



ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

September/October 2022

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*Welcome to our September/October
Newsletter*

New Primary 1 Pupils

Our new Primary 1 pupils are now very well settled and enjoying life in the 'big school'. They are a lovely group of boys and girls and it is amazing to see their personal growth and development in such a short space of time.



Opening School Year Mass

On Friday 30th September we had our Opening School Year Mass. Normally this would have been held in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh but due to a weather warning forecasting heavy rain, it was rearranged to occur at the school. Thankfully, the forecasters got it right and Fr. Clyne's advice proved justified.

This was the first time in the school's history that a whole school mass for all pupils and staff from P1-P7 took place in the school. It was a lovely, intimate mass which was celebrated by Cardinal Sean Brady. In his homily he spoke about how wonderful our pupils were and we couldn't agree more. Massive thank you to Mr. Shields and his P6 class who took the lead in readings, prayers, reflection, offertory and presentation and to Mrs Garvey, music coordinator, Miss Niamh, clarinet and the super choir and tin whistle ensemble from P4-P7. An absolute credit to all.

Halloween

On Friday 28th October we shall be holding our Halloween Fancy Dress Parade and Disco. This is always a much anticipated and exciting day for everyone. No need to buy expensive costumes.



Press the google button and you will be surprised to see what can be achieved with 'stuff' you may already have about the house. We don't do prizes for best costumes as we appreciate the effort made by everyone. Children can bring in some party treats for class celebrations. (No nuts, gum, fizzy drinks, hard sweets eg gobstoppers etc). A donation of £2 per family is kindly requested for Newry Hospice.

Also, if anyone has any Halloween decorations going spare we would gladly accept if in good condition. Many thanks.

School Photographer

Our school photographer, Layfayette, will be in the school on Monday 7th November. They were originally booked for the 19th September but we had to postpone due to an additional Bank Holiday. More information will follow in a separate letter.



Child Safeguarding Team

Please be familiar with our Child Safeguarding Team.

Mrs Brennan – Designated Teacher for SG

Ms Moley – Deputy Designated Teacher for SG

Mr Trainor – Principal SG

Fr. Clyne – Chairperson Board of Governors

Mr D. Carbery – Designated Governor for SG

(Full Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy available on school website.)

Wraparound Provision



| | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 8 - 9 | Breakfast Club | |
| 2 - 3 | 1,2,3 Club | £1.25 |
| 3 - 4 | Homework & Activities | £2.25 |
| 4 - 5 | Late Class & Activities (with snack) | £3.25 |

Our Wraparound Club numbers after school have dramatically increased this term, especially from 2pm to 3pm. Please book online well in advance via School Money for all time slots required to avoid disappointment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If a child is booked in and for whatever reason is not going to attend, we ask you to follow the procedures as outlined below to avoid being charged:

1. Delete your booking on School Money (Must be adapted by midnight the night before);
2. If it is a last minute change (after midnight), contact the school office **before 10am** and school will edit booking on your behalf.

By adhering to the above instructions you will not be charged.

Unfortunately, a refund can no longer be administered in the absence of above points 1 & 2.

We are having to introduce non-refund terms as when sessions are fully booked and children subsequently do not attend without us being informed until very last minute or sometimes not at all, as this prevents others from availing of that service.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Apple Fest Armagh

For the first time in three years our Primary 1 pupils will have the opportunity to attend Apple Fest at Palace Stables, Armagh on Monday 24th October. They will learn all about apples in an active and engaging way. Lots of photos to follow.



Primary 4 & 7 Sacraments



First Communion for P4 pupils will be Saturday 13th May 2022 at 11am in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh.

Confirmation for P7 pupils will be Saturday 1st April in Sacred Heart Church, Cloughoge along with St. Moninna P.S. and St. Michael's P.S. Killean.



Food in School



In the interests of Health & Safety we ask our parents/ carers/ pupils not to allow any break/ lunch items that may contain traces of nuts.

We do have children in the school who have a severe nut allergy. The school reserves the right to withhold any food items from consumption should the need arise. Children should only bring a healthy break snack to school eg. single sandwich, pancake, cheese strings, fruit, yoghurt, plain biscuit etc. No crisps/chocolate bars allowed as we are a Healthy Eating School. Snack should be minimal, simple and quick to eat as we want our pupils to enjoy ample play time.

Friday is the **only** day designated for a small treat (crisps, small bar etc) at either breaktime snack or lunch (not both if taking packed lunch).

Aside from packed lunch, no other food or drink may be brought/sent into school – this includes **birthday cakes, party bags or party food items of any description.**

We really appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

Class Assemblies & Events

Our school is open again to welcome parents back to class assemblies and special events that may occur during the year. It was fantastic to see our pupils back on



stage for the first class assembly in nearly three years. Today Primary 5 performed the bible story, 'Jesus Calming the Storm' and it was so lovely to see so many parents and family members turn up to show support.

Forkhill Cumann Na mBunscol Blitz

Well done to the twenty boys and girls who represented their school at a recent GAA Football Blitz hosted in Forkhill by St. Oliver Plunkett's P.S. This was the first competition of the year and everyone involved can be proud of the way they participated both on and off the field of play.



Administration of Medicine

If your child has specific needs e.g., reading glasses, inhalers etc., please inform the class teacher. The school will only hold and administer medication for children with very specific medical needs e.g. Auto-Injector Pens for those at risk from anaphylaxis, inhalers for asthma and hypo kits for diabetes. Over the counter medication/throat lozenges etc. **will not** be administered. Only up to date prescriptions with name and dosage on the label will be accommodated in school following an induction procedure involving written permission. Contact office for details.



Please ensure asthma inhalers and asthma careplans from asthma nurse/Dr. are sent into school to be kept in child's classroom.

After School Clubs Term 1

In addition to our Wraparound Clubs, Burns Skills School have begun their after school sports programme for P1-P7. Gymnastics is on a Monday and Soccer is on a Wednesday. It is lovely to see our girls and boys participating to the full and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Who doesn't love being creative with Lego? Well, our P1-3 pupils who attend 'Little LEGO Engineers' on a Tuesday afternoon with Glow Group are fully immersed in their weekly design tasks. Their end results are really very impressive.



After school Coding Club for P4-P7 pupils on Tuesday from 3pm to 4pm is giving pupils the opportunity to use Minecraft for Education. It enables students to explore, create and imagine in a completely different way than they could ever do in a traditional classroom. Children have no fear of technology and quickly learn from each other how to develop and master coding skills.



Due to some initial school wifi problems, Glow Group will add on two additional sessions to make up for some lost time. This is very much appreciated.

We are so delighted and lucky to have Armagh County Board School Coach Aileen Magennis back in our school. Aileen is currently working with our Primary 5 class to develop their GAA football skills and in an after school capacity coaches pupils from P6 & P7. We couldn't ask for better.



Primary 5 GAA Football Skills with Aileen

Primary 4 Hurling

When Roy Keane was recently asked on Sky Sports about his most favourite all-time sporting occasion to attend he had no hesitation in mentioning the All-Ireland Hurling Final. What he really meant was watching the boys and girls of Primary 4 developing their Hurling/Camogie skills with James McKernan at St. Joseph's, Meigh on a Thursday morning. Good man Roy.



Music News

School Choir has resumed in full with Mrs Garvey taking choir after school on Thursdays. The numbers attending are great and it is so lovely to hear the

beautiful sounds of singing echoing around the school. Their first performance was at the opening school year mass at which Cardinal Brady officiated and they certainly have gotten off to a great start.

The school have continued to employ EA Music Service and we are privileged to have Mr Barry Murphy as our tutor once again. He will be tutoring P4&6 in learning the recorder; P5 using i-pad technology with digital app 'Charanga' and 'Garageband' with P7 where the whole class have been given individual clarinets or saxophone to learn how to play.

Mrs Garvey will once again take whole school singing with P4-P7 classes and Miss Niamh will be teaching tin whistle to P6/7 pupils.

Spanish

Ola! Buenos Dias. Coma esta!
Delighted to have Miss Patricia return for Spanish lessons every Thursday. The children absolutely love her lively and enthusiastic approach which makes learning Spanish fun and engaging for all. This year we have split the cost into two £6 payments on School Money for each pupil. One for now and the other in February. If you haven't done so already, please pay first instalment. Thank you.



P2 Post Office

Great BIG Thank you to our postman Barry Kane for coming to talk to the P2 pupils about his job. P2 are learning all about 'People Who Help Us' and Barry certainly does that for our local community.



Newry Museum

Our Primary 7 pupils recently went on an educational visit to Bagnall's Castle in Newry as a stimulus for their World Around Us topic, 'The Victorians'. They got to experience what it was like to attend school during this period and compare it with school today. While the children are all saying school nowadays was much, much better, Mr McVerry on the other hand liked the idea of reintroducing the 'Sally Rod' and the 'Finger Stocks'!



Primary 3 Village Walk

Primary 3 had a lovely walk into the village yesterday as part of 'Learning about their Local Environment' topic.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Thomas Rice Ethan Corless Alex Daly
Grace Matthews Oisín O'Hare Ava Brady
Kieran Downey Laura Garvey Ally Moorehouse
Jennifer Murphy Paddy Connors Ella-Mae Henning
Dylan Maguire Conan McDonagh
Sophie McGuigan Emilija Bogdanova
Daniel Loughran Quinn Walsh
Anna-Rose Johnston Mariah McCarthy Blake Price

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Peadar Downey Darcie Faloon Bonnie Toner
Cara Jackson Oisín Morgan Donncha O'Hare
Heidi Yeates Noah Madigan Pollyanna Yeates
Megan Carr Seamus Carville Oliver Jackson
Ann Connors Katie Hannaway Lilly Keiran
Joseph Kelly Jack McDonnell Conor Winters
Chloe Carr Caoimhe Coburn James Larkin
Padraig McParland Loressha Mongan
Niamh Rice



Dates for Your Diary

Fri. 28th October - Halloween Fancy Dress Disco

Wed. 31st October - Friday 4th November - Mid Term Break

Sat. 3rd December - Santa Saturday

Wed. 21st December - Early Closing
@11:30am Christmas Holidays (no dinners or after school wraparound)

Fri. 6th January - Term 2 begins