

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2023

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Dear school community,
Welcome to the latest addition of our school newsletter which aims to share a small flavour of what is happening in our busy school. Spring is most definitely in the air and it is lovely to see brighter mornings and a stretch in the evening.

G. Trainor

MARCH PRAYER

Christ be with me,
Christ be beside me,
Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me,
Christ be at my right hand,
Christ be at my left hand,
Christ be with me everywhere I go,
Christ be my friend for ever and ever.
Amen.

P4 First Confession

Congratulations to our Primary 4 class who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh on Thursday 23rd February. As part of their preparation they performed the 'Parable of the Lost Sheep' at a recent Friday school assembly in front of a large audience of family members, staff and pupil body. They were all just brilliant!



Slieve Gullion Credit Union Quiz

St. Joseph's entered three teams for the Credit Union Quiz in Forkhill Community Centre. Competition was tough and each round was closely tied but when all the questions were asked our Primary 6 team ran out their section winners.

They will now participate in the next round at the Mourne Country Hotel, Newry this coming Saturday 4th March. A great achievement to get this far and we have no doubt they will leave nothing behind in their quest to get to the next stage. Good luck. We are all so very proud of you whatever the outcome.



World Book Day

World Book Day takes place this Thursday 2nd March 2023, and we would like to invite you to join us in helping your child to make the most of this exciting occasion. Children are invited to come to school on this day dressed as a character from a favourite book. There is no need to purchase a costume, there are plenty of creative ideas online should you wish to participate.



World Book Day celebrates the joy and value of books and reading, especially for children. Every child will receive a £1 World Book Day Book Token that can be used to get £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more in our upcoming Book Fair which arrives in school from **23rd – 30th March.**

Audiobooks are a brilliant way of enjoying stories, whether you're reading together with the family, or listening in your own time, find your next audiobook to tune into here.

https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/?dm_i=35S3,1D782,2AGIXF,5CTVD,1

For younger readers, check out [Share A Story Corner](#) for video books and activities to enjoy with your little one.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Our St Patrick's Day Celebration will be on Thursday 16th March beginning at 10.00am. Pupils are encouraged to wear something green to add to the occasion and bring in a £1 donation. P1-P7 pupils are all participating and parents are warmly invited to come along and join in the craic. Entrance is £2 per adult seat and £1 per child seat. All proceeds will go to our **Trocaire Lenten Appeal**. It promises to be an enjoyable morning.



School will be CLOSED on Friday 17th March



SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Safer Internet Day 2023 fell on 7th February with the theme

'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries coordinated by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission, and national Safer Internet Centres across Europe. Visit these sites for excellent tips and information.

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

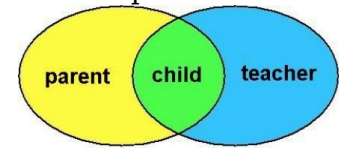
Or <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>



A visit from the PSNI to talk to our pupils and answer questions about safety & respect online.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all our parents who made the time to participate in a telephone conversation or attend a face to face meeting.



The flexibility for choice regarding type of consultation proved extremely positive and is something we will seek to continue in future years.

P7 Sacrament Preparation

Primary 7 participated in their Service of Light and Commitment ritual on Thursday 19th January at the school. This is an important part in their preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church, Cloughoge on Saturday 1st April along with the other two schools in our parish.



The Catechetics Council of the Irish Bishops Conference has commissioned iCatholic to produce a series of videos entitled 'Come Holy Spirit – Preparing for Confirmation'. <https://www.armagharchdiocese.org/confirmation-day/>

P4 First Communion

Our Primary 4 pupils will be receiving the Sacrament of First Communion on Saturday 13th May at 11am. In the years prior to Covid we would have held a tea party back in the school after the ceremony. Our PTA would have taken the lead in this, to different our PTA is no This is will address at a



organising however, due circumstances longer active. something we future date. So, what we are proposing is to begin a new tradition whereby we ask our all of our P3 parents to provide buns, cakes, traybakes etc as well as

some volunteers to help on the day. This way, the tea party becomes self sufficient and every Communion class going forward will have contributed to each previous class's celebration and then subsequently have availed of the hospitality in return.

This idea is at the feasibility stage at the moment and we will write to our current P3 parents for their views and input.

P3 After Easter

Reminder that after Easter our Primary 3 class will now be staying in school until 3pm.



Class Assemblies

We were treated to two wonderful class assemblies during Jan and Feb. Primary 4 reinacted the 'Parable of the Lost Sheep' while the Primary 6 class treated us to a 'LOVELY' performance to coincide with Valentines Day. It is great to see so many family members coming along to join us on these occasions.



Food Safety and First Aid

Miss Patrice has been very busy lately. In fact she is always busy. As our resident First Aider she has just completed her renewed Two Full Day First Aid at Work Training. This ensures our school remains compliant with the required Health and Safety guidelines.



On top of this Miss Patrice has also been successful in attaining a Food Hygiene Certificate. An Environmental Health Officer from NMDDC recently visited our Breakfast and After School facility and inspected our provision. Thanks to Miss Patrice



everything was in tip-top order and we are pleased to say we will shortly receive a 5 Star rating. Way to go Miss Patrice!



Teaching Practice

We are delighted to be hosting three wonderful students in P2, P4 and P5 who are completing their Teaching Practice with us. Mrs Jennifer McGuigan, Miss Sarah McManus (past pupil) & Miss Rionnach McQuade. We wish them well on their career path in this noble and privileged profession.



Cumann na mBunscol League

Our P6/7 Boys and Girls Gaelic Football teams will be travelling to Silverbridge on Friday to participate in the next round of the Cumann na mBunscol league. Boys were narrowly beaten by Dromintee in their first game while the girls were victorious in their match. There were great performances of skills from both teams and we are sure they will build on these going forward.

Local Historian

We are very pleased to welcome Una Walsh to our school over the next few weeks when she will be working with P4, 6 & 7 delving into topics related to our local area such as castles, celtic mythology, famine and Christian and Pagan landmarks. Anyone who has ever been in Una's company knows that in relation to South Armagh and beyond she has a treasure trove of wonderful information to share with us.

School Dinners (New Menu)

From Monday 20th March our School Meals will now be serving a warm dessert. There is no change in cost at this time. Please see menu attached.

School Start Times




It is important that all children are in school and seated in class by 9.10am. Pupils may line up from 8.50am.

Carpark

We kindly ask that the pedestrian entrance to the school is used on all occasions on entry and exit to/from the school. This is to ensure the safety of everyone at all times.

Diary Dates

9 th March	Primary 5 Assembly @ 1.15pm
16 th March 	St Patrick's Day Concert 10am Wear Green £1 donation for Trocaire Lenten Appeal
17 th March	School Closed
23 rd - 30 th March	Book Fair
31 st March	Primary 2 Assembly @ 11am
1 st April	P7 Confirmation Sacred Heart, Cloughoge
6 th April Holy Thursday Re-open Mon. 17 th April	Easter Holidays CLOSE at 11.30 am No Breakfast Club, Dinners or After School Wraparound Care
1 st May	School Closed - Bank Holiday
18 th May	School Closed - Polling Station
8 th May	School Closed - Additional Bank Holiday
13 th May	P4 First Communion St. Joseph's Meigh @ 11am
29 th -31 st May	School Closed - Bank Holiday & Staff Days

2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 20 March 24 April 22 May 19 June	Golden Crumbed Fish Fillet Or Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread Slice Chipped Potatoes/Baked Potato Baked Beans & Garden Peas Ice-Cream, Jelly & Mandarins	Homemade Beef Bolognaise or Homemade Pepperoni Pizza Pasta Spirals/ Baked Potato Sweetcorn/Coleslaw Homemade Swiss Roll/ Topped Egg Sponge & Custard	Southern Spiced Chicken Wrap or Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Boiled Rice/Potato Wedges Garden Peas/Tossed Salad Chocolate & Pear Sponge & Custard	Roast Gammon with Stuffing & Gravy or Cheesy Bean Loaded Jacket Potato & Pasta Salad Mash & Dry Roast Potatoes Carrots & Parsnip Strawberry Mousse	Hotdog & Homemade vegetable Soup or Sweet Chilli Chicken Panini Baked Potato Sweetcorn/Coleslaw/Salad Homemade Flakemeal Biscuit with Milkshake
Week 2 27 March 1 May 29 May 26 June	Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets or Ham & Cheese Panini Chipped Potatoes/Mashed Potato/Sweetcorn Custard with Pear & Peach Slices	Homemade Cottage Pie & Gravy or Chicken & Pasta Bake Peas & Carrots Tossed Salad Cornflake Tart & Custard	Chicken Curry & Naan Bread or Homemade Beef Lasagne & Coleslaw Diced Potato/B. Potato/Rice Garden Peas Homemade Jam & Coconut Sponge & Custard	Roast Turkey with Stuffing & Gravy or Sausage Meat Pie Mash & Dry Roast Potatoes Baked Beans & Baton Carrots Rice Krispie Square with Fruit	Beef Burger with Cheese/Salad or Golden Crumbed Fish Fillet Chipped Potatoes/Baked Potato/Salad/Coleslaw Homemade Shortbread & Orange Wedges
Week 3 3 April 8 May 5 June	Spiced Chicken Fajita or Oven Baked Pork Sausages Chipped Potatoes/Mash Potato/Coleslaw Baked Beans & Garden Peas Ice-Cream & Pears with Hot Chocolate Sauce	Oven Baked Fish Fingers or Beef Chilli with Garlic Slice Boiled Rice/Mashed Potato Spaghetti Hoops/Sweetcorn Zesty Orange Sponge & Custard	Homemade Chicken Curry with Naan Bread or Pepperoni Pizza Slice Diced Potato/Boiled Rice/Garden Peas Pasta Salad Homemade Brownie & Fruit	Roast Gammon with Stuffing & Gravy or Sweet Chilli Chicken Loaded Jacket Potato Mash & Dry Roast Potatoes Carrot & Parsnip Chilled Creamed Rice & Fruit	Ham & Cheese Panini & Homemade Soup or Oven Baked Breaded Fish Mashed Potatoes Baked Beans/Sweetcorn Strawberry Milkshake with Homemade Flakemeal Biscuit
Week 4 17 April 15 May 12 June Week 4	Oven Baked Chicken Goujons or Beef Bolognaise in a Rich Tomato Sauce with Garlic Bread Slice Dice Potatoes/Pasta Spirals/Sweetcorn Custard & Two Fruit	Homemade Chicken Pie or Margherita Pizza Slice Chipped Potatoes/Baked Potato Garden Peas/Coleslaw Ice Cream Slider & Fruit	Savoury Mince Beef or Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Mashed Potato & Boiled Rice Carrots/Sweetcorn Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard	Roast Chicken Fillet with Stuffing & Gravy or Ham & Cheese Loaded Jacket Potato/Salad Mash & Dry Roast Potatoes Broccoli/Carrots Vanilla Artichoke Roll & Mandarins	Chicken Burger & Salad or Oven Baked Cod Fishcake Chipped Potato Baked Beans/Coleslaw Shortcake or Banoffee Pie

Whole Fruit or Chopped Fruit Available Everyday instead of Dessert Option

Bread, Milk, & Water Available Daily

If You Require Any Additional Information on Allergens or Special Diets Please Contact the School to complete a Special Diets Application Form

