

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



January/ February 2022

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

This month has been another busy month with Pancake Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and World Book Day, all in the last week!! Mrs Maguire, our new Acting Principal, has also joined our school and has been very busy getting to know all the boys and girls. As a school we are always striving to improve communication with you, so we have added the new App function to the current school website to improve accessibility. This will alert you to important messages, key information and events. Please see information below on how to download the App. A 'Fortnightly Note' will also be introduced and published on the school website and App, giving you an overview of the two weeks the children have had in school as well as give you notice of school events planned for the week ahead. We will still have our traditional end of month newsletter.

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

Attendance

We understand that children may be absent for a number of reasons and would like you to read the school's updated Attendance Policy attached. The school has termly attendance audits with the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO). If your child's attendance regularly falls below 85% they are automatically drawn to the attention of the EWO and may be referred for further support.

Happy Birthday

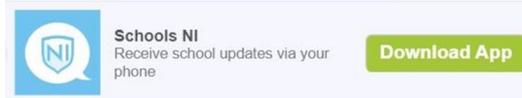
To Lexi, Jake, Olivia,
Holly, Caitlin, Fionn,
Anthony Vaugh, Kayla,
Erin and Amaya who all
have Birthdays in
January and February.

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 on your phone or tablet and click the 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen.



School trip to the Grand Opera House



Last year the huge fundraising efforts of the PTFA, together with Cool FM Cash for Kids fundraiser brought in a significant amount of money. Part of the money raised was used to purchase new interactive whiteboards. This year, in order to acknowledge the many missed opportunities the children have experienced as a result of the pandemic, as well as to congratulate the children for their commitment to learning and resilience throughout, we have decided to treat the children to a visit to the Grand Opera House, Belfast, for the matinee performance of 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks.' This will take place on Thursday, 28th April, 2022. The cost of the tickets for the whole school will be covered by the money raised by the PTFA last year. We will be asking parents for a minimal contribution towards the price of the buses. More information to follow.

Healthy Break

As you know, we are a Healthy Eating school. Children only require one item for their break e.g. apple, banana, crackers. Children should bring their own water bottle to school every day. We do not have drinking water in the classrooms and are unable to leave children unsupervised and so may not be able to leave the classroom to get drinks.

Car Parking

For Health and Safety, we ask that everyone dropping off/ picking up children **use the main car park only.**

Do not park at the top of the driveway, these spaces are for staff only.

Do not park on the kerbs or footpaths.



Breakfast Club runs every day from 8:15am to 8:45am at a cost of £1 per day. Children have a choice of cereals, breads and pancakes, juice milk and tea with bacon on a Wednesday and sausages on a Friday.

Any child in school before 8:45am will be presumed to be at Breakfast Club and will be charged accordingly.

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Celebrating World Book Day

St Joseph's recently celebrated World Book Day with a day packed with Literacy related activities. These included sharing a story, engaging in live lessons with famous authors to dressing up as their favourite character. The staff were overwhelmed with the response from the children and parents. Thank you for your support!



PTFA



The PTFA have always been a valued and important aspect of life in St Joseph's. It is a great opportunity for parents and the wider school community to become involved in the life of the school. We will be sending out a letter of interest in our 'Fortnightly Note' and ask that you give it consideration. Involvement can be at whatever level suits you and can be a truly enjoyable way for you to be involved in your child's education and raise much needed funds for our school.

School Uniform

All children should come to school in full school uniform each day unless requested to do otherwise. Plain black or dark grey bottoms and school sweatshirt and white polo shirt are the minimum requirement. Patterned or striped bottoms should not be worn. Anyone requiring school uniform should contact 'Personal Threads Embroidery' directly through Facebook to place their order.

If you require a new school sweatshirt for your child's First Confession or Confirmation please order these as soon as possible.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday, 1st March	Pancake Tuesday
Wednesday 2nd March	Ash Wednesday
Friday 11th March	P5/P6/P7 Trip to W5
Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March	St Patrick's Day, School Closed
Wednesday 23rd March	P1/P2 Mini Music
Wednesday 13th April	School closes for all pupils at 11:00am
Monday 25th April	School Reopens for all pupils
Thursday 28th April	School Trip to Grand Opera House
Thursday 5th May	P3 First Confession at 1:00pm
Saturday 14th May	P4 First Holy Communion at 11:00am
Wednesday 18th May	P7 Confirmation at 11:00am