St Joseph's Primary School

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7th September, 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

As we head into our second week of the new school year may I take this opportunity to welcome you all back once again. The boys and girls have settled very quickly into their new classes and it's great to have you all back in the school

I am particularly delighted to welcome our 60 new P1 pupils and their families as they begin their first full week with us in St Joseph's.

Curriculum Meetings
Our curriculum and information meetings will take place over the next two weeks as outlined below. Please note that they are not in sequence due to clashes with other activities. My apologies for the clash on Thursday 10th September with the P5 meeting taking place at the same time as our school Mass. Most P1 information was shared at the Induction Days in June, and all other information will be shared on SeeSaw. All presentations will be shared on the school website next week.

Class	Date	Time
P2	Tuesday 8th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P3	Wednesday 9th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P5	Thursday 10th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P4	Friday 11th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P7	Monday 14th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P6	Tuesday 15th September	9.15 – 9.45am

The Provision of Special Diets in School
As we start another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of ensuring that a Special Diet Application Form is completed and submitted for pupils who require a special diet of any kind. Special diet applications should be completed where the diet is medically prescribed due, for example, to allergies; for religious or cultural reasons; or because a pupil is vegetarian or vegan. As a first step, please inform your child's teacher if your child has a special dietary requirement. We will then send you a Special Diet Application Form to be completed. A reminder also that we are continuing to promote healthy school break and encourage the pupils to eat either a piece of fruit, yogurt or bread-based snack.
Please remember to avoid sending in any products that contain or 'may contain' nuts.

SEAG Entrance Exam
For pupils sitting the SEAG Entrance Assessment, an application must be submitted before 11.59pm on Friday 18th September. Details can be found here.

Use of Smart Devices in School
In my previous letter I referred to recent guidance from the Department of Education regarding the use of mobile phones and smart devices in school. As part of our Pupil Welfare and Wellbeing commitment, all parents and pupils have signed a responsible use agreement that states, 'I will not bring smart devices from outside school unless I have permission.' Smart watches fall into the category of smart devices. I appreciate that smart watches come in all shapes and sizes with a range of capabilities, but a blanket ban is the best way for us to monitor their use in St Joseph's and keep our pupils safe.

Headlice
Last year we had ongoing issues with headlice in some of our classes. As you know, headlice are very unpleasant and can be very upsetting for both you and your child. It is essential that **every parent/carer** acts if an outbreak is identified in a class. Notify us right away if they are spotted in your child's hair. Take advice from your local pharmacy if necessary and treat your child's hair as instructed and in good time. Continue to check and fine comb regularly for the next two-three weeks. If your child has long hair, please tie it up to help prevent spreading through contact in school. More information and guidance can be found here.

PTA News
The first PTA meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday 15th September at 19:00 in St Joseph's. If you have the time, please come along as all are welcome.
A 'Meet & Greet' for our P1 parents and carers has been organised for Thursday 24th September at 18:30 in the school hall. More details will follow.
The PTA AGM will take place on Monday 12th October at 19:00 in the school.

Our PTA play a key role in the success of our fantastic school and are an integral part of our team. If you are interested in joining or can contribute in any way, please come along to a meeting or contact the PTA at stjospta@gmail.com

TransformEd
All schools in Northern Ireland will be closed for training on the proposed new curriculum on **Friday 25th September.** If you would like to know a little more about TransformEd you can read about it on the Department of Education website here.

Communication
School news and notices will continue to be communicated through Seesaw, the news section of the school's website at http://stjosephsps.co.uk/ and the iClass app. If you have not already done so, please download the app and create an account to keep up to date with all the latest information. You can also

Key dates for the first half term

Event	Date	Notes
Curriculum Meetings P2 – P7	8th Sept – 15th Sept	09:15 – 10:00
School Mass	Thursday 10th September	9.30am
Photographer (individual/sibling pics)	Thursday 17th September	All day
SEAG Portal Closes	Friday 18th September	11.59am
PTA Meeting	Tuesday 15th September	19:00
P1 PTA Welcome Night	Thursday 24th September	18:30 – 20:00
School Closed for pupils - TransformED	Friday 25th September	All day
PTA AGM	Monday 12th October	19:00
P7 Parent / Teacher Meetings	Tuesday 20th October	All day
Hallowe'en Disco (P1 – 3)	Thursday 22nd October	13:00 – 14:00
Hallowe'en Disco (P4 – 7)	Thursday 22nd October	18:30 – 19:30
Mid Term Break	26th – 30th October	All day

Kind regards

Mr Donnelly