



'Being the best that we can be'

Newsletter – January 2017

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break with your family and friends and that you had a chance to relax and enjoy quality time with each other. We would like to wish all of our families' good health, happiness and success as we begin 2017.

The start of a new term always provides a good opportunity to re-establish a focus on learning. It will be a busy term as usual here in St. Joseph's so please take some time to read our monthly newsheets and Friday Notes so that you can be up to date with all that's happening.

Transfer Interviews

Our Primary 7 pupils will all transfer to post-primary schools in September. Parents of Primary 7 pupils have all been invited into school to attend a 'Transfer Interview' with myself. This involves the completion of the EA's transfer form and nominating their chosen schools. All P7 parents received their appointment details before Christmas as well as details of post-primary school open days/nights. I am looking forward to seeing you all then!

ICT Classroom Observations

As part of our school improvement work I will be carrying out classroom observations in ICT in all classes this month. We have made a considerable financial investment in ICT this year and I am looking forward to seeing how this has been impacting positively on pupil learning in the classroom. I will share the findings with you in February.

Diligence

*"Stick to your task till it sticks to you;
Beginners are many, but enders are few"* Anon

Data Day

As part of our overall drive to improving standards in Literacy and Numeracy Mrs Connolly, Mrs O'Hare and myself will be taking a day (Wednesday

11 January 2017) to look at the recent data in PTM and PTE standardised tests.

Child Protection

It is vital that all staff receive updated Child protection training each year. Mrs Connolly is our Designated Teacher for Child Protection and will be delivering refresher training for all staff in St. Josephs, including canteen staff, classroom assistants, teachers and lunchtime supervisors on Friday 13 January 2017. Mrs O'Hare is our Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection and she will be undertaking training for this role on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January 2017.

Confirmation

Confirmation this year will be **Monday 20 March at 11am** in St. Patrick's Chapel. There will be a meeting for parents of Primary 7 pupils making their Confirmation **on Tuesday 24 January at 6pm** in the assembly hall. It is very important that at least one parent attends this meeting as important details about conformation preparation will be shared.

Reporting to Parents

Thursday 16 March is our annual 'Reporting to Parents' Day for P1 – P6 pupils. This is the second occasion in this academic year when you will receive a verbal update on your child's progress. Appointment dates will be sent out after the February mid-term break. Once again we will facilitate families with consecutive appointments on the same day...look out for the letter after mid-term.

Break & School Lunches

School lunches now cost £2.55 per day, £12.75 per week.

Break costs for Term 2:

Milk only	- £13
Fruit only	- £19.50
Both	- £32.50

