

# ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



December 2022

## NEWSLETTER

The festive spirit was in full swing this month especially as we enjoyed a delicious dinner on Thursday 8th December. Thanks to Donna and Kay in the kitchen and all the staff who ensured the event ran smoothly.

Thanks also to Stephanie and all of her staff in Ardglass Kitchen for preparing the Christmas fayre.

As we draw to the end of Term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support.

Thank you to all of the pupils for working so hard and for the excellent behaviour, it makes us all very proud when visitors and public places comment on how well behaved the children are.

Thank you to all the staff for the commitment to the pupils and the school.

Thank you Father Peter for the lovely Mass every week and thank you to our new PTFA for organising events to raise much needed funds for school.

I would like to wish you all a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to working with you all next year

### Free School Meals

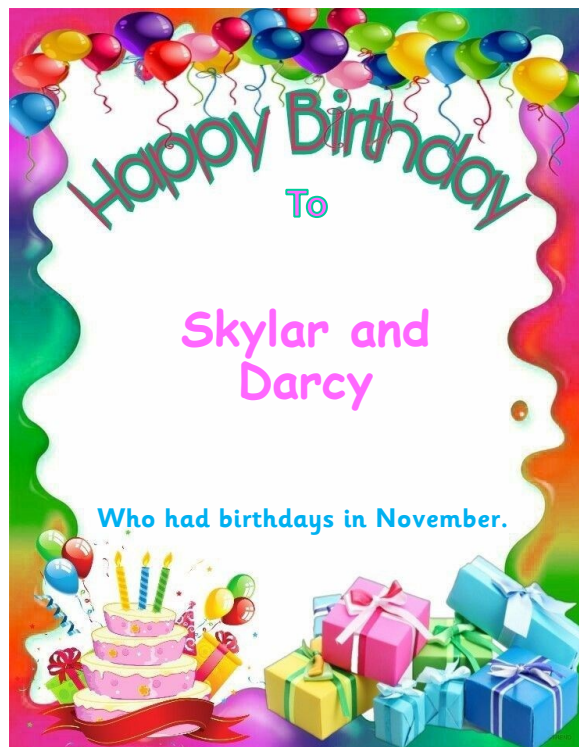
If you feel that your child may be entitled to free school meals regardless of whether they will be taking them or not, please complete the application on the EA website ASAP.

If you require any assistance, please feel free to contact the school Office.

### Mobile Phones



We appreciate that children may need to bring their mobile phones with them to use after school. All mobile phones, without exception must be handed in to the office on arrival and will be returned as the child leaves. Please do not phone your child's mobile during school



### Important Notice for Parents/Carers

St Joseph's PS aims to be a Nut-Free school. In order to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts, we no longer allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes. Being a 'Nut-Free School' means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packets of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches/bars
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Nutella spread or Nutella breakfast bars

THIS SCHOOL IS  
**NUT FREE**



If you are unsure about an item, please speak to a member of staff. Parents are reminded that they must notify staff of any known or suspected allergy to nuts and provide all necessary information.

### School App



Our school is now listed in the Schools NI App, which allows you to view school updates and receive messages via your phone or tablet. The App is available on both Apple and Android devices, and will give you access to our school news, calendar, events and newsletters. To install the App, open our school website and click the 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen.

### Child Protection Procedures

St Joseph's safeguarding team are: Designated Teacher: Mrs K Collins.

Deputy Designated Teachers: Mrs C Toner and Mrs F Macfarlane

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr J Kearney. Designated Child Protection Governor: Dr C Magennis

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### Cinderella Panto at The Grand Opera House

The children had a fantastic outing to The Grand Opera House to see Cinderella on Tuesday 13th December.

Here are just a few snippets of what the children had to say.

I liked the part when  
Cinderella's carriage  
flew up into the air

George P3

I liked when Buttons and  
the Prince were pushing  
each other off the wall.

Bo P4

I thought it was funny  
when the Fairy Godmother  
threw the toilet paper into the audience

Lara P4

My favourite part was when  
Cinderella's Dad's shoes were  
squeaking like a duck.

Jodie P4

My favourite part was  
when I saw Buttons  
driving a car that was  
actually a toilet on  
wheels.

Ruby P3

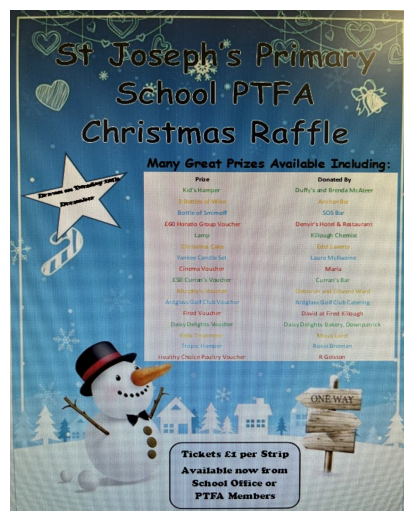
The Stepsisters dresses were  
really funny !

Lola P4

## PTFA

It was lovely to see so many parents and families at our morning of Coffee and Christmas Cheer on Wednesday. A very big thank you to our PTFA for organising the tea and coffee, to the staff for the preparations and to the children for performing so beautifully.

The PTFA have also been very busy organising the children's Christmas Disco which will take place on Monday 19th December (admission £2) and the Fantastic Raffle which will be drawn at 1:30pm on Tuesday 20th December. Tickets are still available from the school office or PTFA members.





## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will resume on Thursday 5th January at 8:15 each morning at the Price of £1 per day to be paid in the morning or in advance. Any child in school before 8:45am will be presumed to be at Breakfast Club and charged accordingly.

Children have a choice of cereal, toast, pancakes, muffins yoghurts and fresh fruit as well as bacon on a Wednesday and sausages on a Friday. To drink they can choose from juice, milk, tea or water

## After School Clubs

From Monday 9th January until 10<sup>th</sup> February clubs on offer will be as shown.

The cost for each session will be £3.00.

Sessions are to be booked beforehand and all money is to be paid in advance.

	2-3pm (P1 to P3)	3-4pm (P4 to P7)
<b>Monday</b>	Playtime	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mindfulness with Brenda	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Cookery	Cookery
<b>Thursday</b>	Construction Club	

## Road Safety and Car Parking

Please remind all children that they are to dismount all bikes and scooters at the school gates in the morning and walk their bikes and scooters on school grounds. Similarly all bikes and scooters must be walked to the gates after school.

**Please ensure that all cars are parked in the main car park and not up at the school building or on footpaths. This is to ensure access for emergency vehicles when required.**

**Your child's safety is our priority.**

The spaces at the school building are for staff only as their cars are not moved at any time during the school day or when children may be in the car park.

## Walking to school

In line with local authority guidelines, children may walk to and from school alone once they reach the age of 8. Before their 8th Birthday children should still be collected from school by an adult or accompanied by an older sibling.

Your child's education and wellbeing is our shared number one priority. Should you have any worries or concerns about your child, please get in touch with your child's teacher in the first instance who will try to assist whenever they can.

## Dates For Your Diary

**Monday 19th December:** PTFA Christmas Disco

**Wednesday 21st December:** School Closes at 11:00am.

**Thursday 5th January:** School reopens for all pupils.

**Monday 9th January:** Mini's Music for P1 & P2

**Tuesday 10th January:** P1 Application Portal Opens at 12 noon

**Friday 27th January:** P1 Application Portal Closes at 12 noon

**Monday 30th January:** Mr Hullabaloo Interactive Storyteller P1, P2 and Playgroup

**Wednesday 3rd May:** First Confession at 1pm.

**Saturday 13th May:** First Communion at 11am.

**Wednesday 17th May:** Confirmation at 11am.