



St Joseph's Primary School

Principal: Mr C Donnelly
31a Holland Drive
Belfast BT5 6EH
Tel: 02890650039
Email: stjoesps@gmail.com
www.stjosephsps.co.uk

Parent Update

5th March 2026

Holland Road Access

Please note that the blue gate at the Holland Drive entrance will now be closed during the school day. It is fitted with an intercom system that will enable office staff to give permission to access the building. There have been ongoing issues with the front door to the school which needs replaced as a matter of urgency. These issues have been reported to the EA multiple times over the past few months, and we are still awaiting a satisfactory resolution. Until these issues are resolved, the blue gate will be closed each day as an additional layer of security.

Peace Proms

Congratulations to our school choir who participated in the fantastic Peace Proms concert at the SSE Arena on Sunday. The pupils participated as part of a 4000 strong primary school choir supported by the Peace Proms orchestra in what was an incredible evening. Our huge thanks to Mrs Irvine and Mrs Wilson for their hard work in preparing the boys and girls. There were some very sleepy heads on Monday morning! Clips of the concert can be found on our [YouTube](#) channel or [here](#).

School Website

Did you know that there are individual Class Pages on the St Joseph's School website where you can see pictures of class activities? We are constantly adding information to the site and trying to make it as useful for parents as possible. Please check in with the site regularly to see what has changed.

<https://www.stjosephsps.co.uk/>

Confirmation and First Confession

In what was an incredibly busy week in St Joseph's, we have had two year groups celebrating Sacraments. Our P7s made their Confirmation on Tuesday 3rd, then our P3s made their First Confession on Thursday 5th March. Both were beautiful occasions for the school and parish community. Our huge thanks to the pupils, to the staff for preparing the children so well and to Fr Conor who made both occasions so memorable. First Communion is next on 16th May.

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on Friday 6th of March. It was another great day with fantastic costumes around the school. More importantly, we celebrated our love of reading through a range of great activities; making book marks, reading to buddies, a Where's Wally search, a book day parade and we had a school assembly where pupils shared their love of reading. Many thanks to Ms McKinney for all your hard work organising the day for us!

Whole School Provision

In St Joseph's we are deeply committed to helping every pupil to realise their potential. As well as first class teaching and learning going on in our classrooms, many of our pupils receive additional support throughout the day. We currently have Sensory Circuits, Precision Teaching, Lego Therapy, Engage Support in English and Maths, Time to Read, Lexia and many more interventions from a range of agencies including St Gerard's Peripatetic Support, Clarawood Services and Willow, amongst others. We also provide pupils with emotional health and wellbeing support through Relax Kids, The Dot-2-Dot Programme and Fight2Thrive. Many of our pupils also receive additional support with our Newcomer Teacher, Mrs Magee and benefit from additional support with reading and spelling provided through other staff.

Bring & Buy Sale

A huge thank you to the P7 pupils and staff for running our Trocaire Bring & Buy Sale. It was another hugely successful day. We hope to get the takings counted this weekend and will let you know the final amount donated as soon as we get a figure. This is a very important part of our Lenten preparation – the spirit of giving is alive and well in St Joseph's!

PTA News

The next PTA event on the horizon will be the Marathon Challenge. As well as each class in the school completing the collective marathon distance on Friday 1st May, two teams made up of parents and staff will also take part in the Belfast Marathon Relay on Sunday 3rd May.

The PTA are also working on a very exciting school improvement project that we will tell you more about it in the weeks ahead. Watch this space!

Key Dates for March/April

Dates	Description
Friday 6 th March	World Book Day
Monday 16 th March	School Development Day – School closed for pupils
Tuesday 17 th March	St Patrick's Day – School closed
Thursday 19 th March	Class Photos and Mop Up
Friday 27 th March	Talent Show
Thursday 2 nd April	11.45 finish P1 – P3 & 12 noon finish for P4 – P7
Fri 3 rd April – Fri 10 th April	Easter Holidays – School closed
Monday 13 th April	New term begins

Kind regards
Mr C Donnelly