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St Joseph's Primary School

21st September, 2026

School Council

After two weeks of campaigning, speeches and secret ballots, our School Council for the 2026-2027 academic year have been appointed. At our School Assembly on Friday morning, the Council were formally presented with their School Council Badges in front of a backed school hall. The team will play a crucial role in representing the views and opinions of our pupils throughout the school year. May I extend my huge congratulations to Elsie, Cora, Evie, Larry, Orlaith, Omakaree, Maya and Jacob. I look forward to working with you all this year!



Health & Wellbeing Focus

At our Assembly on Friday we had a visit from Carol Anne, a Health and Wellbeing Facilitator from the Belfast HSC Trust. Carol Anne spoke to us about the benefits of regular exercise and applauded our efforts so far to participate in The Mile, activities like Dance with Duffy, our annual marathon Challenge, and a packed programme of PE and extra-curricular sports. We will continue to add to our provision in the months ahead!



Road Safety
Our Community Police are once again reminding parents of the need to exercise caution around our local schools throughout the day. Hundreds of vehicles descend upon Ballyhackamore every morning and afternoon as the thousands of pupils educated in the area move to and from school. This will inevitably cause traffic disruption, and this is acute around our school. They have issued the advice below for all drivers.

To help keep everyone safe around our Schools, please adhere to the following advice -

- Always park considerately and safely
- Driveways of local residents should be kept clear at all times
- You MUST stop when a school crossing patrol shows a 'Stop for children' sign
- DO NOT stop or park near a school entrance
- You MUST NOT wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings when upright signs indicate a prohibition of stopping
- You MUST NOT wait or park on yellow lines, during the times of operation shown on the nearby time plates. Double yellow lines indicate a prohibition of waiting at any time even if there are no upright signs
- You MUST NOT stop or park within 15 metres (50 feet) of any junction, except in a lay-by in specified circumstances or in a designated parking area
- You MUST NOT stop or park on a pedestrian crossing, including the area marked by the zigzag lines

Neighbourhood Officers will be a visible presence around the school in the weeks ahead.

TransformEd
All schools in Northern Ireland will be closed for training on the proposed new curriculum this coming **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.

Kind regards

Mr Donnelly