

Welcome to P4!



Areas within Communication (Literacy)



Talking and listening



Reading: shared and guided,
comprehensions



Writing



Punctuation and Grammar



Genres to be studied include ...



Letter Writing, Creative, Instructional,
Poetry, Diary Entries, Posters, Book
Reviews and Advertisements.

Spellings

- Word lists are taken from a Linguistic Phonics programme which is a progressive scheme
- We are presently using a mixture of words from the phonics word lists
- Spellings tests : short term memory weekly.
Long term memory every 4-6 weeks

Using Mathematics

- Number: Place value, 4 operations of number, fractions, money
- Measures: Time, length, weight, capacity, area
- Shape & Space: 2D & 3D shapes, Symmetry, angles
- Data Handling: Tally charts, Bar Graphs, Pictograms, Carroll & Venn diagrams – Creating & interpreting
- Problem solving



MENTAL MATHS

Strategies

- Counting on
- Counting back
- Re-ordering
- Doubles/Halves
- Inverse
- Rounding
- Partitioning
- Place Value
- Times Tables-2,3,4,5,10

Mathletics



- Mathletics is aligned to curriculum standards
- Used alongside maths lessons in school
- Home access to enhance progress

Using ICT

- Computer Suite
- Use a range of programmes from various Internet sites to consolidate class work, e.g. Top-marks, ICT games, BBC Bitesize
- Children learn to create Word documents using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- Programming a Bee Bot to travel in different directions
- Using coding programmes such as 'Scratch' on iPad

World Around Us

Our topics this year include:

- World War 2
- Weather
- Polar Regions
- Castles

The Arts

- In Art & Design pupils will experiment, draw, paint and model using a variety of materials
- In Music pupils will explore rhythm, pitch and tempo. They will also compose, perform and respond to a variety of music
- Drama includes role play, improvisation, poetry and performance

Personal Development for Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

Class Plan for
Learning

Worries about school

Friendships

The Real Me

Who influences me

I am .. you are.. we
can
(Learn about and
value all those in our
community)



“Grow in Love” Programme

- “Aims to help children see how they can grow in love: by showing love for themselves, for each other, for God and for all creation”
- Themes include songs, stories and prayers
- Pupil book will be sent home once weekly
- “Do this in Memory” programme is in preparation for First Holy Communion and will be held in the Church once a month.
- Children will also attend confession during the school year.



Homework



Homework will now be sent via Seesaw on a Friday afternoon. Homework folders should come into school each day.



Numeracy/Literacy/Grow in Love



Reading- children are provided with reading books each week,

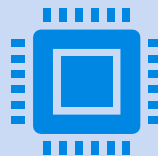
Assessments



We are presently assessing all children using the GL online assessments in Literacy, Reading, Maths and their cognitive ability.



We aim to identify trends, strengths and weaknesses to assist with future planning and target setting.



This year, CCEA are introducing adaptive testing in Literacy and Numeracy.

GL assessments provide a baseline and assist with Levelling in 'Using Mathematics' and 'Communication'.

Arriving at school

- Pupils should begin to arrive from 8.45am
- Any child who arrives after 9.05 will be marked late
- School finishes Monday to Thursday at 3pm
- Friday is a 2pm finish
- Parent teacher meetings will be held in November and a drop-in session in February.
- PLP target setting and reviews will be held at the end of October.

Miss School = Miss Out

At St Joseph's Primary School we are committed to creating an environment where every child can fulfil their potential. Excellent attendance is an essential part of this commitment.

The benefits of excellent school attendance can include:

1. Making friends.
2. Experiencing a wide curriculum.
3. Developing a range of skills.
4. Building confidence.
5. Growing in self-esteem.
6. Having fun.
7. Achieving life-long success
8. Having a great start in life

Every day counts! Don't let them mount up!

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence. That's 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence. That's 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence. That's 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed



Attendance in St Joseph's



Year	No of Pupils Achieving Full Attendance	Mean Attendance for academic year
2021 - 2022	5	92.4%
2022 - 2023	13	94.3%
2023 - 2024	19	94.4%
2024 - 2025	22	95.6%
2025 - 2026	40	96.1%

- Sharing regular attendance information with parents (Once per term)
- Attendance rewards, certificates and trophies
- Talking to parents and pupils about the importance of good attendance
- Sharing holiday lists as early as possible in the year

Illness – school absence



HSC Public Health Agency

Do I need to keep my child off school?



Chicken Pox At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhea & /or Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Respiratory Illness (e.g. colds & flu) Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	
Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	German Measles (Rubella) 5 days from onset of rash
Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Scabies Until after first treatment	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.

Do not keep your child off unnecessarily!
Being tired is not an acceptable excuse!
A common head cold does not require an absence unless your child has a high temp.

However, follow the guidance if your child is genuinely unwell.

Highlights

V&D = 48 hours from the last episode

Chicken Pox = at least 5 days from rash onset and until all spots have crusted over

Head Lice = inform the school and treat your child's hair

Head Lice



It is essential that all parents/carers help to eradicate the problem

Notify the school immediately if you find head lice in your child's hair. We will notify all families

Check your child's hair and treat promptly

Go to the pharmacy and take advice

Regular combing (with conditioner) is the best method along with medicated lotions/shampoo

If **everyone doesn't play their part**, we won't be lice free

School will contact parents directly and seek advice from the EWO if the problem persists

Medication

Please keep us informed if your child has a medical condition (or if they no longer do)

If your child requires medication in school, e.g. inhalers, please send it into school with a letter of permission

Safeguarding Team



Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs C Herbert



Mrs B McAlister



Mr C Wright



Mr C Donnelly

We are always here for you to talk to.

We all matter, we all belong, we all try to do our best!

First Aid Team



This is our team of trained
and registered First Aiders.



Mr Wright



Miss Crawford



Mr McBride



Mrs Hayes



Mrs McAlister

Medical kits are outside the Newcomer Room.

'We all matter, we all belong, we all try to do our best!'

Newcomer Support

Mrs Magee is our Newcomer Support Teacher.



Her role is to support those pupils in the school
have English as an additional language.

She is also our Emotional Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator.

She runs our Relax Kids Programme.

[Pieta Award 2026](#)



Special Educational Needs

The old SEN Code of Practice contained five stages; this has been replaced by a new SEN Code of Practice containing just three stages.

At Stage One of the SEN Code of Practice children will be provided with internal school support. (This applies to the majority of children on the SEN Register).

At Stage Two of the SEN Code of Practice children will be provided with internal school support plus external provision.

At Stage Three of the SEN Code of Practice children will be provided with both school and EA delivered SEN provision and will have a Statement of SEN.

If you have any concerns about your child, you should contact your child's **class teacher** who will discuss the most appropriate options for your child.

Your child's class teacher will ensure that records of SEN provision are reviewed and updated at least twice per academic year, endeavour to include the voice of each child, work in collaboration with parents and seek support from outside agencies and specialists when required.

EA Statutory Assessment is a formal and detailed process to find out what your child's special needs are and what additional help they may need in school. This is only necessary in a very small minority of cases. For more information on this please visit the Statutory Assessment section on the EANI website. (eani.org.uk)

Our school uniform



Results of recent consultation: (April 2026)

96% of parents feel our school uniform is an important part of our identity

86% feel it is comfortable

87% feel our uniform is sufficiently warm enough for pupils

71% of parents feel our uniform is affordable or very affordable

93% feel it simplifies their morning routine

86% state that it is easy to wash

82% agree that our uniform is durable

98% of parents know where to purchase our school uniform

School Uniform

To instil a sense of belonging and a sense of pride in our school, parents are requested to ensure that their children wear the proper school uniform:

Royal blue V-neck jumper with crest

School tie

White shirt/blouse

Grey trousers/skirt

Black school shoes

White or Grey Socks/Tights

PE uniform

Navy Track Top with Crest

Navy Track Bottoms with Crest

White Polo Shirt

Plimsolls/Trainers

Navy School Shorts



*Please ensure that all items of clothing are marked clearly with your child's name.

In St Joseph's Primary School, we are very proud to wear our school uniform. It is a key symbol of our membership of team St Joseph's – we all belong!

Our uniform is hard wearing and affordable. We run regular 'swap-shops' and uniform donations and share old uniforms throughout the school community via our PTA.

Our summer dress, trousers, skirts, shirts and polo shirts are generic and can be purchased in many shops and supermarkets.

Branded uniforms can be purchased at [School Days](#), Newtownards Road, [Tailored Workwear](#), Newtownabbey or at [Truly Fayre](#), Ormeau Road.



Standard

PE

Summer



No
jewellery!
Studs only

School Meals



- Dinners cost £3.10 per day
- P1 – P3 eat together at 11.50am
- The rest of the pupils are supervised for school lunches in their classroom.
- Meals are provided to cater for dietary needs including halal, vegetarian, dairy and nut free
- The menu is available on the school website

EAT SMART WEEK
THE LUNCH BUNCH

WEEK BEGINNING

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
18th February 18th March 15th April 12th May 8th June	Roast Pork Chops with Lemon Mash Steamed Broccoli & Roasted Beans Chopped Potatoes & Roasted Potatoes Selection of Fruit Yogurt Pots	Homemade Beef Bolognese Baked Carrots & Green Beans Fruit Pops & Fresh Seasonal Salad Mediterranean Cheese Sprig with Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread Garden Peas & Fresh Seasonal Salad Steamed Rice & Chopped Potatoes Peach & Raspberry Tiramisu Tarts	Roast Pork with Stuffing and Rich Gravy Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes & Chopped Potatoes Chocolate and Fruit Sprig Cake	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup Garden Peas & Mini Corn on the Cob Chopped Potatoes & Baked Beans Vanilla Ice Cream with Strawberry Pots
25th February 25th March 22nd April 19th May 15th June	Golden Baked Cod Bites Steamed Broccoli & Roasted Beans Chopped Potatoes & Roasted Potatoes Frozen Strawberry Yogurt and Fruit Tubs	Mini Beef Chik Steamed, Fresh Seasonal Salad & Cauliflower Steamed Rice & Chopped Potatoes	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread Garden Peas & Roasted Carrots Steamed Rice & Mashed Potatoes Fresh Fruit Salad with Strawberry Yoghurt	Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Rich Gravy Roast Carrots & Spring Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes & Chopped Potatoes Fruit Muffin and Mini Cake	Chickadee with Tomato Ketchup Mini Corn on the Cob & Chopped Potatoes Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Custard Biscuits with Orange Meringue
1st March 28th March 27th April 24th May 21st June	Golden Churned Fish Fingers Garden Peas & Spring Cauliflower Chopped Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Bacon Roasted Mince	Homemade Beef Bolognese Steamed Broccoli & Fresh Seasonal Salad Fruit Pops & Roasted Beans Summer Fruit Sprig Fingers	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread Green Beans & Roasted Carrots Steamed Rice & Chopped Potatoes Blueberry and Lemon Sprig with Custard	Roast Chicken with Stuffing and Rich Gravy Cauliflower & Roasted Potatoes Mashed Potatoes & Chopped Potatoes Jelly Muffin with Mashed Carrots	Baked Pork Steaks Steamed & Roasted Beans Chopped Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Frozen Vanilla Yogurt with Mint Sprig
8th March 5th April 3rd May 31st June	Homemade Beef Bolognese Baked Carrots & Steamed Broccoli Fruit Pops & Chopped Potatoes Lemon, Meringue and Raspberry Pots	Hot and Cheesy Pizzas Steamed & Roasted Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Raspberry Jelly with Fruit Pops	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread Garden Peas & Roasted Potatoes Steamed Rice & Potatoes Pineapple Upside Down Cake with Custard	Roast Chicken with Stuffing and Rich Gravy Baked Salmon and Tomato Potatoes Roast Carrots & Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes & Chopped Potatoes Chocolate Roasted Mince with Chopped Fruit	Chopped Potatoes & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes, Baked Beans & Fruit Homemade Roasted Mince with Mint Sprig

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY | MENU SUBJECT TO PRODUCT AVAILABILITY | IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL

Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance

- Every year there are families who are entitled to FSM who don't apply
- There are benefits to the school, even if your child never has a school meal
- Please investigate your eligibility and check out the EA website [here](#)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

Applications
open
NOW

You may be entitled if you receive ANY of the following benefits:



Income Related
Employment and Support
Allowance



Guarantee
Element of State
Pension Credit



Universal Credit and
have net household
earnings not
exceeding the
approved threshold



eaconnect

www.eani.org.uk/fsm

Healthy Break and Healthy Lifestyle

Key focus for our 2026 – 2029 School Development Plan

Department of Education ['School in Food Policy'](#)

We want to have healthy breaks and healthy choices for all pupils in St Joseph's – information, incentivisation. More to follow

In St Joseph's we are an Allergy Aware School

St Joseph's is an allergy aware school.

This means:



We actively work to create a safe and inclusive environment for all

We work to minimise the risks to all pupils with allergies

We support and train staff to provide support to pupils with allergies

We put risk reduction measures in place

We need the support of all parents and pupils to reduce the risk to pupils with allergies.



*'We all matter.
We all belong.
We all try to do
our best.'*

A number of pupils in St Joseph's are allergic to sesame seeds. Sesame seeds are found in some breads, breadsticks and bagels. They are also a key ingredient in hummus in the form of tahini paste.

Hummus, along with other pastes and spreads such as peanut butter and chocolate spread should never be used in the preparation of school lunches.

Please ensure that your child does not have any of these items in their lunch box.

Additional Information

Emergency contact- ensure the office has emergency contact numbers updated



School policies- available to parents on request/School website



Concerns- please contact office to make an appointment



School App and Communication- aiming to use technology for all communication- no more printed or emailed Newsletters. Please download the App



Photo permissions- please inform the class teacher if you wish to update your child's photo permission status.

ParentPay – we're a cashless school



Are you a parent or carer? This is the new home for ParentPay Group. To make a payment or manage your account, click [Login](#)

ParentPayGroup Products Who we serve Packages About us Resources [Get support](#) [Login](#)

Creating more time for learning

School life is full of moving parts, from payments to progress, from catering to communication. Our systems remove the noise, streamline the admin, and connect the dots across education.

[Get in touch](#) [Download brochure](#)

[Click Here](#)



iClassCMS App



Download from where you get your Apps

Make sure you select the correct St Joseph's!

School Website



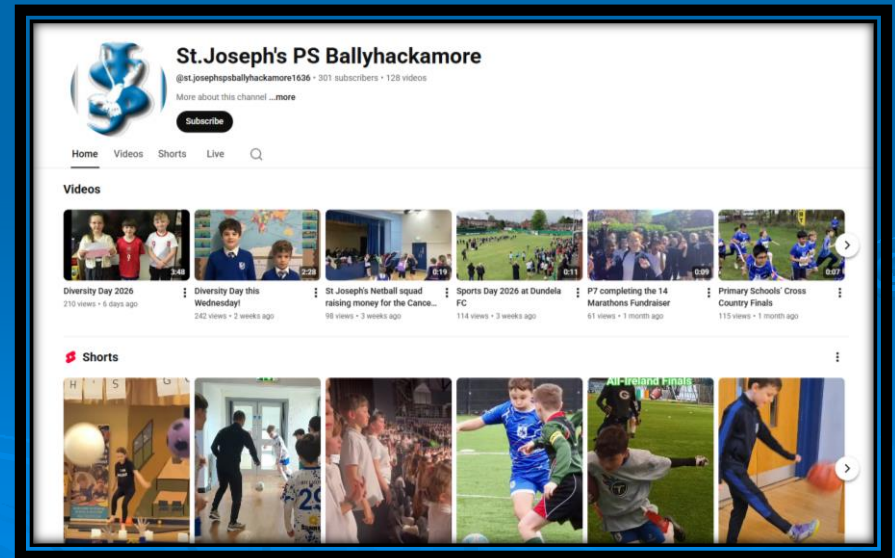
[Click here](#)

YouTube Channel

The school also have a YouTube channel where we share larger videos and clips that are too large to share on SeeSaw or through the iClass App. It can be found [here](#)



Scan here to
visit our
channel!



SeeSaw App



Used for class communication

Used by teachers to share class news, key information and events

One-way communication platform

Share photos, reminders, whole school messages

A lot of the messages are duplicated on the App

Registration details are in your pack





Thank you for your
continued support.