



*Inspire, Believe, Achieve*



Dear Parents/Carers,

The beginning of May saw the Primary Three children make their First Confession and the Primary Four children make their First Holy Communion. This was followed by our Primary Seven children making their sacrament of Confirmation. The children prepared for their sacraments so reverently and were a credit to their families. I would like to thank all the staff here in St Joseph's for all their help in making each of the sacraments a special occasion for the children involved. Special thanks also goes to Fr Peter for his co-ordination and gentle support throughout each of the sacraments, making the children feel at ease during the ceremony.

## Walking Home from School

In the interests of health and safety parents are advised that children under the age of eight should not be left to walk home from school by themselves. **ALL** children under the age of eight should be collected by an adult/carer from the school gates. During school drop-off and pick-up times, the school car park and roads in the immediate vicinity of school are especially busy. There is usually a high level of vehicle, pedestrian, and cyclist activity. This causes a lot of congestion, therefore, it is important to take reasonable steps to ensure the safe handover of each child. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding with this.

If you are unable to collect your child for any reason, please contact the school and we will arrange for your child/ren to be supervised until a named adult arrives to collect them.

If your child is over the age of eight and you feel they are ready to walk home alone from school,

- Talk to them about road safety. They should always look both ways before crossing the street, and never be on their phone whilst crossing a road.
- Remind them never to accept a lift from someone they don't know, or let a stranger into the house. They should never give personal information away – in real life or online.
- Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, they can call you or a trusted adult.



### Post Primary Transfer Consortium (PPTC)

For the parents of children currently in Primary Six.



Registration for the GL Assessment and AQE Assessments has now opened. If you wish for your child to sit either of these tests you must register your child. All information regarding the GL and AQE Assessments can be found on the PPTC website [pptcni.com](http://pptcni.com). You will also find a list of the 34 PPTC schools which will be acting as Assessment Centres for the 2022-23 Entrance Assessment on this website.

Registration Packs are now available. You can either go to the website of a PPTC Assessment Centre, click on the link to PPTC Registration and download the Registration Form and other documentation or contact a PPTC Assessment Centre and ask for a Registration Pack. If you need assistance in completing the form, please contact the school Office to arrange an appointment.

#### Below is a list of the Key Dates.

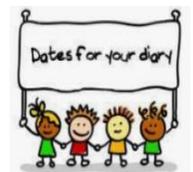
- The PPTC Entrance Assessment will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- The Entrance Assessment registration period runs from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 (2:00 pm).
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022: GL Assessment.
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022: AQE (CEA) 1st Paper.
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022: AQE (CEA) 2nd Paper.
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2022: AQE (CEA) 3rd Paper.
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022: GL Supplementary Entrance Assessment.



We are delighted to inform you that we are now in a position to invite parents to attend our Annual Sports Day on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 10:30am, weather permitting. Parents will be free to take their children home after Sports Day, should they wish to do so. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May** – Sports Day 10:30am (weather permitting)  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June** - P.1-P.4 End of year trip to We Are Vertigo  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** - Mr Rooney's End of Year trip to Lets Go Hydro  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June** –Primary Seven Leavers Assembly 9:30am – 11:30  
(P.7 Children are free to go home after their Leavers Assembly)  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June** – School finishes for pupils at 11:00am





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### First Holy Communion and Confirmation

It has been a very busy week in the Parish with our Primary Four children making their First Holy Communion and our Primary Seven children making their Confirmation. Huge congratulations to the boys and girls in Primary Four who celebrated their First Communion on Saturday 14th May. It was a such a lovely ceremony and the boys and girls were a credit to their families and the school. Huge thanks goes to Mrs Toner and Fr Peter for preparing the children so well for their sacrament. This was followed by the boys and girls in Primary Seven making their Confirmation on Wednesday 18th May. Again the children were a credit to their families and our school. Thanks also goes to our school choir who sang beautifully on both occasions, our soloists Maci and Kayleigh and Mr Rooney for his accompaniment on guitar. The music certainly added to each of the ceremonies.

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### NEW Parent and Carer workshops Sustaining Healthy relationships

Parenting/caring for children is both a joy and a challenge and can often have big impact on our relationships with those around us.

Life is full of ups and downs and conflict is normal within all relationships, it is how conflict is handled which can impact our children most both now and long term.

Together with Relate NI, we are delivering 'Sustaining Healthy Relationships' workshops. These sessions will look at developing skills and tools to manage the rough & tumble that can appear in any relationship; including couples & family relationships, friendships and our relationship with ourselves!

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Some of the areas which will be covered include:

- Common Relationship Stress Factors
- What Healthy Relationships Look Like
- Spotting Unhealthy Relationship Signs & Challenging Inappropriate Behaviour
- How to Communicate Effectively

**Where and when?**  
Face to face  
Belfast (Glengall Street)  
Wednesday 8th June 11am

Online via Zoom  
Tuesday 14th June 10am  
Wednesday 15th June 7pm

Call now for more information or to book your place  
0808 8020 400

### School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow