

# ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



March 2024

## NEWSLETTER

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of Term 2, 2023/24. I would like to thank all the boys and girls for their hard work and good behaviour as it really helps to make school a very enjoyable place. Our Key Stage 2 pupils are maturing very well and taking great responsibility around the school.

Don't forget the Easter Raffle. The children are always learning about those less fortunate than themselves, perhaps they could do some odd jobs to buy tickets. It would make them feel that they are contributing to a better world as all proceeds will go to Trocaire.

We hope you all have a very "Happy Easter", lets hope that the weather will improve and lots of time can be spent outside.

Don't forget, the clocks go forward next Saturday night, 30<sup>th</sup> March.

See everyone back for Term3 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

### 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. arrangements with Player Fit to design a sample to display in school at which point it will be added to their 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

### After School Clubs

From Monday 8th April, After school clubs will run as follows for a six week block.

	P1-3 2pm to 3pm	P4-7 3pm to 4pm	
Monday	Playtime	Transfer Club	Mrs Fallon 2-3
Tuesday	Football Skills	Football Skills	IFA
Wednesday	Playtime		Mrs Magee
Thursday	Cookery	Cookery	Miss Wilcox & Mrs

Football skills are being offered by the IFA for a six week block. If you wish for your child to take part, these sessions must be paid for in advance at a cost of £18 per child or £15 per child for two or more.

All other After School Clubs should be paid as usual at £3 per session in an envelope on a Monday morning.

### 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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Gardening  
in P1/2



## Library Bus

The library bus will visit the school every second Friday. Next visit will be on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Please take time to read with the younger children and ensure that their books are returned so that new ones can be borrowed.



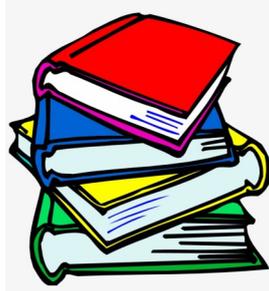
## First Confession

Primary 3 received the Sacrament of First Confession on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

The children excelled in their prayers and readings. We would like to thank the volunteers from the 'Come Follow Me' team for helping the children, their parents and teachers prepare for this very special day. We also thank Mr Rooney for the wonderful music for the service.

In particular, we would also like to say a very special thank you to Fr Peter for the beautiful ceremony.

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## World Book Day



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## PTFA

The PTFA have been hard at work again behind the scenes at St Joseph's Primary School.

The Easter Bonus Ball has nearly sold out in record time. This is always a popular event and a great little money maker for the winner and for the school. If you have bought a number please make sure to pay your money to the school office or a member of the PTFA by Monday 25th March.



We now have a '**New to You**' rail in the school foyer.

This has a selection of great condition uniform items and coats for anyone to avail of, simply help yourself to whatever is needed.

This will also be used seasonally for Costumes and Christmas jumpers. If you have any items in good condition that you think others may be able to use please consider putting them on the rail. This will be a good time to check out last years summer dresses and see if they might do another child for a season !



We think our PTFA may have been in talks with the Easter Bunny !!!

The PTFA is a very important part of St Joseph's Primary school and we would encourage parents or friends of the school to get involved. As little or as much time as you can spare it will always be welcome.

Keep an eye out for the date of our next meeting or any events which you think you may be able to help with.

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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.

*P3/4 had great fun participating in CORE KIDS WORKOUT on St.Patrick's Day*



## Sustrans

Well done to all of the boys and girls who walked, wheeled or scooted their way to school.

You are making a difference to the environment whilst keeping healthy. Keep it up!

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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

Tuesday 26th March: Irish Football Association. All classes.

Thursday 28th March: School Finishes at 11am for all children.

Friday 29th March - Friday 5th April: Easter Holiday.

Monday 8th April: School Resumes for all children.

Monday 22nd April: Mini's Music, P1/2

Wednesday 24th April: Meet the Lifeguards.

Monday 6th May: School Closed Early May Bank Holiday.

Tuesday 14th May: 'What's Inside' P7 Workshop in Saul.

Saturday 18th May: First Holy Communion.

Monday 29th May: Mini's Music, P1/2

Friday 24th May - Wednesday 29th May: School Closed Late May Bank Holiday.

Thursday 30th May: School Resumes for all children.

## Sacraments

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