

'Being the best that we can be'

Newsletter – February 2018

Welcome to our February Newsletter! It is so lovely to begin to see the arrival of signs of Spring. 1st February is St. Brigid's day and as the hymn says....'Brigid brings the Spring.' This month we will celebrate Catholic Schools Week as well as St. Valentine's day with our traditional Primary 1 valentine's afternoon. Mid-term comes early this month as well so the children have a week off to recharge their batteries in time for the second half of term 2. Take a read at what is happening across the month. As always stay up to date with our texting, twitter and SeeSaw services as well as our school website.

Pauline Fleming

ETI Follow-Up Inspection

We are delighted to be able to tell you that the Education and Training Inspectorate will be carrying out our follow-up inspection on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 February. Ms Jill Garland, our district inspector along with John Murray and Heather Jackson from the primary inspectorate team will carry out the inspection.

We will be working hard in the next few weeks to showcase the improvements made in St. Joseph's in the last two years and we look forward to feeding back to you in the coming weeks.

Kindness Club

Our Kindness club is up and running and has grown so large that we have to hold alternate groups each Thursday lunchtime. Have you noticed any little surprise gifts or random acts of kindness at home? Our secret agents were on a mission to be kind without acknowledgement.

This week children are spreading the love in school by putting up motivational posters that encourage self-confidence.

Value of the Month

Our "Value of the Month" for February is HONESTY. This is such an underrated value in today's world. Sometimes it is so easy to sway from the truth especially in times when we feel we are in trouble. Teachers will be encouraging pupils to be honest this month and will be looking out for pupils who have shown HONESTY in school life for our Value of the Month award.

"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom"

Thomas Jefferson

Shared Education Project with Harmony Hill Primary School

Mrs O'Hare and Mr Anderson (VP) from Harmony Hill applied for funding through Shared Education in June 2017. Our application has been successful and we have received funding for a literacy based project between the two schools.

The funding will enable us to:

- Provide substitute cover for teachers to write literacy planners for every year group. Teachers will work with year group colleagues from Harmony Hill.
- Purchase literacy resources for the two schools.
- Facilitate a Primary Seven shared project on Conflict. (Literacy based)
- Facilitate a Primary Three writing project.

We are delighted to be involved in this project – we have been working with Harmony Hill for the past twenty years and are delighted to have secured funding to enable teachers to have time to provide high quality lessons for your children.

The first shared sessions between the two schools will begin after mid-term.

Eco Schools - More Awards....

Fair Aware Ward

Primary Six children have been learning about Fair Trade and due to the brilliant work they have been doing our school have been awarded the 'Fair Aware Award'.

We are applying for our next Fair Trade Award when we prepare and deliver an assembly and sell some Fair Trade products.



Level Four Gardening Award

Mrs Hunter and the Eco team have just been awarded the Level Four Gardening Award. They have been working hard over the past number of years and will now apply for the final level 5 award. Mrs Hunter received a variety of seeds that we will plant in our courtyard garden in spring.

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Online Safety

Tuesday 6 February is '**Internet Safety Day**'. As a school we will be drawing pupil attention to how to be safe online and appropriate behaviour when using digital technologies.

Here is the link to the online safety website where you might pick up some hints and tips to have a chat with your child across the week:
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safe-internet-day/2018>

We have recently reviewed our Online safety Policy' and will be sending home our 'Acceptable Use of Internet and School based Digital Technology Agreement.' There is an agreement for Foundation Stage and KS1 pupils as well as one for KS 2. These provide pupils and parents with a set of guidelines for using digital technology in school. We would ask that parents read and talk about this with their children before both pupils and parents sign and return to your child's teacher.

Celebration of the Sacraments for Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 7

We are looking forward to celebrating the sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation with our Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 7 pupils.

Primary 3: First Confession

First Confession will take place on **Wednesday 21 March at 10.45am** in St. Patrick's Chapel.

In preparation for receiving this sacrament parents are invited to come along to a **Commitment Service on Thursday 1 March at 11am**. This will take place in the school assembly hall and teachers will share important details about First Confession with you then.

Primary 4: First Communion

First Communion takes place on Saturday 12 May at 10am in St. Patrick's Chapel. Primary 4 will prepare for receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist by participating in a 'Breaking of Bread' Service on Wednesday 18 April at 11am in the school assembly hall. Parents are invited along to this service and teachers will share important information about First Communion Day as well.

Primary 7: Confirmation

Confirmation for Primary 7 pupils will take place on **Friday 9 March at 11am in St. Patrick's Chapel**.

In preparation for making their Confirmation parents are invited to our 'Service of Light' on Tuesday 27 February at 7pm in the school assembly hall. Important information about Confirmation will be shared with parents then.

Holidays and School Closures for 2018

Mid-Term Break

School will close for mid-term on **from Monday 12 February until Monday 19 February inclusive**. We will open for pupils again on **Tuesday 20 February**.

St. Patrick's Day

The school will be closed for St. Patrick's bank Holiday on **Monday 19 March**.

Easter 2018

Easter falls early this year and the school will close on **Holy Thursday 29 March** for the Easter break. Term 3 will begin on Monday 9 April 2018.

LEPRA

This term we have decided to support the charity 'LEPRA.' This is often an overlooked cause and today's children don't always have an understanding of how leprosy affects children and young people.

Martina Smith, a representative from LEPRA delivered an assembly for all pupils on Friday 26 January and is providing a fun workout for pupils on Friday 9 February. Pupils can wear their PE gear to school on this day.

Children received an envelope from LEPRA at the assembly and if you would like to make a donation to LEPRA please place it in the envelope and send into school next week. We will pass on all envelopes to LEPRA on Friday. The school will make a charitable donation to LEPRA from the 2018 charity donations.

Primary 1 Valentine's Day Celebrations

We are delighted to be able to celebrate St. Valentine's day once again with our very special Primary 1 Valentine's day celebration on **Wednesday 7 February at 1pm**.

Parents are invited along to your child's classroom from **1pm to cut, stick and make lots of 'love-ly' crafts with your child**. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Catholic Schools Week:

We started off Catholic Schools Week last week with a lovely Mass in St Patrick's on Tuesday. Throughout the week the children were able to take part in a variety of activities to learn more about the theme - **Catholic Schools: families of faith**. We finished the week with 2 great assemblies from P2 Miss Beatty and P5 Mr Reid. Ms Gorman also helped us all to make St Brigid's crosses on Thursday.

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January 2018 Dates for your Diary!

Thurs 1 February 2018	Catholic Schools Week Miss Beatty's Parent Assembly at 9.30am Ms Gibson at C2K Course Mrs Fleming: Transfer Interviews Miss Clarke at CCEA Maths Ideas group: PM
Fri 2 February 2018	Catholic Schools Week Mr Reid's Parent Assembly Mrs Fleming: Transfer Interviews P7 swimming at Lisburn Leisureplex P6 Badminton in Lisburn Racquets' Club Hive Hackers with PWC in P6 Mr Gallagher and P7 Mrs McCambridge P6 Olympic handball Day 2 Mrs Gartland & 20 pupils
Mon 5 February 2018	Digital Maths Week! Mrs Fleming: Transfer Interviews P3 Bridges Workshop at Lisburn's Linen Museum 9.30am – 11.45am Welcome Orla Campbell on teaching practice Miss Clarke: Numeracy Development day: SUB: Miss McNally Mrs Gould: ICT Development Day: SUB: Ms Gorman P4 Mrs Connolly at Lisburn City Library: Please bring along your library card Fundamentals for P2: pupils should wear their PE gear
Tues 6 February 2018	Digital Maths Week! Internet Safety Day Pottery at Island Arts Centre for P2 Miss Beatty and P5 Mr Reid Indoor athletics: Mrs Gartland & 12 Primary 7 pupils at Lisburn Leisureplex Mrs Hanna: Literacy Development Day: SUB: Miss McNally P7 Tag Rugby for Mrs McCambridge at 1.45pm
Wed 7 February 2018	Digital Maths Week! P5 at tennis Primary 1 Valentine's Afternoon from 1pm in your child's classroom Mrs O'Hare: Vice-Principal Development day: SUB: Miss McKeown SENCO Development day: Mrs Connolly SUB: Miss McNally
Thurs 8 February 2018	Digital Maths Week! 100th day of school celebrations Awards Assembly Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School for Primary 7 teachers: Mrs O'Hare: SUB Sandra McKeown Mrs Mc Cambridge: SUB Ms Gorman EA Literacy Adviser Mrs Annemarie Flynn meeting Mrs Hanna
Fri 9 February 2018	Digital Maths Week! LEPRA FUN DAY: PLEASE WEAR YOUR PE GEAR AND BRING IN DONATION ENVELOPES TODAY. THANK YOU Hive Hackers with PWC for P6 Mr Gallagher's class and P7 Mrs McCambridge's class P7 at swimming P6 at badminton

Mon 12 February – Friday 16 February 2018	Mid-Term break: School closed
Mon 19 February 2018	School Development Day: School closed for teachers
Tues 20 February 2018	P4 Mrs Connolly at Linen Museum for World War 2 workshop: 9.30am – 11.30am Pottery at Island Arts Centre for: P2 Miss Beatty P5 Mr Reid Shared Education Day 1 for Primary 7 pupils in Lisburn Racquets' Club 10am – 12noon P4 – P7 Healthy Planning Session from 2.15pm – 4pm P7 Tag Rugby for Mrs McCambridge at 1.45pm 6pm: Board of Governor Meeting
Wed 21 February 2018	Shared Education Day 2 for Primary 7 pupils in Lisburn Racquets' Club 10am – 12noon P1 – P3 Healthy Planning Session from 2.15pm – 4pm P5 tennis
Thurs 22 February 2018	ETI Follow-Up Inspection
Fri 23 February 2018	ETI Follow-Up Inspection Hive Hackers with PWC for P6 Mr Gallagher's class and P7 Mrs McCambridge's class P6 at badminton P7 at swimming
Monday 26 February 2018	FOUNDERS' DAY Celebrations P4 Mrs Connolly at Lisburn City Library: Please bring along your library card Mrs Fleming at CCEA Primary 7 Technology 'Slow Marble Run' at Lisburn's Linen Museum 9.30am – 11.30am (Mrs O'Hare's class) Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Mrs Hanna: SUB: Miss McNally 3pm Healthy Planning Session
Tuesday 27 February 2018	P4 Mrs Connolly at Linen Museum for World War 2 workshop: 9.30am – 11.30am Pottery at Island Arts Centre for: P2 Miss Beatty P5 Mr Reid Shared Education Day 1 for Primary 7 pupils in Lisburn Racquets' Club 10am – 12noon P4 – P7 Healthy Planning Session from 2.15pm – 4pm P7 Tag Rugby for Mrs O'Hare at 1.45pm 6pm: Board of Governor Meeting
Wednesday 28 February 2018	Mrs Fleming at CCEA P5 at tennis Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School for Primary 7
Thursday 1 March 2018	Mrs Fleming at CCEA Primary 3 Commitment Service at 11am in assembly hall Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School for Primary 7
Friday 2 March 2018	Mrs Fleming at CCEA Hive Hackers with PWC for P6 Mr Gallagher's class and P7 Mrs McCambridge's class P6 at badminton P7 at swimming

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December 2017 Award Winners

Primary 1

Primary 2

Value of the Month: CHARITY	Mya Jennings Ruby-Grace Kelly
Pope Francis Award	Abbie Brady Jude Herbert-Fox
Writer of the Month	Abbie Barr Lucy Brownlees
ICT Whizz of the Month	Orlaith Fay Patrick McSparron
Mathlete of the Month	Holly McCann Matthew McConville

Value of the Month: CHARITY	Niamh Pollock Tom Shanley
Pope Francis Award	Emma Rogers Nicola Zabicka
Writer of the Month	Megan Mateer Ryan McCaffrey
ICT Whizz of the Month	Dylan Johnson Carter McFall
Mathlete of the Month	Sam Bowman Nicholas Badoi

Primary 3

Value of the Month: CHARITY	Neil Jayan Lara Gribbon
Pope Francis Award	Sienna Curran Georgia Rooney-Reid
Writer of the Month	Alex Frazer Finagh Rowlands
ICT Whizz of the Month	Raigardas Jarusevicius Ollie Gould
Mathlete of the Month	Ethan McKeown Caleb English

Primary 4

Value of the Month: CHARITY	Adam Gormley Gabe McMaster
Pope Francis Award	Grace Ferris Shea Marshall
Writer of the Month	Mollie Barr Lexi Williamson
ICT Whizz of the Month	Adrian Kawalczuk Oisin Farrell
Mathlete of the Month	Wojciech Tunkiewicz Michael Ratcliffe

Primary 5

Value of the Month: RESPONSIBILITY	Erin Mallon Dylan O'Hare
Pope Francis Award	Callum Agnew Ruby Grimley
Writer of the Month	Sabrina Brown Anna Newnham
ICT Whizz of the Month	Ella-Rose Watson Charlie Green
Mathlete of the Month	Rory McCann Maria McLorinan

Primary 6

Primary 7

Value of the Month: RESPONSIBILITY	Eryn Brownlees Arvin Joshy
Pope Francis Award	Alice Scott Donal Wright
Writer of the Month	Lucy Whyte Anna Broderick
ICT Whizz of the Month	Danius Visomirskis Lily-Rose McPolin
Mathlete of the Month	Yzabelle Pacia Euan Lappin

Value of the Month: RESPONSIBILITY	Eve Watson Emily Scanlon
Pope Francis Award	Katie Hunter Emma Rooney
Writer of the Month	Chloe Quinn Katie McGurnaghan
ICT Whizz of the Month	Luke Newnham Aidan McCann
Mathlete of the Month	Niamh Wilkinson Felix Jose

Mathletics Class Awards

Congratulations to this month's class winners: Miss Clarke's class with 53,660 points and Mr Gallagher's class with 47,150 points

Mathletics Gold Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved 'Gold Awards' in Mathletics in December:

Lucy Nokes, Caleb English, Jack McCann, Andrew McLorinan, Nicholas Badoi, Razvan Benea and Leon McGrady

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PTA News:

The PTA recently purchased a new Clever Touch board to replace the Interactive Whiteboard in Mrs Hanna's Primary 6 classroom. The cost of the board was £2995. The children are very excited to have this brand new addition in their classroom and have really enjoyed experimenting with it! Throughout the next few years, the PTA aim to replace all the Interactive Whiteboards in the school with new Clever Touch boards. To be able to do this, they are relying on your support for future fundraising events.

Look out for photos and videos of the children using the new board on the school website and twitter and also the PTA Facebook page.

Next meeting: Tuesday 6th February at 7pm in the staffroom.

Digital Maths Week:

We are really looking forward to our inaugural Digital Maths week from Monday 5th – Friday 9th February. Throughout this week, during Numeracy lessons, each class will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of digital activities. This could be using an app to practise their mathematical skills on their iPads, using the Explain Everything app to explain concepts to their friends, playing maths games on the Interactive Whiteboard, going on maths trails around the school and recording this by taking pictures on the iPads, having QR Code hunts around the classroom and lots more! At the end of the week you will be sent home a list of lots of different websites and apps that you could explore with your child. Look out for lots of photos on twitter and our school website too!

100th Day of School:

Can you believe we will have been at school 100 days on Thursday 8th February? To celebrate this, on Thursday each class will take part in a variety of fun activities to learn about the number 100! Look out on our twitter page and school website for lots of photos from the day.

Using ICT in Maths:

At the beginning of January teachers and classroom assistants took part in a numeracy workshop with Miss Clarke on the use of ICT in Maths lessons. Everyone looked at a variety of apps and websites that can be used in numeracy lessons to support children's learning and also had great fun learning how to use QR Codes! They are now implementing some of the knowledge gained into their classroom teaching.

Numeracy Post Inspection Update

February 2018:

Collegiate Book Discussion:

In November, as part of the monitoring and evaluating process, a Collegiate Book Discussion in Numeracy took place. This involved all teachers coming together to look at samples of Numeracy Books from each class throughout the school. The following areas of strength were identified:

- Wide range of different types of problem solving activities are evident across the whole school.
- High quality word problem tasks are being completed throughout the school, especially in KS2 where the children are more able to apply their mathematical knowledge.
- Children in P3-7 are beginning to develop skills to help them solve Word Problems using the RUCSAC method.
- Children in Foundation Stage are being given opportunities to develop the language of problem solving using the 'WHAP' terminology. Lots of discussion is taking place and recorded through teacher comments when marking.
- Word problems are linked to topics and themes which make them interesting and fun.
- Differentiation is evident to cater for all learning styles and abilities.
- P1-3 use practical activity very effectively to help children solve problems – e.g use of digit cards, twigs, counters etc
- Lots of evidence of paired and group work tasks being carried out to help children develop their mathematical thinking.
- Children in some classes are being challenged to create their own word problems for other children to solve – e.g. P7 creating loop cards for P4.
- Success criteria is being used in most classes to enhance the learning process.
- Yellow box marking is beginning to be used in P3-7 to allow children to make corrections and improve their work.
- There is evidence of teachers and pupils working together for improvement throughout marking.

Pupil Conference: In November Mrs Fleming and Miss Clarke met with all teachers in P4-7 to review the numeracy targets that had been set for the children in their class. Each child's progress was discussed and recorded with future actions agreed to improve learning.

Pupil Voice:

In December, as part of the monitoring and evaluating process, Miss Clarke carried out a Pupil Voice with 6 representatives from each class throughout the school. All of the children spoke with confidence about how they feel about maths in St Joseph's with a particular focus on word problems and problem solving. The areas of strength were as follows:

- The majority of children commented on how maths is enjoyable and fun and really makes you think.
- 'Maths is better when it is related to real life problems, because everyone will need this when they are older'.
- All children throughout the school are developing their knowledge of mathematical language and use this to help them solve word problems.
- Children in most classes demonstrated how they use their knowledge of the strategies of mental calculation to help them solve word problems.
- All children in P3-7 commented that they enjoy using the RUCSAC method to solve word problems and displayed very good knowledge of mathematical language.
- Children in P2 are beginning to use the WHAP method to solve word problems and love to use practical material to help them.
- Children in P1 and P2 use a wide variety of practical material in their lessons to help them count and sort.
- All children enjoy problem solving because it 'challenges their brain'.
- Children like working together in groups or pairs to help them solve problems as they can help each other to find solutions.
- When asked to work in groups to solve a word problem, the children worked well together generating great discussion on how they would find the solution to the problem using RUCSAC.
- Children prefer it when problem solving tasks are linked to topics.
- When faced with mathematical calculations, the majority of children in P3-7 said they would try to work it out in their heads first but if it is too difficult they will write down a sum to help them find a solution.
- Children in P5-7 enjoy choosing which level of question they want to try when faced with word problems – hot, spicy or moderate. They like to challenge themselves to try the hot and spicy questions!
- ICT is being incorporated more into Numeracy lessons, but the majority of children said they would like to use ICT more to help them with their learning.