

Newsletter – February 2019



Welcome to our February Newsletter! We are all delighted to see St. Brigid's Day today! St Brigid brings the spring! January is along and dark month so it is great to see the days lengthen at this time of year. We haven't seen the back of the snow yet so we have published our adverse weather policy again in this newsletter for your information.

It's a short month but that doesn't mean there are less things happening in St. Joseph's. Have a read and as usual, we will keep you up to date with our Friday Notes and our twitter feed and texting service.

Pauline Fleming, Acting Principal

St Valentine's Day Celebrations

Primary One will be celebrating Valentine's Day this year with a special event here in school. Parents are invited to their child's classroom on **Thursday 14th February from 1 - 2pm** to take part in a range of activities in the Primary One classrooms - including lots of **LOVE**ly treats for everyone to take home! We look forward to seeing you there.



Telepresence Robot in St. Joseph's

We are delighted to let you know that The Children's Cancer Unit Charity have provided us with a telepresence robot for Charlie. It will help Charlie stay connected to his teacher and his class friends as well as supporting his learning at home. Both Charlie and Mr Reid have already had some training in using the robot and it all looks very exciting!

The robot will use an iPad and will be controlled by Charlie at home with a second iPad. Charlie will 'pop in' for lessons on a daily basis. We know that this will be an invaluable experience for both Charlie and your child.

As you can imagine, this is state of the art technology and we are very pleased to be piloting it here in school.



Foundation Stage Numeracy Workshop

Parents of children in Primary One and Two are invited to our Numeracy Workshop on **Tuesday 5th February at 6pm**. This event will guide you through Numeracy expectations in the Foundation Stage and practical ideas to help your child develop key Numeracy skills. The workshop will be very practical and will give parents an insight into classroom based practice.



'Being the best that we can be'

Adverse Weather Policy

As winter is well and truly here, I thought it would be wise to share our adverse weather policy with you at this stage.

This policy sets out the school's action plan for adverse weather. In times of extreme weather, such as a heavy snowfall, the Principal and Senior Leadership Team will consider the checklist below to see if it is necessary to close the school

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team will begin the process by answering these questions related to the safety of pupils and staff:

1. Can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
2. Can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
3. In an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
4. Is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
5. Transport - can buses, meal deliveries, etc., reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
6. If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the Pupil Teacher Ratio acceptable? An acceptable PTR would be 1:30
7. Have local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling, been declared hazardous?

Having considered each question carefully, the Senior Leadership team will complete a Risk Assessment based on the answers. They will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 'No' to any of the 7 questions

If a decision is made to close

- Here in St. Joseph's P.S. we have a text message service to inform parents if the school is closed and again when the decision is taken to re-open
- All parent contacts will be sent a text message
- Radio Stations - BBC Radio Ulster will also be informed

We will use our twitter feed to communicate the closure



Catholic Schools Week

This week we celebrated catholic Schools Week here in school. The children were celebrating this in class and we had two parent assemblies as well.

Thank you so much to all of our parents and grandparents who came along. Unfortunately, the weather was against us when we tried to go up to Mass in St. Patrick's.



Values of the Month

Our "Value of the Month" for February is HONESTY

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



Safer Internet Day 2019

Tuesday 5 February is safer Internet Day 2019. To celebrate this, pupils will be exploring how to keep themselves safe on the internet both in class and at assembly. Our digital leaders will be presenting two assemblies on Thursday and Friday as well. This is such an important theme for us all to explore in this digital age. Follow this link for information and ideas:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019>

KEEP
CALM
AND
STAY SAFE
ONLINE

Transfer Meetings

This week I have been meeting parents of pupils in Primary 7 to discuss and choose post-primary schools for their child. This has been such a positive experience as all our Primary 7 pupils are excellent ambassadors for our school and will be for their future schools as well.

‘Being the best that we can be’

Netball News

Well done to the Netball team who have now played all the preliminary matches in the Lisburn League. The team played excellently across all four matches, with a win and a draw on the first day and two unlucky defeats on the second - very close matches, indeed! The girls represented the school with fantastic sportsmanship and team work and will play again at a Tournament in April. The team was made up of P7 pupils: Etain Lavery, Anna Broderick (C), Molly Gribbon, Grace Ferris, Katie Johnson, Rebecca English, Lucy Nokes, Katie Neill, Erin Brownlees, Keira McLorinan, Lucia McConville and Sophie Jennings. Thank you also to the parents who provided fantastic support by cheering on the team on both days.



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 **Thursday 28 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 7 March at 9.30am**. 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 18 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 **Thursday 11 April at 9.30am** 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 **Thursday 21 March at 11am in St. Patrick's Chapel**.

In preparation for making their Confirmation parents are invited to our 'Service of Light' on **Tuesday 5 March at 7pm**. Important information about Confirmation will be shared with parents then.

Shared Education News

P2 pupils from St Joseph's and Harmony Hill had their first meeting day on Tuesday 29th January. The children had lots of fun enjoying the many play activities with their new buddies at Global Adventure Play, Ballynahinch. The children will meet the same buddies again early in March when they learn about each other's topics (St Joseph's - Space, Harmony Hill - Spring) through indoor and outdoor play at both schools. The children are so excited to continue this experience with their new friends.



Sporting News

Congratulation to Anna Broderick (P7) and Ella-Rose Watson P6 who took part in the Flahavan's Cross Country Final which they qualified for this year. There were 152 runners in total and Anna finished 7th overall, whilst Ella Rose came in 106th. It was a very tough competition so huge congratulations to both talented runners.

The Olympic Handballers had great success in the first round of their league. The boys won three highly competitive games, falling only to one team. The girls won 1 out of 4. We have lots to work on for the next round so well done to all for your commitment and hard work so far.



‘Being the best that we can be’

Dates for your diary!

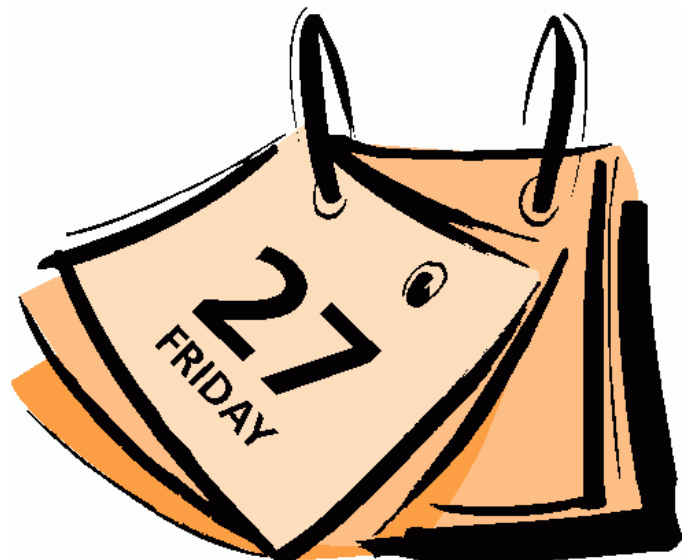
Fri 1 Feb	Mr Reid's Parent Assembly at 9.30am P7 Swimming P6 Badminton
Mon 4 Feb	P4 Mrs Hanna's class at Lisburn Library 3pm: Maths Development for teachers
Tues 5 Feb	SAFER INTERNET DAY P7 Shared Education Day FOUNDATION STAGE NUMERACY WORKSHOP AT 6PM
Wed 6 Feb	Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre P3 Mrs Gould@ 9.45am and P7 Mrs McCambridge @ 10.45am
Thurs 7 Feb	DIGITAL LEADER ASSEMBLY P7 Shared Education Day
Fri 8 Feb	DIGITAL LEADER ASSEMBLY P7 Shared Education Day P6 at badminton
Mon 11 Feb	100th Day at School Celebrations P4 Mrs Hanna's class at Lisburn Library
Tues 12 Feb	P7 Shared Education Day
Wed 13 Feb	P7 Shared Education Day
Thurs 14 Feb	Mrs O'Hare at Shared Education EA Course Awards Assembly Primary 1 St Valentine's Day Celebrations 1pm - 2pm
Fri 15 Feb	Awards Assembly P7 at swimming P6 at badminton
	Monday 18 Feb - Friday 22 Feb Mid-Term Break
Mon 25 Feb	Mrs Fleming at CCEA P4 Mrs Hanna's class at Lisburn Library 3pm Healthy Planning Session
Tues 26 Feb	Mrs Fleming at CCEA

	2.15pm - 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P4 - P7 Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre P4 Mrs Hanna @ 9.45am and P6 Mrs Gorman @ 10.45am
Wed 27 Feb	Mrs Fleming at CCEA Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre P3 Mrs Gould@ 9.45am and P7 Mrs McCambridge @ 10.45am Mrs Gould ICT development day 2.15pm - 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P1 - P3
Thurs 28 Feb	Mrs Fleming at CCEA Mrs O'Hare: VP development day
Fri 1 March	Mrs Fleming at CCEA Planner 5 ends

February Mid-Term Break

Please remember school will be closed for 1 week for our February mid-term break, from Monday 18 February 2019 - Friday 22 February (incl). There is no Cool Kids facility during this break.

School will reopen on Monday 25 February 2019.



‘Being the best that we can be’