Magee	

Well done boys and girls.

### ***Eco-Council***

The Eco-council will sell broad beans during the week.

Thank you to those who purchased herbs and vegetables this month. We used the profit to buy tomato bags and plants.

### ***Foundation Stage Story Circle***

The Ulster Conservation Volunteers are waiting for the chairs and logs to complete the story circle. We hope to complete this over the summer.

### ***Talent Competition***

The heats for the Talent Competition will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June in the hall with the Grand Final on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.40-12pm.

#### ***£1 admission fee***

All proceeds for school fund to buy new numeracy package 'Mathematics' for all children.

Tuck shop available – bring £1.50 to spend if you wish P4-P7

### ***'Really Rubbish Orchestra'***

Maurice from the 'Really Rubbish Orchestra' has been working with the Primary Seven pupils over the past few weeks to build a music wall for the Foundation Stage Play Area.

The children worked with mathematics, music and technology to create a lasting gift for the young children. All children will be given the opportunity to use the wall to compose.

### ***Lost Property***

Please check the yellow bin for any lost items as it will be emptied on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### ***Thank you!***

Many thanks to Mrs Moran (Aoife's mum) for visiting P5 pupils as part of their 'Amazing Human Body' topic to help them learn more about the brain and her job as a physiotherapist. The children thoroughly enjoyed the

presentation, increasing their knowledge of how amazing their brains are and how they can look after them!

### ***Well Done***

Congratulations to Emma Duffy who won a 50 pounds voucher for Smyths for her Heart-beat Poster. Emma was presented with her prize in school and her class and teacher were all very proud of her. See website for photo.

### ***Fun Day***

What a great day we had for our PTA Fun Day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Thank you to all our parents who supported us in preparing for Fun Day through donations for stalls and prizes.

Thank you also to everyone who came along to support us by joining in the fun!

We are still waiting for the final total, but around £1700 was raised for PTA funds. This will help us to purchase much needed resources for our school and your children.

Thank you once again to our very dedicated and hardworking PTA members and staff who organised this very successful event.

Thank you also to all the local businesses who donated prizes for our Big Wheel – we are very grateful for your kindness and generosity!

### ***Music Exams***

We have 20+ children entering music examinations in flute, violin and clarinet on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. We wish every child good luck. They have all worked hard.

Thank you to Mrs Mary Smyth who accompanies all the children for the exams voluntarily. Mary Smyth also gives the children additional lessons every Monday. Thank you also to Mrs McGilligan, Mrs Corr and Mrs Rogan who all prepare the children go well.

### ***Congratulations***

Congratulations to all our P7 pupils who joined Harmony Hill PS pupils this week and took part in a transition work shop to prepare them for the move to post primary. Pupils worked very well, a great effort made by all.

Well done!

Congratulations to Miss Delaney and the children from her Primary 1 class who took part in the pilot project '**Promoting Early Number Talk**'. The project was undertaken in collaboration with Stranmillis University, Belfast, with the class being selected as a model of good practice and excellence in Mathematics. A big well done to the class for their hard work throughout the project! They are so excited to talk about 'real life Maths'!

Well done to Term 3 Miniversity winners - Mia Rooney P3 (Junior Club) and Katrina Viso-mirskis P6 (Senior Club) who demonstrated excellent ICT skills when completing their 'Computer Artwork' Task. Brilliant work was completed by all our Miniversity participants, they have worked with great enthusiasm every Thursday during this After School Club. Certainly a number of budding Mark Zuckerberg's in our midst!

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to Mrs Stella Drayne for her continued support of the school, especially with the Netball team which is very much appreciated by all. Stella's knowledge and coaching is invaluable and the girls flourish under this guidance. Have a wonderful summer, Stella!

### **Athletics**

Congratulations to Fay Powell and Owen Brady who along with 10 other P7 children attended an outdoor athletics competition at Mary Peters. For 2 whole weeks, schools from around the province attend this event and both Fay and Owen finished runner up in the individual events out of all the children that attended over the two weeks. This is an amazing achievement and both children will be invited to join an athletics squad next year. A massive congratulations to them both.



### **Primary One Induction**

*What a lovely day we had meeting the new Primary One children. Children came and met their new teachers and got a sense of life in Primary One!*

### **Sports Days**

Well done to all of our P1-4 pupils who had a very enjoyable Sports Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you to parents too who came along to support and participate... pupils love to see their parents get involved and the atmosphere was very positive for all of our pupils.

KS2 Sports Day will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 9.30am, weather permitting.

When Sports Days come around we are often faced with weather related problems. We try as far as possible NOT to make changes to arrangements. Unfortunately this was necessary this year and we appreciate your understanding when decisions are made with the best interest of your children in mind.

### **Sporting Achievement**

Congratulations to Eoin Dixon who recently represented Antrim in the Annual Antrim vs Dublin Games in Dublin. Eoin played at mid-field for the Boys Gaelic Football Team and scored 1-1 in an impressive win for Antrim. Selection for the team was after a series of difficult trials and we are proud that Eoin was selected and represented St Joseph's so well. He became the 3<sup>rd</sup> member of his family to be invited for trial and selected, following in the footsteps of older brothers Conor & Niall. Well done Eoin.

**Pop House Arts summer week**  
**Singing, dancing and acting**

**10am-2pm**

**Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August**

**E-mail: [contact@pophousearts.com](mailto:contact@pophousearts.com)**

**Bringing Water to School**  
**Please, please supply a bottle of water for your child in school.**  
**We are going through a huge amount of Tipperary Water which is expensive**