



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

1st December 2025

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Celebrations are in full swing in St Joseph's. Our amazing P1 & P2 classes get things under way tomorrow morning at 9.30am in the Parochial Hall with their greatly anticipated Christmas performance! We can't wait to see it. The P3 and P4 show, The Big Little Nativity, takes place next Tuesday at 11am and no Christmas would be complete without our annual P5 – P7 Carol Service and Nativity which will be in St Colmcille's Church on Wednesday 17th December, also at 11am. We look forward to seeing you there.

We also have our traditional Festive Fridays on the 5th, 12th and 19th December. Each Friday, the boys and girls are encouraged to wear festive colours, Christmas jumpers and accessories and participate in Christmas activities in class.

School Council News

Our School Council have launched two exciting initiatives in the school in the past few weeks. Their **Christmas Decoration Competition** is an opportunity for us to celebrate the best decorated classroom in St Joseph's. This has created a great buzz round the school and the classrooms already look fantastic. The Council will judge the best room on Friday 12th December!

The **Book Swap Boxes** are another outstanding School Council idea. The boxes are situated at the Holland Drive entrance to the school behind the planters. The idea is very simple – borrow a book from the box and replace it with one of your own for others to enjoy! There are books for all pupils in the school and for parents, carers and staff to borrow. As well as being a fantastic incentive to read, it is a chance to celebrate our sense of community and generosity and it's environmentally friendly! A wonderful idea for the whole school community to share!

Road Safety

Our Community Support Officers from the PSNI visited the school on Monday 1st December to talk to the boys and girls (P4-P7) about road safety. They shared very important safety messages with the children and asked them to share these messages at home too! Stop, Look, Listen and Think before crossing the road, wear a helmet when cycling and wear bright clothing on these dark winter mornings. The PSNI will continue to be a very visible presence around the school campus as we continue to monitor driving and parking in the area to safeguard our pupils.

School Open Day & P1 Enrolment

Last **Thursday 27 November** we had our annual school Open Morning – an opportunity for new and prospective parents to come in and see St Joseph's in action in a normal working day. The morning was very well attended and as usual, our P7 pupils, who acted as tour guides for the visitors, stole the show. I received countless compliments on the outstanding behaviour of our pupils and the lovely ethos that is evident in our school. Can I thank all those who attended, our staff for all their hard work on the day and our pupils who are such fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Communication/Contact Details

It is very important that you keep us up to date with any changes in your address, email or phone number that occur throughout the year. On occasion, we may need to contact you at short notice, and it is vitally important that we have up-to-date contact information to do so. Please contact the office and notify Mrs Warke of any changes: stjoesps@gmail.com or on 028 90 650039. I would also encourage all parents to sign up for the iClass App. Details of how to do this have been shared by Mr Wright.

PTA News

This year, our PTA are raising funds for two amazing projects at St Joseph's Primary School:

1. 60 New iPads!

We're replacing 30 and adding 30 more so a whole year group can log on and learn together! All our fundraising — Dance with Duffy, Halloween fun, easyfundraising, our Christmas Craft Fair & our Big Christmas Raffle — is helping make this happen. The first batch of iPads will be ordered at Christmas.

2. Outdoor Classroom!

Alongside the teachers we're creating a brand-new outdoor learning space! Grants from Co-op and PowerNI are helping us get started, and we're applying to others like Tesco & Little Wing. If you have skills in outdoor planning or grants, we'd love your help! 

Every penny raised by the PTA goes directly to St Joseph's. Thanks to you we are currently at 26% of our target for the year! Thanks to everyone who has supported all the events so far this year, especially our recent Christmas craft fair!

Our Big Christmas Raffle launches this week, and we'd love your support! We're still collecting donations—gifts, vouchers (especially from our fantastic local businesses), as well as drinks and dry food items like chocolates or biscuits for our festive hampers. Contributions for the hampers can be left in until 9th December and vouchers/other gifts until 16th December.

Every contribution helps make this event a success, and the raffle will take place on 18th December!

We are also looking for parent runners who are interested in the relay team for the Belfast marathon so contact us on stjospta@gmail.com if you'd like to take part to support your children's school!

Christmas Holidays

Our final day of Term 1 will be on **Monday 22nd December**. School will finish at 11.45am for P1 – P3 and at 12 noon for P4 – P7 classes. School will reopen for all pupils on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas from all the staff at St Joseph's Primary School.

Kind regards
Mr C Donnelly