



St Joseph's Primary School

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Parent Update

2nd April 2026

Happy Easter

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and restful Easter. It has been another extremely busy but very positive term in St Joseph's. Our pupils continue to thrive, and our school community is growing from strength to strength. Can I also extend a huge thank you to all the staff who show continued dedication and commitment to helping every pupil in our care to achieve their potential! 'We all try to do our best!'

Religious Education

Under the Education (NI) Order 1986 and DE Circular 2026/09, parents may withdraw their child (fully or partially) from Religious Education and/or collective worship. The school's website explains this right [here](#) and provides a link to the Department's standard withdrawal form. Withdrawn pupils will be supervised in a suitable quiet activity (e.g. reading) while in school. 'We all belong!'

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. Policies and other key information can also be found. Please check in with the site regularly to see what has changed. <https://www.stjosephsps.co.uk/>

Talent Show

Our School Talent Show last Thursday and Friday were wonderful occasions for the school. All pupils got to see the wonderful talent of our class Talent Show winners as they put on a wonderful performance. We were also joined by St Colmcille's Pre-School on Thursday who loved the show. We were delighted to welcome former principals, Mr Donaldson and Mr Ryan along with the Chair of our Board of Governors, Mrs Patterson as our guest judges. They had the unenviable job of selecting our winners. Congratulations to our overall winner, Eashan. The full show can be viewed [here](#).

NFL Winners

Congratulations to our NFL teams who participated in the latest Sport Ireland NFL event at the Colin Glen Dome last week. St Joseph's are leading the way in this fledgling sport and once again were dominant in the competition. Our two teams met in the semi-final with the winners going on to win the final comprehensively. The team have now qualified for the All-Ireland series in Dublin in Term 3. Huge thanks to Mr McBride and Mr Dawson for their hard work in the development of the sport in St Joe's.

School Development Plan

We are coming to the end of our current school development plan and have made some great progress with our key targets in the past three years. We are now in the process of establishing our priorities for improvement for the next three-year cycle. As part of this very important process we will be asking all stakeholders – pupils, parents, staff and Governors to complete a survey linked to school improvement. I will share this with you early in Term 3. Thanks for your continued support in our constant endeavours to improve all aspects of our provision and care in St Joseph's. 'We all matter!'

After School Clubs

We are continually trying to extend after school provision to ensure pupils have the opportunity to experience a range of activities. In addition to our very busy Happy Kidz club we also have a Lego Club, Task Masters and Tech Club after Easter managed by Kidz Academy. Danny will continue with his very successful Soccer Clubs and Gemma's Dance club is increasingly popular. Our GAA club has been a hit on Wednesdays despite the bad weather and Netball with Andrea and Catriona has been a revelation over the past two years. Mrs Irvine and Mrs Wilson will also continue with our brilliant choir. We are constantly increasing the range of clubs available and will continue to do this next year.

Marathon

After Easter we will share details of the '14 Marathons Challenge', one of our key fundraising events of the year. To mark the Belfast Marathon each class in St Joseph's will collectively cover the marathon distance on Friday 1st May. There will also be two school teams entering the Marathon Relay on May 3rd to raise funds for the school. I have high hopes that the very young and fresh-faced staff team will finish ahead of the parent team this year. More details to follow!

Key Dates for April/May

Dates	Description
Monday 13 th April	Start of Term 3
Tuesday 28 th April	Cross Country Finals at Mallusk
Friday 1 st May	Marathon Challenge
Sunday 3 rd May	Belfast City marathon Relay
Monday 4 th & Tues 5 th May	School Closed for Pupils – May Bank Holiday
Thursday 7 th May	Foundation/KS1 Sports Day
Friday 8 th May	KS2 Sports Day
Saturday 16 th May	First Communion @11am
Thursday 21 st May	Diversity Day in St Joseph's
Monday 25 th – Wed 27 th May	School Closed for Pupils – Staff Development Days

Kind regards
Mr C Donnelly