

New Digital Weather Station will be placed outside the school for all children to read the data. Making mathematics real through World Around Us. The P3 children will love using this as they study the topic of weather.

Polite Parking Please

We all know that parking and traffic can be an issue especially at pick up and drop off times but I would like to appeal to all of our school community for 'polite parking'. Please try not to block the top of the lane or the canteen bay in the back car park. Please try to have a little patience as well...we will all get there in the end!



PTA News

We are so grateful for the sheer amount of money raised on an annual basis by the PTA along with your full support. We couldn't do without this fundraising. The amount of money raised by the PTA has been increasing year on year for the last 3 years. In 13/14 £3248.75, 14/15 £5320.56 and in 15/16 £5557.66 was raised. So far the balance raised this year is £4472 so it looks like a very successful year again. The PTA have now approved the purchase of black-out blinds for each classroom and learning area. These are vital especially with each class now having an Interactive whiteboard. As a school we would like to thank the PTA for their drive and commitment to fundraising for the school and to thank you our parents for supporting the PTA events on an annual basis.

We gave you a little flavour of PTA events to come in last week's Friday Note.....Still to come however is:

On **Holy Thursday 13 April**, the PTA will host a 'Wear your Easter bonnet to School Day' along with an Easter egg hunt as well costing £2.

The PTA will be making up 'Mother's Day' gifts that will be sold in the week leading up to Mother's day beginning Monday 20 March. More details later...Last year 'Brown Money Collection' was very successful so the PTA would like to repeat this event starting on Tuesday 3 May. Each class will have a bucket for all brown money donations and there will be prizes for the class with the largest amount of money collected.

Valentine's Delight

Oh what a treat we have for Primary 1 parents....On Friday 10 February we will be celebrating St. Valentine's Day with their mums and dads on **Friday 10 February**. This day is so special....parents and children will be making lots of LOVEly things to take home. Please come along at **1 o'clock** to share this special time with your son/daughter.



Allergies Reminder

Please remember that due to the fact we have a number of children with allergies to various food products in school **birthday cakes are not to be sent in to school.** We thank you for your consideration to others.

Attendance

Excellent attendance is vital and coincides directly with pupil achievement. We are very proud of our attendance rates here in St. Joseph's which are always above the NI average but we are always seeking to improve this rate. Please help us by ensuring that your child is in school on time. We do understand if they are very ill and must stay off school. Let us know the reason for the absence by phoning the school and leaving a message for the teacher on the day of absence or sending in a note with your child on their return.

Professional Development for our Classroom Assistants

Our classroom assistants play a vital role in enhancing the learning experiences of all our pupils here in St. Joseph's. With financial cutbacks etc, there seems to be a shortage of professional development opportunities for classroom assistants. So...we thought we would begin to organise this ourselves using, not only the expertise we have here in school, but also EA expertise as well. The first professional development session for all of our classroom assistants will take place on Tuesday 7 February at 9.15am. Mrs Gould will be delivering training in Green Screen, Apple TV and the use of the Book Creator App on iPads. After mid-term the EA's Orla Hendron will be delivering 4 workshops in positive behaviour management in the classroom. We feel this will be extremely beneficial for all our classroom assistants and will also have a positive impact on our pupils as well.

World Book Day

This year World Book day is celebrated on **Thursday 2 March**. As usual we will be celebrating the day here in school...more details later through our Friday Notes.



CPD Art Workshop for Fellow Teachers

We are so lucky to have such a talented artist as part of our staff team in Ms Therese Gorman. What better way to use her talents than to offer a 6 week Continual Professional Development (CPD) course to other teachers in the Lisburn area. Therese will be delivering 6 practical workshops in art and design on a weekly basis to our fellow colleagues from Wednesday 1 March here in school.

School Holidays for 2017/2018

I know...it's hard to believe that we may already be planning next year's holidays but yes we have to! As yet these school holidays have to be ratified by the Education Authority but we thought we would let

you know the proposed starting date back to school in August. The first day back to school for P2 – P7 children would be Wednesday 30 August. P1 pupils will have their own starting date. We intend to take a week off at Halloween starting Monday 30 October and a week off in February starting Monday 12 February. We hope that this helps you to plan holidays etc so that these do not overlap with school days. As soon as the holidays are ratified by the EA, then we will let you know.

First Communion

We celebrate First Communion with our Primary 4 children on **Saturday 13 May at 10am Mass in St. Patrick's Chapel**. As part of their preparation for receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist they will be involved in a 'Breaking of Bread Service.' This will take place in the school assembly hall on **Wednesday 26 April at 11am**. Parents are all invited along and it is important that at least 1 parent comes as we will be sharing important information about first communion with you on that day.

First Confession

We celebrate First Confession with our Primary 3 children on **Thursday 30 March at 10.45am in St. Patrick's Chapel**. As part of their preparation for this sacrament pupils will be participating in a 'Commitment Service.' This will take place here in school on **Wednesday 8 March at 11am**. Parents are invited along to this service. It is important that at least 1 parent attends as we will be sharing important information about First Confession on that day.

Primary Seven Parents Service of Light

Confirmation is on 20 March at 11am. To prepare for this Sacrament we will hold our Service of Light in school on Tuesday night 7 February at 7pm. Parents should bring the child's Baptismal Candle or Holy Candle to this service.

Safer Internet Day 2017

This will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 7 February with the slogan 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'.



In school all classes will be learning about the positive uses of digital technology, how to be safe and responsible users and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community.

Please take a few minutes to talk to your child about this.

Value of the Month: Diligence

P1	Tatiana Tudziez Megan Mateer
P2	Dallon Holman Toby Glenfield
P3	Shea Marshall Kaitlin Stewart
P4	Hannah Dougherty

	Luca Kent
P5	Sofia Gascon Eryn Brownlees
P6	Richard Mathew Eoin Heyes
P7	Sian Rooney Auguste Sukackaite
Pope Francis Award	
P1	Laila McDowell Oisin Marsden
P2	Elle Dowds Rory Maxwell
P3	Isaac Lagan Emma McKibbin
P4	Lucas Larmour Anna McDonnell
P5	Katie Neill Eric Dowds
P6	Emily Scanlon Eoin O'Neill
P7	Cera Noble Enya Daye
Writer of the Month	
P1	Ryan McCaffrey Adam Maloret
P2	Jamie Radcliffe Olivia McDonnell
P3	Orla Gallagher-Turtle Ruby Lavery
P4	James Wilkinson Mia Rooney
P5	Etienne Lavery Alice Scott
P6	Sinead Pye Caitlin Finlay
P7	Emma Gormley Dylan Moran
ICT Whizzkid of the Month	
P1	Tom Shanley Jack McAuley
P2	Ciara Wilkinson Emma Moran
P3	David McCay Ethan Annon
P4	Darragh Kennedy Charlie Lawlor
P5	Ben Donaghy Yzabelle Pacia
P6	Aoife Doherty Ronald Mathew
P7	Ryan Heyes Kai Nelson
Mathlete of the Month	
P1	Dylan Johnston Nicholas Badoi
P2	Caleb English Ethan McKeown
P3	Emma McKibbin Leon McGrady
P4	Imogen Murray Maria McLorinan
P5	Rebecca English Yzabelle Pacia
P6	Felix Jose Niamh Wilkinson
P7	Dean Ringland Hannah Gartland

Linen Centre Workshops

Primary Five will be visiting the Linen Museum this month to make felt as part of their Reduce, Reuse, Recycle project.

Primary 4 will take part in World War I workshops as they prepare for their new topic.

South Antrim Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Hurling and Camogie

Both our boys and girls indoor hurling teams were in action this month at Andersonstown Leisure Centre. The indoor hurling is a fast paced game where the children use their ground hurling strokes to pass, defend and score. We have been competing in this tournament for a number of years and are delighted to announce that our girls, for the first time, have brought the cup home to St. Joseph's. Indeed this is the only Lisburn team ever to have won this prestigious trophy. To get to the final, the girls won the preliminaries against Holy Rosary (5,3) and Gaescoil na bhfal (3,0). In the final they narrowly defeated Christ the Redeemer (3,2) and swept aside Holy Evangelists (5,0). Huge congratulations to the girls who made headline news in the Irish News, The Andersonstown News and the Lisburn Star! They now proceed to the All-County Finals on February 21st!

Enya Daye (Team Captain) also played brilliantly with other children from Tipperary and Antrim Allianz Cumann na mBunscol teams at half time in the Fr Alex Reid Festival of Hurling Celebration which saw Antrim playing against All Ireland Champions Tipperary in Corrigan Park. Enya represented Tipperary in a mixed team's county match. Congratulations for helping her team to defeat Antrim by scoring a goal and a point! Enya is definitely one to watch on the hurling field!

Girls Camogs: Enya Daye (Captain), Hannah Gartland, Dearbhla Lynch, Aoife Doherty, Eve Watson, Mia Law, Anna Broderick, Katie Longley, Molly Gribbon,

The boys put up a great fight in their games in the same tournament but unfortunately it wasn't their year. The cup went deservedly to Bunscoil Phobal Feirste. Hopefully the girls win will inspire them to keep working hard as they show great promise. A big thank-you must be given to Michael Stewart for his continued hard work with the children.

Boys hurlers: Conall Gorman, Oisín Casey, Alex Pienkowski, Fionn Dobbin, Jack McMahon, Dylan Moran

The boys will be in action again in the Lisburn Leisureplex so we will keep you posted!

Four Wall Handball

Hannah Gartland, Enya Daye, Conall Gorman and Ruairi Gallagher took part in the Antrim Schools Doubles this week at St. Pauls GAC. The girls will go forward to play in the Ulster's Schools next week. The boys did well in this tournament, given that they only usually get the opportunity to play one wall, however it was a great event and it was just lovely to see our boys playing our National Sport with such enthusiasm. Well done to all involved and good luck to the girls in the next round.

P6 Boys Olympic Handball

Well done to the P6 boys Olympic Handball team for some great performances in their recent Olympic Handball matches. The boys were at Lough Moss leisure centre last Friday and played matches against St Joseph's Carryduff, St Ita's Newtownbreda and Pond Park primary schools. The

matches were all very close and the boys finished second in the group. Congratulations to all the boys who took part.

Code Club

The Code Club held each Wednesday morning is pleased to announce that the school has successfully secured four free MicroBit computers from Code Club UK to add to their growing collection of programming resources. These micro computers are due to arrive later this month and will increase the breadth of the children's exposure to coding, something that they have been really enjoying.

Maths Week and 100th Day of School

Would you believe that Friday, 10 February is our 100th Day of School this year!

To celebrate our 100th Day of School, on Friday each class is going to take part in a variety of maths activities related to the number 100! This is a great way to have fun with the number 100 whilst exploring counting, sorting, patterns, measuring and lots of other maths skills and concepts.

We are also going to have a Maths Week all of next week from Monday 6 - Friday 10 February.

Throughout the week the children will be having fun with maths both inside and outside the classroom!

They will take part in a variety of practical and problem solving activities to develop their knowledge and enjoyment for maths.

P4 Arts

P4's have proved themselves as naturals on the pottery wheel churning out lots of ceramics as part of their Celebrations topic.

P4s have completed their Arts Award ready to be marked and moderated by Trinity College London. Further details will be sent out to parents soon.

Twitter

Our twitter account is going great. This week the P7s got a personal tweet from Picasso HIMSELF and a message from the elusive artist known as Banksy.

Irish Dancing Classes

Irish Dancing classes in the Parish:

Peacock Academy of Irish Dance will be starting classes in St Patrick's Hall at Lisburn Parish on Monday 30th January.

Classes will run every Monday night 5-6pm for beginners and 5-7pm for advanced dancers. Classes are £3. Please contact Karly Peacock for more info and to sign up. Mobile: 07515510070

McGuigan's dance Classes

Our beginner class is on a Wednesday from 4.30pm to 5.30pm in Derryvolgie parish church on the Belsize Rd in Lisburn (opposite the BP garage). Cost £4.00

Leeanne - 07879683162 or

Colleen - 07877644126