

# ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



November 2022

## NEWSLETTER

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another fantastic year in St Joseph's Primary School.

The children are practising hard for our Christmas Coffee and Cheer morning on Wednesday 14th December. (Details to follow).

Now that restrictions have been lifted, we are heading to the Grand Opera House for the Christmas Pantomime as a Christmas treat for the children on Tuesday 13th December.

Tickets will soon be on sale in the school office for our PTFA Christmas Raffle £1 per ticket, to be drawn on Monday 19th December.

As always this is a busy time of year for school but there is still plenty of work to be done alongside the festivities and we expect everyone to still come to school every day.

Mrs F. Macfarlane (Principal)

We celebrated Anti-Bullying Week this week. The theme this year was "Reach Out". Well done to all the children who wore their odd socks to school on Monday to celebrate their individuality & Uniqueness. Please see the school website for Parents/Carers resources.

We also participated in Road Safety Week. Please remember to talk to your children about road safety. You can access some excellent advice at Road Safety NI : Parents guide to Road Safety 0-7 or 8-11

### Free School Meals

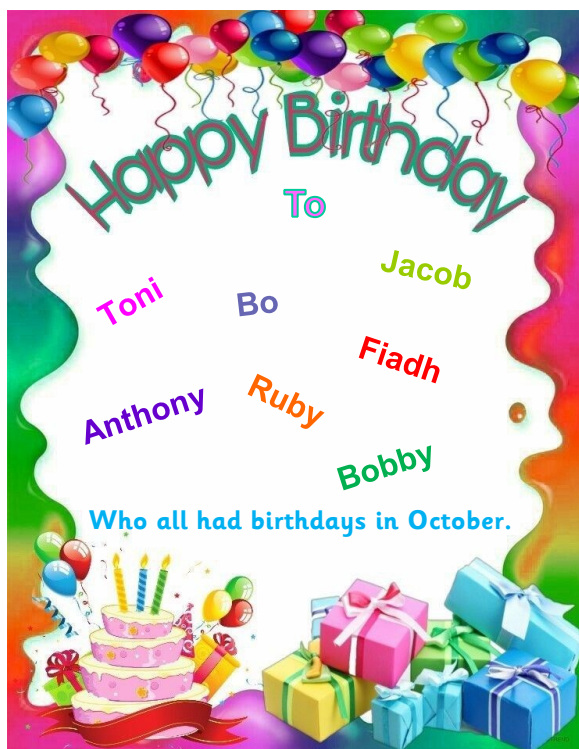
If you feel that your child may be entitled to free school meals regardless of whether they will be taking them or not, please complete the application on the EA website ASAP.

If you require any assistance, please feel free to contact the school Office.

### Mobile Phones



We appreciate that children may need to bring their mobile phones with them to use after school. All mobile phones, without exception must be 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



### 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 spread or Nutella breakfast bars

THIS SCHOOL IS  
**NUT FREE**



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 to nuts and provide all necessary information.

### 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.

### 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



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has resumed from 8:15 each morning at the Price of £1 per day to be paid in the morning or on a Monday morning in advance. Any child in school before 8:45am will be presumed to be at Breakfast Club and charged accordingly.

Children have a choice of cereal, toast, pancakes, muffins yoghurts and fresh fruit as well as juice, milk or water.

## After School Clubs

From now until 16<sup>th</sup> December clubs on offer will be as shown.

The cost for each session will be £3.00.

Sessions are to be booked beforehand and all money is to be paid in advance.

This will be for a trial period to be reviewed by the Board of Governors before the Christmas term.

	2-3pm (P1 to P3)	3-4pm (P4 to P7)
<b>Monday</b>	Construction Club	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Playtime	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Arts and Crafts	Arts and Crafts
<b>Thursday</b>	Games and Ball Skills	

## 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.

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.

## Dates For Your Diary

**Monday 21st November:** Mini's Music for P1/2

**Thursday 1st December:** P5/6/7 trip to Downpatrick Library

**Tuesday 6th December:** Christmas Dinner

**Tuesday 13th December:** Trip to The Grand Opera House for Christmas Panto.

**Wednesday 14th December:** Christmas Coffee and Cheer

**Thursday 15th December:** P5/6/7 trip to St Malachy's, Castlewellsan

**Monday 19th December:** PTFA Christmas Disco

**Wednesday 21st December:** School Closes at 11:00am.

**Thursday 5th January:** School reopens for all pupils.

**Wednesday 3rd May:** First Confession at 1pm.

**Saturday 13th May:** First Communion at 11am.

**Wednesday 17th May:** Confirmation at 11am.