

# ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



January 2024

## NEWSLETTER

### Welcome Back

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone!

Let's hope we have a great start to 2024. January has been busy and as Easter is early (Sunday 31st March), we have lots to learn and exciting things to do.

Make sure you follow the school calendar to keep up to date with events.

#### Mobile Phones



We appreciate that children may need to bring their mobile phones with them to use after school. All mobile phones and smart watches without exception must be turned off and handed in to the office on arrival and will be returned as the child leaves. Please do not phone your child's mobile during school hours.

#### School App



Our school is now listed in the Schools NI App, which allows you to view school updates and receive messages via your phone or tablet. The App is available on both Apple and Android devices, and will give you access to our school news, calendar, events and newsletters. To install the App, open our school website and click the 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen.

#### School Uniform



Our PTFA have been in discussion with the school and the Board of Governors about introducing a half zip PE top to the uniform. We are pleased to say that this has now been agreed and we are making arrangements with Catriona at Copus Custom Embroidery to design a sample to display in school at which point it will be added to her website to be ordered as required.

This will not be a compulsory part of the uniform and no parents should feel under pressure to purchase one. It will simply provide an alternative for your child to wear on PE days.

More information will follow

#### Important Notice for Parents/Carers

St Joseph's PS aims to be a Nut-Free school. In order to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts, we no longer allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes. Being a 'Nut-Free School' means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packets of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches/bars
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Nutella/Chocolate spread or Nutella breakfast bars

THIS SCHOOL IS  
**NUT FREE**



THANK YOU  
for keeping our school safe!

If you are unsure about an item, please speak to a member of staff. Parents are reminded that they must notify staff of any known or suspected allergy



We are extremely fortunate to have been awarded funds from Cash for Kids in recognition of the difficulties many families are facing with the cost of living crisis.

These funds will be distributed to all families of St Joseph's Primary School shortly in the form of vouchers to be used at Duffy's Store in Killough.

(Vouchers may not be used for alcohol or tobacco products.)

#### Child Protection Procedures

St Joseph's safeguarding team are: Designated Teacher: Mrs K Collins.

Deputy Designated Teachers: Mrs C Toner and Mrs F Macfarlane

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr J Kearney. Designated Child Protection Governor: Dr C Magennis

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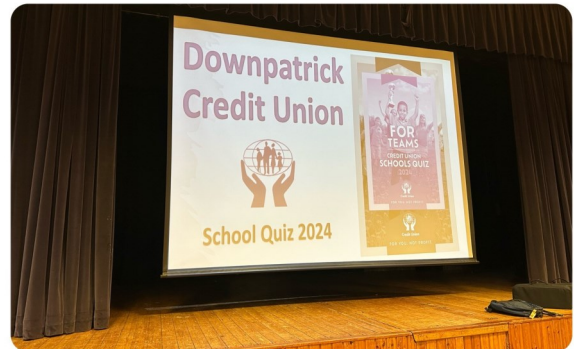


## Credit Union Quiz

Congratulations to Shai, Ethan, Shanna and Keyarah who took part in the Annual Credit Union Quiz on Friday 26th January.

The team came fourth out of twelve schools.

We are very proud of you !!



## Library Bus

The library bus will visit the school every second Friday. Next visit will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Please take time to read with the younger children and ensure that their books are returned so that new ones can be borrowed.

## Generation Wild

Well done to P3/4 who had a lovely trip to Castle Espie back in October.

Back at school and at home they then completed activities all about Generation Wild, Ava and the osprey's. They were then presented with certificates and badges proclaiming them to be officially "Guardians of the Wild".

All the activities are designed to connect children/people with nature through five pathways: senses, emotion, compassion, meaning and beauty.





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## Grandparents Day

We were overwhelmed with the crowd who came along to celebrate Grandparents Day with us at our special assembly on Wednesday. As part of Catholic Schools Week, we have a theme for each day and our favourite is always Grandparents assembly on the Wednesday. We were learning that we live great lives when we are being and doing our best. He shows us how to be grateful for the little things and to be joyful in sharing love with one another. Our Grandparents and parents are a good example of how to live our lives well, as they often give up their own needs to look after us. Grandparents show us how to be a family together in our homes and in our school.



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## Car Parking

Some parents and visitors continue to drive up the footpath to park at the top of the school!

**This area is for staff and emergency vehicles only and no vehicles are permitted to drive or park on the footpaths at any time.**

Two incidents were reported recently, one at this point and one in the main carpark where children narrowly escaped being hurt!

Please take great care when using the carpark and walk children down the footpath as far as possible instead of through the carparking area.

## Money

Thank you all who are paying money on Mondays as requested. If your child is off sick, we will of course be happy to accept payments on the first day of their return to school.

**Please send all money for meals, breakfasts, after school clubs and swimming in to school on a Monday morning.**

## Absence From School

If your child is off school, for whatever reason, it is Department of Education Policy and integral to Safeguarding, that parents/carers phone and inform the school on the first day of absence. Subsequently, a note should accompany your child, explaining the absence on the first day of their return to school.

## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet day is a great opportunity for parents and carers to focus on online safety with their child, whatever their age. The UKSIC has created a range of pages to help them talk about this year's themed issues and ideas with their child, in an age-appropriate way. It has also created a short film to explain Internet Safety Day to them.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

## NSPCC Game Safe Festival (5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February)

NSPCC are organising a FREE webinar for parents, carers and people who work with families, to give an understanding of how young people game online and some tools and resources that can keep them safe. Here is the link:

<https://ww1.emma-live.com/GameSafe/purchase tickets>

## Post Primary Applications

Applications for Post-Primary Schools are now open and close on Thursday 22nd February via EA Connect Applications.



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## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8:15 each morning at the Price of £1 per day to be paid on a Monday morning in advance. All children having breakfast should be in school by 8:30 as Breakfast Club finishes at 8:45. Any child in school before 8:45am will be presumed to be at Breakfast Club and charged accordingly.

## Road Safety and Car Parking

Please remind all children that they are to dismount all bikes and scooters at the school gates in the morning and walk their bikes and scooters on school grounds. Similarly all bikes and scooters must be walked to the gates after school.

**Please ensure that all cars are parked in the main car park and not up at the school building or on footpaths. This is to ensure access for emergency vehicles when required.**

**Your child's safety is our priority.**

The spaces at the school building are for staff only as their cars are not moved at any time during the school day or when children may be in the car park.

## Walking to school

In line with local authority guidelines, children may walk to and from school alone once they reach the age of 8. Before their 8th Birthday children should still be collected from school by an adult or accompanied by an older sibling.

P1 children must be collected by an adult.

Your child's education and wellbeing is our shared number one priority. Should you have any worries or concerns about your child, please get in touch with your child's teacher in the first instance who will try to assist whenever they can.



**No dogs are allowed  
on school property  
at any time**



**Smoking/Vaping is not  
permitted anywhere on  
school premises at any  
time.**

## Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February: St. Brigid's Day

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February: Cash for Clobber collection

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February: Children's Mental Health Week "My Voice Matters".

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Safer Internet Day.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Irish Football Association. All classes.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February: School Nurse P1 Health Check

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February: School Closes at 2pm for Mid-Term Break.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February: Mid Term Break, school closed for all pupils.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February: School reopens for all pupils.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February: Mini's Music P1/2

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February: Irish Football Association. All classes.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February: Irish Football Association. All classes.

## Sacraments

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March: First Confession at 1.30pm

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May: First Holy Communion at 11am