



'Being the best that we can be'

'Friday Note'

Friday 14 October 2016

Looking back...

Sporting News

It was a busy week for sport in school this week. On Tuesday our girls' Gaelic team were out at a 'Gaelic Blitz'. The team did very well, winning 2 matches against Good Shepard and St. Oliver Plunkett, drawing against Christ the Redeemer and a narrow defeat to St John the Baptist, finishing second overall. Well done girls!

On Wednesday the P6 boys' soccer team attended the Lisburn Distillery Cup tournament where they were placed 3rd. Mr Gallagher commended the boys on their excellent behaviour and their exemplary sportsmanship on the day. Well done boys!

On Thursday the boys' Gaelic team played their last cup match against Bunscoil an tSléibhe Dhuibh and won convincingly. Mr Reid actually lost count of the score but the team won by at least 20 points! Again Mr Reid is so proud of the time.

All 3 teams out this week were super ambassadors for St. Joseph's.

Post Inspection Update

All of the post inspection action plans have now been completed in draft form. I am working on a summary of the targets for improvement at the minute and this will be sent to parents before Halloween.

School Surveys

Parents, pupil and staff surveys went out this week in order to help us in the school development planning process. There has been a brilliant response from parents so thank you so much. The Senior Leadership team will be collating all of the responses and using these to set out targets for improvement for 2016 – 2019.

Nara McCormick

We are so excited that one of our pupils will be meeting the astronaut himself, Tim Peake next week. She told us all about it at assembly this week and some of our P1 – P3 pupils even gave her some questions to ask him. We can't wait to hear all about it next week.

Attendance

During the month of September the attendance for the whole school was 98%. This is excellent and we would like to see this continue across the whole year.

The class with the highest attendance rate in September was Mrs Kitt's P3 class with 100% attendance. Well done!

100% attendance	0 days missed	Excellent
95% attendance	9 days missed	Satisfactory
90% attendance	19 days missed	Poor
85% attendance	28 days missed	Very poor
80% attendance	38 days missed	Unacceptable
75% attendance	46 Days missed	Unacceptable

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'Being the best that we can be'

It is really important to remember that every single day absent from school is a day of lost learning. The attendance percentages used in the table above can often seem misleading. 90% attendance may seem acceptable but in reality it means that a child has lost the equivalent of half a day per week or 19 days in the whole year...4 weeks! When a child's attendance falls below 85% a referral is made to the Educational Welfare officer.

For more information about the importance of attendance, please see the DENI Leaflet "School Attendance Matters...A Parent's Guide" on the school website.

Looking ahead...

Monday 17 October 2016	Tuesday 18 October 2016	Wednesday 19 October 2016	Thursday 20 October 2016	Friday 21 October 2016
17 P4 Tennis 10.30 – 12.30pm P1 Photos with Tempest Mrs Fleming Reads....P6 Mrs Gartland and Mr Reid @ Olympic Handball Course in Laurelhill 2.30pm – 4.30pm Board of Governors' Meeting at 6pm	18 P5a&5b Pottery sessions at Island Arts Centre 9.30-10.30 & 11.00-12.00 Nara McCormick in P3 meeting Time Peake at W5	19 Mindfulness Session with Vivienne Bannon for P7 using assembly hall	20 P2 Miss Beatty's Parent assembly at 9.30am	21 Badminton at Racquets' Club for P7 Mrs Gould ICT Development Day IEP Writing for all staff Mrs Connolly out of class to support IEP writing

Don't forget our 'Value of the Month' for October is 'courtesy' so we are looking out for special acts of courtesy around the school.

October is the month of the Rosary. All of the classes have made a special effort to honour Mary in their Sacred Space and will be saying the Hail Mary as their Prayer of the Month.

Reporting to Parents

Don't forget...we will be reporting to parents in the week beginning Monday 24 October. You will have received an appointment time last week. Don't forget to put it in the diary.

Have a lovely weekend.

Pauline Fleming
Acting Principal

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