

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



November/ December 2021

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers, what a busy couple of months we have had with the children celebrating Black History Month with some great research going on and a fantastic display in the hall of some of the things we learned. We also had Anti-Bullying Week and Road Safety Week and now we are on the big build up to Christmas. Unfortunately in the current climate we are unable to put on a Production again this year but keep an eye out for our virtual performances.

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 Skylar Crane, Maci McIlhone and Jodie Morrison who all have Birthdays in November and December.



Christmas Lunch

The children's Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 9th December. This is usually a lovely festive day and the children can wear their Christmas jumpers or festive outfits to school. School then closes early at 1pm for all children.

Please return your child's letter by Friday 3rd December.

Christmas lunch costs £2.60 but is free for any child entitled to Free School Meals.

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.

The safety of the children at all times is paramount.



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.

Dates for your diary

Friday 3rd December	Daily Mile Santa Run
Monday 6th to Friday 17th December	Journey to Santa
Thursday 9th December	Children's Christmas Lunch, school finishes at 1pm.
Wednesday 15th December	Mass in St Joseph's Chapel for P3/4
Wednesday 22nd December	School Finishes at 11am for all pupils.
Thursday 6th January	School Reopens for all pupils.
Thursday 5th May	First Confession 1pm
Saturday 14th May	First Holy Communion 11am
Wednesday 18th May	Confirmation 11am

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Anti Bullying Week



The Theme of Anti-Bullying week this year was 'ONE KIND WORD'. Each class explored the positive impact a tiny gesture or kind word can have on someone's day. Throughout the week, the children learned more about what bullying is, what to do if they experience bullying and how they can support others. The pupils promoted the key message 'ONE KIND WORD' through art work and role play. Our KS2 children took part in a HIP Psychology Workshop and really enjoyed the fun and interactive way it was delivered.

Black History Month

During the month of October, the pupils in St. Joseph's appreciated and celebrated cultural history, through Black History Month. The pupils were given the opportunity to celebrate the contribution Black communities and individuals have made over the centuries. The children created a display dedicated to great pioneering individuals, such as Ruby Bridges and Wilma Rudolph.

The school would like to thank Stephanie and Anne Laird-Arnold for coming into the school and providing the children with a flavour of Caribbean Culture. They made Banana Fritters with the pupils. A wonderful and very tasty experience for all involved.



PTFA

The PTFA has 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. Unfortunately due to COVID and movement of pupils and staff, the existing PTFA have disbanded.

We depend on generous and imaginative fundraising ideas to enable us to provide additional resources and activities that enhance the pupils learning and enjoyment of school.

We will soon be sending out a letter of interest 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.

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.