

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

September/October 2023

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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 29th September we had our Opening School Year Mass. Massive thank you to Mr. McVerry and his P6 class who took the lead in readings, prayers, reflection, offertory and presentation and to Mrs Garvey, music coordinator, Miss Niamh and the super choir and tin whistle ensemble from P4-P7. They were all excellent.

Flu Vaccination

The School Nurse will be collecting Flu Vaccination Forms at 9.30am this coming Wednesday 18th October. All responses need to be returned by then. For any further information about the Flu Vac for children please contact the School Nursing Team at Dromalane House, Newry on 028 3756 4790.

Apple Fest Armagh

Our amazing Primary 1 pupils went on their first ever school trip to Palace Stables, Armagh for Applefest. They had a wonderful time and represented our school and their families with pride and distinction.



Halloween

On Friday 27th October we shall be holding our Halloween Fancy Dress Parade and Disco. We are very thankful to Mr Duane Keiran who will once again provide his DJ skills.



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 skelebrations. (No nuts, gum, fizzy drinks, hard sweets eg gobstoppers etc). If anyone has any Halloween decorations going spare we would gladly accept if in good condition. Many thanks.

Why wouldn't the ghost dance at the party?

He had no body to dance with him. Wha... Ha... Ha... Ha.....

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	£1.25
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.

Primary 4 & 7 Sacraments



First Communion for P4 pupils will be Saturday 11th May 2023 at 11am in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh.

Confirmation for P7 pupils will be Saturday 27th April at 11am in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh.



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

We are very lucky at St. Joseph's to have a bespoke stage area and we place a very high emphasis on all of our pupils having the opportunity to perform for an audience on a number of occasions throughout the year. Please see dates below in **green** for class assemblies/productions to which parents and family members are very welcome to attend. Assemblies will begin at 10:55am. P1/2 Christmas Plays will begin at 10am.

Fri. 20 th Oct	P4 Ms Maginnis
Wed. 25 th Oct	Jack & The Beanstalk
Fri. 27 th Oct	Halloween Disco
Fri. 17 th Nov	P3 Ms Moley
Fri. 24 th Nov	P5 Mrs Brennan
Fri. 8 th Dec	Christmas Dinner (Early Closure 12.30pm)
Wed. 13 th Dec	P1 Chris. Play
Thur. 14 th Dec	P2 Chris. Play
Fri 15 th Dec	Santa Fun Day
Wed. 20 th Dec	Carol Service 1pm

Administration of Medicine

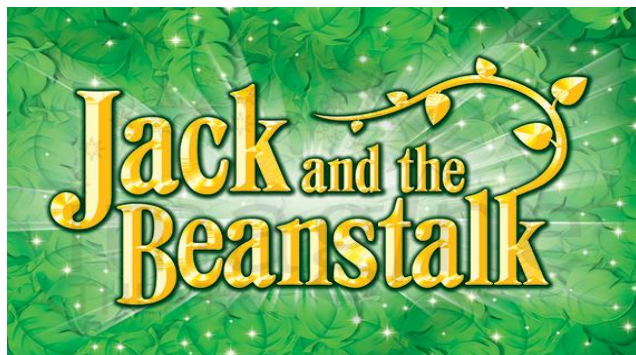
If your child has specific needs e.g., reading glasses, inhalers etc., please inform the class teacher. The school will only hold and administer medication for children with very specific medical needs e.g. Auto-Injector Pens for those at risk from anaphylaxis, inhalers for asthma and hypo kits for diabetes. 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.

M & M Theatre Productions

We are delighted to announce that travelling theatre company M&M productions will be performing 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to all of our children on Wednesday 25th October. They are without doubt the UK and Irelands No 1 theatre in education performing arts group. We had them in our school back in 2019 and absolutely everyone just loved



their show and were thoroughly entertained. To help us cover some of the cost we are asking for £3 per pupil which can be paid via our School Money link.

Health & Hygiene

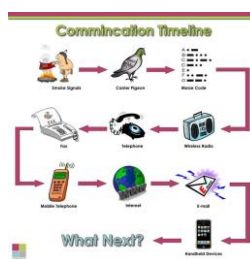
As we begin a new school year we would like to increase your child's awareness of the importance of good handwashing, because, as you know, children are more prone to sharing bugs. We feel that this will help reduce the likelihood of the spread of any infections both in school and at home. We would be grateful if you would go through the handwashing steps with your child. Little rhymes such as "This is the way we wash our hands" for our younger children can make handwashing a fun experience. It is important that handwashing is carried out after certain activities, for example, using the toilet, before eating, after touching animals and before bedtime.

If a child displays vomiting or diarrhoea we kindly ask they remain at home for 48hrs after the symptoms desist.

In the event of a positive Covid test, current guidance suggests children u18 self-isolate for 3 days from the date of test.

Communication

One of our key aims in St. Joseph's is to ensure we have balanced, effective communication channels within our school community. We are only sending out essential paper communications to you that may require your signature; all other communications are being sent in the



following key ways;

1. Text messages
2. Text messages with links to letters
3. Emails
4. Class Dojo (*informal class based messaging*)

Occasionally we will reinforce messages via facebook but

important messages will be sent in one of the three main ways above. To that end, please ensure that we have your correct mobile number and email address. If you wish to change these please let Miriam in the office know by emailing her at mmagennis042@c2kni.net . If you do not update us, you may not receive VITAL INFORMATION going forward.

After School Clubs

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

To give something back to the school in recognition of the support our families provide, every class in the school will receive a 5-week programme of in-class support. Primary 1 are currently receiving Dance and Movement with Donna and Primary 4 are receiving Ball Games with Aaron. The other classes will receive their bespoke programme before the end of the school year. After Christmas, Burns Skill School are branching out into non-sporting activities such as Arts & Crafts, Lego, Speech and Drama, Musical Theatre, Coding and Science Club. We will keep you updated about this new development and seek your views on what might be of popular interest.

Gaelic Coaching

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 4 Hurling/Camogie

Our Primary 4 class are fast developing their Hurling/Camogie skills under the watchful eye of coach James McKernan. Following last weekends triumphal senior hurlers from Killeavy winning the Junior Championship at the Athletic Grounds, Armagh, it wont be long before these young stars of the future will also be bringing home the silverware.



Music News

The school have continued to employ EA Music Service (at significant cost) 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 be focussing this year on P4-P7 in-class singing as well as choir for special occasions 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 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.



 Staying with languages, a few parents have enquired about the introduction of Irish. We have tried to seek out a tutor but to no avail. If you, or someone you know could help or signpost us in the right direction we would gladly explore every possibility of including this in our curriculum enrichment programme. Go Raibh Maith Agat.

P2 Post Office

Just as the P2 class were heading out on a walk to the village Post Office to post their letters home, who pulled up to deliver the school mail? Not one to miss a photo opportunity, Barry happily posed for this lovely snap with his little posties.

P2 are learning all about 'People Who Help Us' and Barry certainly does that for our local community come rain or shine.



Primary 3 Village Walk

Primary 3 the only and about community. Primary 3 lovely walk village as 'Learning their Local Environment' topic.



were not class out the local Our super class had a into the part of about

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jasmine Kearney Daire Keenan Daniel O'Hanlon Thomas Rice Ethan Corless Alex Daly Grace Matthews Oisin O'Hare Ava Brady Kieran Downey Laura Garvey Ally Moorehouse Sophia Shortt Jennifer Murphy Paddy Connors Ella-Mae Henning Dylan Maguire Conan McDonagh Sophie McGuigan Emilija Bogdanova Daniel Loughran Quinn Walsh

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Conor Callaghan Pearse McAteer Peadar Downey Darcie Faloon Bonnie Toner Cara Jackson Oisin 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



Dates for Your Diary

Fri. 27th October - Halloween Fancy Dress Disco

Mon. 30th October - Friday 3rd November - Mid Term Break

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

Fri. 5th January - Term 2 begins