

St Joseph's Primary School

Newsletter - April Extra 2016



First Confession

Well done to all of our P3 pupils who received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time today in St Patrick's Chapel.

We are so proud of all of the children who have been learning about the importance of saying sorry and forgiving others.

Thank you parents for being there today to support your child and to Mrs Kitt, Mrs McCambridge and all the support staff in P3 for preparing the children to receive the Sacrament.

First Holy Communion **Saturday 14th May at 10am** **St Patrick's Chapel** **Volunteers Required**

Could you spare a few hours on this day 9am-11am or 11am-1pm to help prepare and serve the refreshments for pupils and their families after the First Holy Communion Service?

If you can - contact the school office or email via the website.

Many hands make light work!

Religion Dates for your diary:

- P4 Breaking of Bread Service: Wednesday 20th April 11am, Assembly Hall
- First Holy Communion: Saturday 14th May at 10am

Buddy Bench



No doubt by now you have spotted our beautiful 'Buddy Bench' located in the upper yard. The 'Buddy Bench' is there for children who aren't sure who to play with, talk to or who just want to assess a situation before joining a group. It's also a place for children to meet - and a reminder for children to be kind and reach out to one another.

We are very grateful to Dunmurry Dental Practice (Philip & Debbie McLorinan) for their kind donation of the bench through the Paddy Wallace Foundation and hope that it will be of great benefit to our pupils.

School Development

A copy of our School Development Plan for this year is available via the website. This document will provide some detail on the areas of the Curriculum that we as a school are focusing upon and the changes that are being made to improve the quality of our provision for the pupils in our school.

School Website

Our school website is now fully operational again. We hope you have had a chance to visit it and see some of the wonderful things that happen in our school. The website will be updated regularly with information on recent events and photos so keep checking!

www.stjosephsschool.org

Farewell

The cook in our school canteen for the last 8 years, Jacqueline Hutchinson moved on to pastures new and a different challenge just before Easter. We wish Jacqueline every success in her new post and thank her for her dedication and commitment to her work and to our pupils during her time alongside us here in St Joseph's.

We extend a warm welcome to Kate Carville who has replaced Jacqueline and will be with us until the end of the academic year.

Car Parking

At pick up and drop off times the top of the lane and the back car park are very busy places.

Please, please be considerate and respectful of others, exercise patience and remember that the safety of pupils is of paramount importance.

The Laneway in Mornings

There have been a few near misses with parents dropping off and staff arriving from 8am in the mornings. For the safety of all - the laneway is **staff entrance only**. Parents dropping off from 8am **must** do so either at the top of the lane or at the back car-park from now on.

HELP NEEDED!

'The Big School Clean-Up'

On 25th and 26th May we will be holding a 'Big School Clean-Up'.

Can you:

- Power-hose an area
- Sand and paint a big fence
- Weed/plant/sow seeds and plants
- Help with greenhouse clean-up
- Paint sheds



Neville from the Ulster Conservation Volunteers will lead the clean-up along with Mrs O'Hare. This is the start of a huge school grounds project that we hope to have in place in Term 3 and Term 1 of next year.

The school will look fantastic but we need your help!

Please ring the office and leave your name and job you could do. Thank you so much.

Trocaire

What an amazing response for the poor in the world! We collected £3500+ during the six weeks of Lent. Most of this was raised with the events in Holy Week. Thank you so much for your generosity.

REMINDER

If any warm weather arrives!!!
Pupils learn better when they are hydrated and not too warm.
Children should bring a bottle of water into school each day.

After School Activities

A number of places remain for After School Clubs:

- Irish Dancing -P1-P3 (15 places) £15
- -P4-P7 (15 places) £15
- Dance -P4-P7 (10 places) £30
- Hurling/Camogie P4-P7 (5 places) £16
- Soccer P4-P7 (5 places) £26
- Children's Music Academy P2-P3 (2 places) £26

If interested please send envelope with details and money enclosed to Miss Delaney.

After School Activities timetable and further information on school website.

Digital Leaders

In conjunction with iTeach, we are delighted to be able to offer 8 of our Primary 5 and Primary 6 children the exciting opportunity to become **Digital Leaders** within our school.



A Digital Leader is a pupil who is part of a Digital Leaders Team within the school and whose role it is to support the use and further the development of the iPad within classes.

If chosen, the Digital Leaders will meet regularly with on-going training and support to develop their expertise in the use of iPads. This will enable them to help their teachers and classmates during lessons.

When appointed the Digital Leaders team will be given the opportunity to visit the Apple Store in Belfast to be trained and recognised by Apple as an 'iGenius'.

If interested, any P5 or P6 child is invited to fill out an Application Form for the role to tell us why they would like to become a Digital Leader.

Further information and Application Forms will be sent home later this week.

Uniform

Remember that Uniform is our April focus of the month.

We have noticed a definite improvement in this area – please continue to ensure that your child wears the correct uniform each day, including black shoes, not trainers.

PTA



Our PTA in St Joseph's continue to do fantastic work raising money to help provide much needed resources for our school. As our school budget is becoming tighter we are relying more heavily on support to fund projects and resources.

By the end of this school year PTA Funds of almost £10,000 will have been used to fund resources for your children, activities for pupils and parents and training for teachers which will in turn benefit your children.

The PTA could not raise these funds without your continued support and generosity – thank you so much for helping our school invest in the future of your children.

Items purchased by the PTA so far this year include:

- 15 iPads to enhance teaching and learning across the school
- Foundation Stage 2 Build a Profile Assessment App
- P1 and P2 Structured Play Resources
- P3 and P4 Activity Based Learning Games
- P6 Games and Blinds
- P3-4 iPad training on Minecraft (this app will be used to support the teaching of Numeracy and other core areas across the curriculum).
- Teacher iPad Training
- Internet Safety Information Session for Parents (see below)
- Netball bibs and balls
- Frame for P7 Artwork
- Pantomime Deposit

Next PTA Meeting:

Tuesday 3rd May at 7.30pm in the Parents' Cabin (Back Car Park)



PTA Upcoming Events:

SMALL CHANGE 4 BIG CHANGES

FORTNIGHT:

25th April - 6th May

During this fortnight each child will be encouraged to bring in loose change and throw it in a bucket in their classroom. By the end of the fortnight the class that collects the most money will win a mystery prize!

PTA QUIZ AND DISCO:

6th May Racquets Club, Lisburn 8pm (til late)

Tickets are £5 and can be purchased from the school office or any PTA Member. Come along for music, craic and dancing!

PARENT INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOP:



18th May 7.00-8.30 Assembly Hall
120 places are available initially
to P4-P7 parents

SUMMER FUN DAY: Saturday 11th June



Don't forget to visit the PTA page on our school website to see photographs of events and find out more about the role of the Committee.

<http://www.stjosephsschool.org/pta-and-friends/>

You can also now follow our PTA on Twitter. Search for @stjlisburnpta

