

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



March 2023

NEWSLETTER

Another active term in St Joseph's as you can see in the newsletter. Each week is extremely busy with lots happening throughout the school. We are very pleased to see the concerted effort that is being made in regards to attendance. Keep up the good work!

Miss School ! Miss Out !

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

Cultural Dance Programme

Our children in P4-7 enjoyed a four-week cultural dance programme delivered by local District Electoral Area Forums in partnership with Jenna Finnegan Dance School. It was developed to promote cultural awareness and improve health and well-being among primary school children.



The programme created opportunities for them to improve their physical and mental health, change their behaviours on food choices and develop new skills. They met up with children from five other schools in the area and show cased their skills of teamwork, self-confidence and creativity.

Well done to all involved.

Important Notice for Parents/Carers

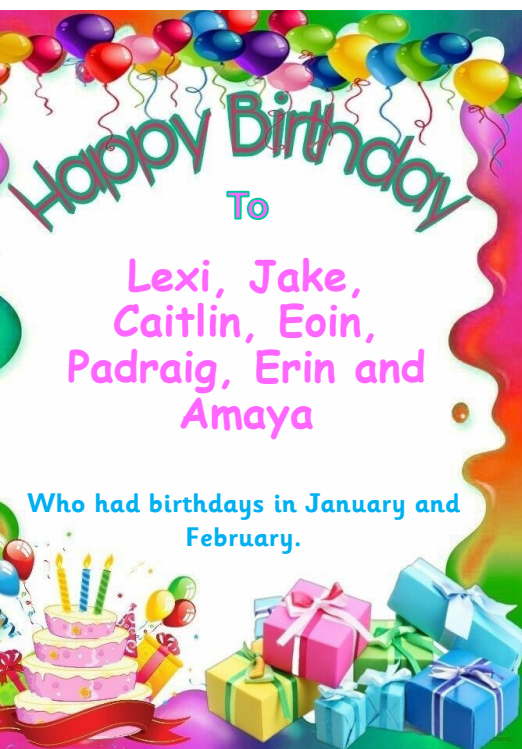
St Joseph's PS aims to be a Nut-Free school. In order to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts, we no longer allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes. Being a 'Nut-Free School' means that the following items should not be brought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



Who had 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 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

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World Book Day

Another successful World Book Day was held on Thursday 2nd March. Primary 7 pupils brought "Big Books" and props over to the Playgroup and shared stories with the children. Later on Mr Rooney's class read stories to P1/2. All of the children enjoyed the experience. P3/4 completed lots of fun activities linked to WBD.



Surestart

Mum's and toddlers have been enjoying Rhyme Time with Surestart. Last session will be Monday 27th March 10-11am.

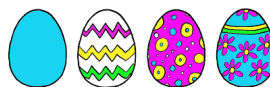


Big Walk and Wheel Monday 20th March- Friday 31st March

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

On each day of the challenge, schools compete to see who can get the highest percentage of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school. Our school's best five days will determine our final position and hopefully win a prize!!

Easter Raffle



Tickets are available at £1 a strip for our Easter Raffle in aid of Trocaire.

Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 5th April.

Any donations of eggs or Easter themed gifts and toys will be very gratefully received.

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PTFA

BINGO



We had a great night at the PTFA Bingo Night, the first for a long time!

A fabulous £190 was added to the school funds and will go towards much needed equipment for our children.

Bonus Ball

The PTFA organised a draw based on the National Lottery Bonus Ball Saturday after St Patrick's Day

It was a huge success with numbers selling out in a matter of days.

Mrs Toner's sister-in-law was the winner of £300 and the school received £290.

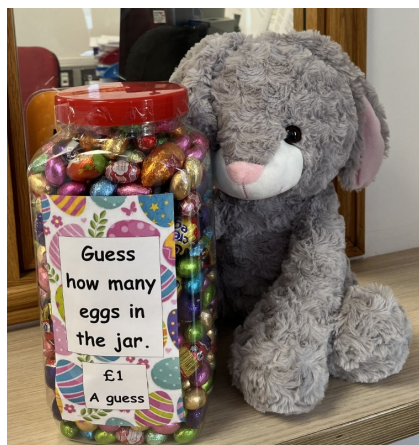
A big thank you to everyone who took part.

New Laptops

Earlier this year all schools found themselves in the position of having a large percentage of their computers and laptops removed as they were no longer supported by the C2K computer system which ensures our connectivity and security in school. We have been able to purchase four new laptops for the school due to the fantastic fundraising efforts of our PTFA.



Eggs In The Jar



Can you guess how many eggs are in the jar? The closest guess wins the contents of the jar.

Clue: It is more than the number of letter tiles in a game of Scrabble but less than the number of Disney characters.

£1 a guess
To be drawn on
Wednesday 5th April.

Next PTFA meeting Tuesday 28th March at 2pm. Everyone welcome.

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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, yoghurts and fresh fruit as well as juice, milk or water.

After School Clubs

From Monday 20th February until 05th April, 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.

	2-3pm (P1 to P3)	3-4pm (P4 to P7)
Monday	Surprise Club	
Tuesday	Lego Club	Golf (Booked and paid in advance)
Wednesday	Cookery	Cookery
Thursday	Games	

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.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 17th March: School Closed for St Patrick's Day.

Monday 27th March: Mini's Music for P1 & P2

Thursday 30th March: P3 & P4 Trip to Armagh Planetarium.

Friday 31st March: Free Fruit Feel Good Friday (PTFA)

Thursday 6th April: School closes at 11:00am

Friday 7th April– Friday 14th April: School Closed for Easter.

Tuesday 2nd May: First Confession after 10:00am Mass.

Monday 8th May: Coronation Bank Holiday

Saturday 13th May: First Communion at 11am.

Monday 15th May: School photographer for pupils and First Communicants

Wednesday 17th May: Confirmation at 11am.