St Joseph's Primary School

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Parent Update

3rd November 2026

Welcome Back!
Welcome back to all our pupils, parents and carers. We hope you have had a wonderful midterm break and are well-rested and ready for the second half of Term 1! This is a very busy half term and will go in extremely quickly. Please read the notes below carefully so you know what is going on in St Joseph's in the days ahead.

School Improvements
As we are sure you have noticed, we are continuing to work very hard to improve our school campus. In recent weeks we have had our front door replaced which has really improved the security and aesthetic of the building. We have also given our playground a deep clean and cut hedges and trees that were hanging over fences. During the Hallowe'en break, we have brightened up our school hall with a fantastic new mural of our crest and school motto. It looks fantastic and received a great response from the boys and girls at our assembly on Monday!



P1 Open Day 2026

Our Open Day for new and prospective pupils takes place on Thursday 26th November at 10.30am. Please spread the word around your family, friends and neighbours. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to visit us on a normal school day and get a taste of what St Joseph's has to offer!



Book Fair
The school Book fair will return to St Joseph's from Tuesday 10th November until Friday 13th November. The Fair will be set up in the school foyer and will be accessible for parents at 2pm and 3pm each day. Pupils will also have an opportunity to come and buy books during the school day. We receive a very healthy commission from the Fair that is used to buy new books for classes throughout the school.

Parent/Teacher Meetings
Parent teacher meetings will take place on Friday 27th November. This will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress. Teachers will be in touch with you in the next few days to arrange meeting times. P7 and P5B pupils will already have had their meetings before the 27th. Please note, school will be closed for all pupils on 27th to facilitate the meetings.

Sacrament of Confirmation
We have received the very exciting news that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop McGuckian at 11am on Thursday 28th January 2027. It has been many years since the Bishop has celebrated the Sacrament with us and it promises to be a wonderful occasion for the pupils, the school and the parish.

The Online Safety Hub
The Online Safety Hub is a central place where young people, parents, carers, and professionals can find practical advice about child safety online, all in one easy-to-use site. It's updated regularly with resources from trusted organisations as part of the Northern Ireland Executive's Keeping children and young people safe: an Online Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland. Inside the Hub, you'll find an adult section with core messaging and signposting on key online safety topics, a library of resources, sample policy templates, and a research and evidence bank to keep you informed. There's also a Young Person's Hub offering supportive, non-judgemental guidance for under-13s and teens to help them manage their online lives safely and confidently. To make it even easier to explore, the Hub offers new video tours for adults and young people that guide you through its features.
Here is a link to the SBNI Hub newsletter.

Key Dates
You may have a lot of these dates already, but they are always worth repeating and getting in the diary! With so much traffic on SeeSaw and elsewhere, key information can be missed but we will continue to share key information with you in advance to help you make plans! These are just some of the key events in the next 7 weeks.

Event	Date	Notes
Flu Vaccinations	Wednesday 4th November	School Hall
Book Fair in School	10th – 13th November	School Foyer
SEAG Transfer Test	Sat 14th & 21st November	P7 pupils
Odd Sock Day	Monday 16th November	Wear odd socks to school
Anti-Bullying Week 2025	16th – 20th November	Special Assembly by P7

P1 Open Morning	Thursday 26th November	Prospective Parents invited
Parent Teacher Meetings	Friday 27th November	***School Closed for Pupils***
PTA Christmas Fair	Saturday 28th November	In the school - 12noon – 3pm.
Holy Communion Parent Meeting (P4)	Wed 2nd December	Parochial Hall at 7pm
Festive Friday	Friday 4th, 11th, 19th Dec	Wear your Christmas Jumpers!
Holy Communion Enrolment Mass (P4)	Sunday 6th December	Church at 9.30am
P1 & P2 Christmas Shows	Tuesday 8th December	Parochial Hall from 9.30am
Choir to the City Airport	Wednesday 9th December	Christmas Carols!
P3 & P4 Christmas Show	Tuesday 15th December	Parochial Hall from 9.30 am
Carol Service P5 – P7 Pupils	Thursday 17th December	Church at 11am
End of Term 1	Tuesday 22nd December	12 noon finish

Kind regards

Mr C Donnelly