



*'Being the best that we can be'*

## Newsletter – October 2016

What a brilliant start to the year. The children have all settled really well in their new classes and are working very hard. I have been visiting classes in an informal capacity renewing my friendships with older pupils and getting to know those younger pupils as well. September is a really busy time for all of us here in school and for you at home. It is a time of new routines, earlier mornings etc. Here in school, it has been a super start to the year and we thank you, our parents, for your continued support.

### Curriculum Meetings

A big thank you to all of our parents who were able to make it along to P2 – P6 curriculum meetings in the last two weeks. We had a very high percentage turnout for all year groups. The teachers and I really appreciate your attendance. We will be sending out a short evaluation to all P1 – P6 parents this week. We would appreciate it if you return them.

### Dates for your diary

#### Looking ahead at dates

Thursday 15 December P1 & P2 Christmas Plays  
Friday 16 December P1 & P2 Christmas Plays  
Tues 20 Dec 2016 -Carol Concert in Lisburn Island Centre

#### 2017

W/B Mon 30 Jan -Catholic Schools Week  
Wed 8 Mar -P3 Commitment Service (for First Confession)  
Thur 30 Mar - P3 First Confession  
Wed 26 April -P4 Breaking of Bread (for First Communion)  
Sat 13 May -P4 First Communion @10am  
Fri 23 June -P7 Leavers Mass and Presentation

### Parent Assemblies

This year we will be continuing parent assemblies for the year groups P1, P2, P5 and P6. Each class within this year group will prepare a parent assembly once in this academic year and parents will be invited along. Since P3, P4 and P7 are Sacramental years parents will be invited to a variety of services across the year both here in school and in St. Patrick's.

The first Parent Assemblies this month will be:

Mrs Gartland Fri 14 Oct @ 9.30am  
Mr Reid Fri 21 Oct @ 9.30am

### More than Just Clay

Pottery Class provides your family with more than just new artwork for the home. It can enrich your child's life by boosting their self-esteem, improving their motor skills, solving problems in a safe setting, improving sensory development and exploring creativity.

St Josephs is one of the very few primary schools in N.I. enabling children to visit an arts centre to work with real clay fired in a kiln. Every child will have an opportunity to throw clay on a pottery wheel during their time with us. This

Children produce a 3D model based on their curriculum topic during three one hour visits to The Island Arts Centre at a cost of £2 a visit.

Pottery class is the type of experience that's leaves a lasting impression on their lives and it helps their development without sacrificing fun.

If you see beyond the lopsided sculpture you will see a happier stronger and more creative child smiling back at you

### Autumn Days...

As we move into October the nights get longer and the days get shorter. It is a time when we can really feel the season changing. It is really important that pupils wrap up well for school and have a coat with them everyday. Getting outside to play is vital for pupils at breaktime and lunchtime but the playgrounds are very exposed so they can be quite cold. Please also remember to label all items of uniforms, including coats.

### Christmas Plays

This year P1 and P2 will perform Christmas Plays in the Assembly Hall on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 December. This is a very special time of year for children and it is lovely that all children in Foundation Stage will have a chance to perform on our stage in front of an audience. Tickets etc will be available after the Halloween break.

### Reporting to Parents

P2-P7 Teachers will be reporting progress in the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October. You will receive a letter this week detailing times and dates of your appointment.

