

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

December 2023



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Christmas Greetings

Here we are entering the Christmas period already. It seems as if we are going at warp speed and September, October and November have gone by in a flash. Our staff are very busy getting our whole school decorated for the beginning of December which is this Friday. If anyone had any decorations/Christmas ornaments etc, in good order that they no longer used, we would gladly take them of your hands. Just leave at front office. Thanks

On behalf of our Principal, Staff and Board of Governors we hope you have a peaceful, safe, and HAPPY CHRISTMAS

STRIKE ACTION

School will be **CLOSED** until 12:15pm on Wednesday 29th November due to industrial action by school leaders and teaching staff. For any pupil who is not in attendance on Wednesday afternoon, a ! code will be used which does not affect a pupil's attendance percentage.

St Joseph's Primary School Tableau and Carol Service

The children at St Joseph's PS are proud to present to you our beautiful Tableau and Carol Service which will tell the Christmas Story of the Nativity through song and drama. Every class will participate in this festive re-enactment. This will take place in St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 20th December at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.



Primary 1 and 2 Christmas Plays

Primary 1 will perform their Christmas play 'Whoops-A-Daisy-Angel' on Wednesday 13th December in the school assembly hall @ 10am. Primary 2 will perform their play 'Little Angel Lost Its Wings' on Thursday 14th December in the school assembly hall @ 10am. Parents and family members are invited to attend.

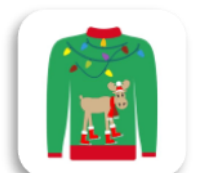
SVP Collection

As we begin our preparations for Christmas in school this year, we are mindful of our need to help others less fortunate in our community. Once again this year the National SVP have requested that we fundraise to provide food vouchers and fuel vouchers to families instead of our usual food hampers. On Friday 8th December, to coincide with our pupils Christmas Dinner, we are having a non-uniform/ Christmas Jumper Day and are asking you to make a monetary contribution to SVP. Donations can be sent in the envelope attached to the SVP letter. From previous appeals, we know we can depend on the kind generosity of our whole school community to support this local charity.



Pupil Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day

One of the highlights of our school year is the children's Christmas dinner party. It will be held on Friday 8th December. All children are encouraged to wear their own clothes with a Christmas/festive jumper/hat etc. to add to this festive occasion. (Please do not buy anything new) If you haven't done so already, we ask that you book online (both paying and free school meals) via School Money to avoid disappointment.



Pupils will have an **EARLY FINISH** after Christmas dinner on Friday

8th December.

P1 – P4 collection 12.20 -12.30pm

P5 – P7 collection 12.30

Advent

Advent marks the start of the Christian year. It is the four weeks before Christmas, beginning this year on Sunday 3rd December. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. This is the time for Christians to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and look forward to the time that Jesus will come again.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Jesus, we are waiting with joyful hearts to remember and celebrate the wonder of your birth. You came into the world as a helpless baby, but already you were holding within your tiny, beating heart a beautiful hope for mankind: a sacred dream in which we live together in peace, love, and truth. Throughout this time of waiting, may we do our very best to turn your sacred dream for us into reality, so that at Christmas, we can offer you a present for your birthday, fashioned out of peace and perfect love, Amen



Primary 7 Young Enterprise

On Tuesday 12th December from 9.30am-2.00pm our Primary 7 pupils along with Mr Shields and Miss Fiona will be at the Quays Shopping Centre in Newry selling their crafts for Christmas. The Young Enterprise programme teaches

the children how to set up and run a small business. Their classroom is like a scene from Santa's Workshop, but their hard work and effort will pay off. Make sure to call to the Quays and see them and you can purchase their beautiful crafts.



Santa Visit



We are reliably informed from our fairy friends in our Fairy Garden who are related to the elves in the North Pole who work alongside a very 'special person' that all the boys and girls from St. Joseph's P.S., will get to meet this VIP guest when he visits our wonderful school on Friday 15th December to deliver a present to everyone. The fairies have also told us to have plenty of hot chocolate and marshmallows on offer and to arrange a magic show for the whole school to enjoy. The teachers and staff think the fairies are being mischievous about this last bit and want this for themselves but who are we to argue. On top of all these requests, the school cooks have also received a separate **Elf-Mail** to prepare a special takeaway box style meal of sausage & chips & ice-cream on this day. So, if all pupils could wear their Christmas/festive jumpers, hats etc once again this would add so much colour to this Santa Fun Day. If all pupils could bring in £2 to keep all the Christmas lights on that would be very much appreciated.



P2 Trip to Tiddly Town

As part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic P2 had the most amazing morning at Tiddly Town. They all dressed up in costume and had fun, fun fun.



Post Primary School Open Days

Sat 3rd Dec – St. Pauls, Bessbrook 9.30 – 12.30
Wed. 29th Nov – Abbey Grammar 3-5.30pm
Thur 30th Nov – Sacred Heart 7pm
Tues 5th Dec – Our Lady's 7.15pm
No other school info available!

Firemen Visit Primary 5

Primary 5 recently had a visit from the local Fire Service. The Firemen gave an educational talk about Fire Safety and they received a wonderful pack from

IN CASE OF FIRE



the Fire Service. They even had an opportunity to explore the fire engine and learned all about the safety equipment onboard. Some children even got to try on some of the safety

equipment as did Mrs Brennan.

Wayne Denner Online Safety Workshop

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to our Upper Killeavy Parish Cluster online, digital safety awareness evening in Killeavy GAC. While a lot of the information shared was stark and concerning, I am sure we are all have a greater understanding of the dangers facing our young people.

Here are some links shared by Wayne. Even if you didn't make the evening, you will still find the links below essential for helping to keep the young people in your house safe online.

<https://www.facebook.com/talk2wayne>

Also please find below follow-up resources after the Parents session:

<https://go.waynedenner.com/FollowUpResources>

Content Filtering Tool

<https://vimeo.com/waynedenner/nextdns>

Primary 3 & 5 Assemblies

We were privileged to observe two wonderful class assemblies over the past two Fridays. Primary 3 focussed on the theme of generosity and putting others before themselves.

Primary 5 focussed on memories. From happy and fun school memories to remembering all those who have died and gone to be with God our Father in heaven. Both classes were absolutely brilliant and it was so lovely to see so many family members to see them.



Anti-Bullying Week

This year's Theme was : Make a Noise About Bullying.

Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But it doesn't have to be this way. If we challenge it, we can change it. And it starts by speaking out. Whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, let's speak out and show each other the support we need. Speak out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone you know is being bullied. Speak out and consider a new approach. And it doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a responsibility to help each other speak out and make a noise. Together, let's be the change we want to see. Reflect on our own behaviour, set positive examples and create kinder communities. It takes courage, but it can change lives. So let's



come together and make a noise to stop bullying. All children completed various activities in class during anti-bullying week (13th-17th November 2023).

Child Safeguarding Team

Please be familiar with our Child Safeguarding Team.

Mrs Brennan – Designated Teacher

Ms S Moley– Deputy Designated Teacher

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.)



Starting Primary School in September 2024

Do you have or do you know anyone who has a little child who wants to join our family in St Joseph's PS? Let them know we at St Joseph's will be having an Open Afternoon on Thursday 7th December @ 1pm. All prospective P1 entrants welcome to come and tour the school.

Timeline for new P1 and P7 to Post Primary Admissions

Applications for Admission to Primary One

Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 12noon:

Applications open via online portal:
www.eani.org.uk. (Admissions)

Friday 26th January 2024 at noon Applications close.

Friday 26th April 2024

Parents receive notification of the outcome of their application via online portal.

Applications for Admission to Post-Primary School

Tuesday 30th January 2024:

Post-primary applications open at 12 noon via online portal www.eani.org.uk (Admissions)

Thursday 22nd February 2024 Post-Primary applications close at 12 noon.

Saturday 18th May 2024

Parents receive notification of the outcome of their application via online portal.

More information and support will be available in due course.



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 (snack)	£3.25

Our Wraparound Club has never been busier. As numbers have increased it is preferable and advisable to book in advance via School Money to avoid disappointment.

PLEASE NOTE – No After-school Care on Friday 8th or Fri 15th Dec.

BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE WILL FINISH ON Tuesday 19TH DECEMBER to enable a deep clean of the room for re-opening safely in January.

Killeavy Men Shed

Once again we are very thankful to Killeavy Men's Shed for their craft, skill and expertise in providing a new fence to partition off a bespoke outdoor learning area for our children.



Dates for Your Diary

Fri. 8th Dec - Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
EARLY CLOSURE P1-4 12.20 -12.30
P5-7 12.30

SVP (Monetary donations returned please)

Wed. 13th Dec - P1 Play Whoop-A-Daisy-Angel

Thur. 14th Dec - P2 Little Angel Lost Its Wings

Fri. 15th Dec - Santa Fun Day/Magic Show (£2 per child please) Non-Uniform/Christmas clothes

Mon. 18th Dec - Last day for Breakfast Club and After School Care

Wed. 20th Dec - Whole School Nativity and Carol Service 1pm (St. Joseph's Church)

Thur. 20th Dec - Early Closing @11:30am Christmas Holidays (no dinners)

Friday 5th Jan - Term 2 begins (Breakfast club & Afterschool Care re-opens)