

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



December 2023

NEWSLETTER

A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS
TO YOU ALL.

MRS MACFARLANE

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.

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.

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/Chocolate spread or Nutella breakfast bars

THIS SCHOOL IS
NUT FREE



THANK YOU
for keeping our school safe!

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.

Free School Meals

Applications for Free School Meals / Uniform Grants for 2023/24 are available now on the EA Website eani.org.uk

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.

This form must be completed for each child every year.

The Education Authority notifies the school about the entitlement after they notify Parents or Carers.

If you have not received this notification, any meals taken must be paid for.

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

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

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Anti-Bullying Week

“Make a Noise about Bullying”

All classes participated in Anti-Bullying activities during this week. P5-P7 took part in Anti-Bullying Megathon online which was run by Hip Psychology and in partnership with other local schools.

I liked the way we played Kahoot because we were learning about the different types of bullying.

Keyarah

I liked when we watched little videos on what bullying can do and we got taught to not bully.

Erin

We learned to be buddies not bullies. We learned if someone is sad ask “Are you OK?” to them.

Niamh

My favourite thing was taking all of the quizzes. I loved doing the worksheets.

Be kind. Be buddies not bullies!

Lola

I liked getting a shout out because it was fun to be in something with my class. I liked all the little fun games. It was fun to do it with all the other schools.

Lara

Library Bus

The library bus will visit the school every second Friday. Next visit will be on Friday 12th January. Please take time to read with the younger children and ensure that their books are returned so that new ones can be borrowed.



All children thoroughly enjoyed the sports challenge with top athlete, David Thompson. The children in KS2 learned a lot about swimming and competing in the Olympics from the very informative Q & A session and the school earned an additional voucher towards some new sports equipment.

Be Internet Legends

Once again, the children were reminded of the importance of internet safety through this programme which helps children to become sage and confident explorers of the online world. This year we all explored the theme “Respect Each Other”. Through different activities, lots of discussion ensued and many interesting questions were asked and answered.

Road Safety Week

During Road Safety Week our pupils took part in some very important learning. Classes completed road safety activities and considered and discussed the best ways to stay safe when crossing the road. This learning included making posters with the theme “No Need to Speed” with fantastic road safety messages created by the pupils. We strongly encourage all our pupils to take on board the very important messages that have been discussed this week, especially as we are now well into the dark evenings.

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DOWN ARTS CENTRE- LITTLE MISS MUFFET IN NURSERY RHYME LAND

Christmas Festivities started on the very first day of December. The whole school along with Killough Community Playgroup went to see Little Miss Muffet in the Down Arts Centre. We enjoyed a hilarious battle between good and evil that all took place in Nursery Rhyme Land.

The children, as well as all the staff, thoroughly enjoyed joining in the pandemonium, singing, carrying on and they even enjoyed getting soaked by water pistols !!!

Fantastic experience had by all.

We would like to thank the PTFA of St. Joseph's PS for subsidising the transport.



Christmas Dinner

On Friday 8th December, children and staff donned their Christmas jumpers and enjoyed our traditional school Christmas Dinner. It was a fun packed day with lots of cheer, high spirits and singing. A massive thank you to all kitchen staff, teachers and non-teaching staff who helped to serve the children and ensure a fabulous atmosphere throughout.

Once again, a big thank you to all our PTFA who provided a wonderful balloon arch and even managed to get Santa and Mrs Claus to come and visit with presents for all of the children.



Acti-Sport

All classes were treated to Acti-Sport every Wednesday in December. As usual Graham and his colleagues had the children full engaged in great physical activities and fabulous games.

Come Follow Me

A special thank you to Mary & Kathleen, Deirdre & Pat and Suzanne & Colette, the very kind volunteers who have been coming in to P3/4 every Wednesday to deliver the "Come Follow Me" programme, which is helping the children to prepare for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion.

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



PTFA

St Joseph's PTFA have had a very busy and successful start to the school year. Not only have they organised free breakfasts and feel good Fridays, they have supported the school with contributions to the transport to the Pantomime and ensured that every child got a free Christmas Dinner.

There was so much work involved in the preparation for the raffle and the disco that we are extremely grateful to all involved.

The PTFA is a fantastic group who work alongside and in union with the school to try to ensure that our children receive the best education and experiences that we can manage.

There will be a meeting in the New Year and we encourage as many people as possible to get involved. At that time we will be able to update you all on the amount raised so far and on new events and ideas in the pipeline.

As well as providing a much needed boost to our school funds, the PTFA are fundamental in the organisation of our activities such as the Sports Day Barbecue, School Disco, Christmas Raffle, Bingo Night, Feel Good Friday Free Breakfast and much, much more.

The PTFA is an opportunity for you to be involved in your child's school life and an opportunity to meet up with other parents.

Attending a PTFA meeting is not a commitment to attend or take part in any particular activity but a chance for us to share ideas.

The PTFA has many ideas in the pipeline such as
Feel Good Fridays
Free Breakfasts
Christmas Disco and Mega Christmas Raffle

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8:15 each morning at the Price of £1 per day to be paid on a Monday morning in advance. All children having breakfast should be in school by 8:30 as Breakfast Club finishes at 8:45. Any child in school before 8:45am will be presumed to be at Breakfast Club and charged accordingly.

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.

P1 children must be collected by an adult.

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.



**No dogs are allowed
on school property
at any time**



**Smoking is not
permitted anywhere on
school premises at any
time.**

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 4th January: School reopens for all pupils. * Please note: There will be NO Breakfast or After Schools Club until Monday 8th January. *

Monday 8th January: Breakfast Club and After School Clubs resume.

Thursday 11th January: P4-P7 Swimming Resumes

Monday 15th January: P1/2 Mini's Music

Thursday 18th January: Possible school closure due to strike action.

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February: Mid Term Break, school closed for all pupils.

Monday 19th February: School reopens for all pupils.

Sacraments

Monday 11th March: First Confession at 1.30pm

Saturday 18th May: First Holy Communion at 11am