

Newsletter – June 2019



Welcome to our June newsletter. It's hard to believe that June is here already. It's still a busy month here in school with sports days, reports and school trips etc. Let's hope the sun shines and the weather is as good as last year so that the children can enjoy some outdoor learning.

Top Class

What can I say...what a week it was last week when Mrs McCambridge and myself accompanied 5 Primary 7 pupils and their parents to BBC Glasgow for the filming of 'Top Class.'

The experience was just amazing for all of us. Once again, our pupils were super ambassadors for St. Joseph's throughout the trip. We made it to the semi-finals of the competition which, I'm sure you'll agree was super.

Well done to Catherine, Daniel, Euan, Molly and Tadhg. Thank you also to Mrs McCambridge who was instrumental in the auditioning and casting process as well as being the nominated teacher in the quiz.

The programme will be televised on CBBC later in the year, so we will let you know.



Primary 1 September 2019

In September 2019, we will welcome 59 new Primary 1 pupils to the St. Joseph's family. We are so excited to meet them all next Tuesday 4 June when they will visit their classroom and meet their teacher. They will also have their first meeting with their buddy, so our Primary 6 pupils are all very excited with their new role.

On Tuesday 4 June, our current Primary 1 pupils must be picked up at 12noon so that the Primary 1 team can prepare. Thank you for your understanding.



Sports Days 2019

Foundation Stage Sports day took place last Tuesday and was a lovely day for all of us. Well done to all the pupils as well as the mums and dads who participated. The sun was shining too which is always a bonus. Let's hope it comes back again for our Key Stage One and two Sports Days as follows:

Key Stage 1 (P3 & P4)

- Wednesday 5 June at 9.30am

Key Stage 2 (P5 - P7)

- Tuesday 11 June at 9.30am



'Being the best that we can be'

PTA AGM Update:

We had a very successful PTA AGM on 28th May where we reviewed the year to date and began planning for next year. The following new Executive Committee for the year 2019-20 was elected:

Joint Chair: Karen Gribbon, Emmy Lou Breslin
Treasurer: Roisin Spence
Assistant Treasurer: Carrie Ann Rafferty
Secretary: Laura Valentine
Assistant Secretary: Sinead Fay
Marketing/Communication: Debbie McLorinan
Assistant Marketing/Communication: Emma Creagh
Teacher Representative: Sinead Clarke
Committee Members: Alison Muir, Denise McCay, Laura Nokes, Sandra Neill, Ciara Lagan, Martin Duffy, Michelle Donnelly, Kathryn McLaughlin, Justin Tohill

The PTA said a massive thank you to the outgoing Chairperson Frances Jennings. Frances has been a member of the PTA Committee for 10 years and has been Chairperson for the last 4 years. We are so grateful to Frances for dedicating so much of her time to the Committee over the years and for all her hard work and dedication.

This year the PTA were delighted to purchase the following in the year 2018-19:

- A new CleverTouch Board for Mrs Gartland's P6 classroom (£2995)
- Pantomime Deposit for December 2019 (£800)
- First Holy Communion Refreshments

With the money raised through fundraising this year, we are delighted to say that we will be able to purchase another CleverTouch Board for the school.



PTA Update

Change for Change:

Thank you so much to everyone for supporting the recent Change for Change Campaign. The response was fantastic with lots of classes filling 2 or more buckets! The money is still being taken to the bank to be counted but the winning class who will be going to visit Dominos Pizza will be announced early next week. There will also be a Pizza Party in school for the class who comes 2nd!

First Holy Communion Refreshments:

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to come and help with refreshments after First Holy Communion on 18th May. It was great to have so much support as we couldn't do it without you!

Future Events:

Summer Fun Night:

We have decided to have a Fun Night this year on Thursday 13th June from 5.30-7.30pm. The PTA have been busy planning the event already, but they need your help! We are appealing for items for the Tombola, Bottle Stall, Books and Bric a Brac. If you have anything that you would like to donate, please send it in to your child's teacher. Start collecting! Any donations for ballot prizes and the Big Wheel would also be greatly appreciated.

Lisburn Fun Run:

Our PTA are entering a team in the Lisburn Fun Run this year on Wednesday 19th June. If you are interested in taking part in this great event, please return an application form and entry fee (£7.50 per person) for each family member taking part by Monday 10th June. Remember that all children must be accompanied by an adult. All application forms and money should be put in an envelope marked for the attention of the PTA. A Just Giving page for fundraising has also been set up. Please share it with your family and friends!

<https://www.justgiving.com/stjosephs-pta>



‘Being the best that we can be’

Healthy Eating Week

Next week is Healthy Eating Week. Our pupils will be taking part in fun lessons to improve their understanding of where food comes from and making healthy choices. The Pupil Council will be awarding healthy lunch stickers too. Remember: a healthy lunch sticker is worth 5 house points. The Pupil Council have also been working on producing a healthy lunch flyer and this will be available on the website on Monday. Don't forget that every Friday until the end of June is active travel to school day. The Pupil Council will also be out on Friday morning to take photos and interview any of our active travellers.



Athletics News

Congratulations to all the pupils who completed in the Northern Ireland Athletics finals at Mary Peters on Thursday. They finished 4th overall out of 8 finalists. A special mention to Anna Broderick who was awarded second overall in the girls' individual section.



Value of the Month

Our "Value of the Month" for June is THANKSGIVING.

At the end of the year it is apt to give thanks for all we have achieved across the academic year.

"There is always, always, always something to be thankful for."

Anon



Shared Education Update

What a fantastic year we have had for Shared Education with pupils from P2 - P7 working on a variety of curriculum areas with our friends in Harmony Hill.

P1 & P2 worked on developing play.

P3 enjoyed art, drama, ICT, literacy and World Around Us while learning all about 'Animals Big and Small'

P4 took part in two full days of activities related to World War II

P5 will take part in four different sporting activities in the Racquet's Club - Gaelic, handball, squash and tennis.

P6 STEM facilitators will deliver an ICT / World Around Us session on Robotics. (Monday 4th June)

P7- Based on the topic of 'Conflict' children took part in drama, music, art, literacy and the Trade Game (PDMU and learning about inequality)

Next year we will continue our Shared Education journey and hope to include more opportunities for staff training and children to work together on Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PD&MU activities)

Primary 7 Post-Primary School Notification

Tomorrow, our Primary 7 pupils will receive notification of their post-primary school placement. This is an exciting time as new doors open for all of them. Please keep all our primary 7 pupils in your thoughts and prayers at this time.



'Being the best that we can be'

Primary 7 Leavers' Mass and Presentation Morning

This year we will say goodbye to 52 Primary 7 pupils as they make the transition to post-primary school. We will celebrate with them and their families on Friday 21 June with our Leavers' Mass and Presentation morning which begins at 10am in the school assembly hall. This will be followed by a buffet lunch in the canteen.

There will be NO SCHOOL DINNERS for P1 - P6 pupils on this day. Please make sure you unbook any booked dinners on school money if you are providing your child with a packed lunch. If your child is entitled to free school meals, the canteen can provide these so keep the dinner booked.



Goodbye

School Survey and Self-Evaluation

Thank you to those of you who have completed our parent survey via google forms. These form part of our self-evaluation process and allow us to evaluate the progress we have made this year and set targets for our new School Development Plan for 2019 - 2022. The surveys close today so please take a moment to complete it if you get the chance. We appreciate all your feedback.

We will also be surveying staff, pupils and governors as part of this process. We will let you know the outcomes before the end of the academic year.



Cool Kids Summer Scheme

Booking for our Cool Kids Summer Scheme must be completed through School money. The summer scheme will operate in July and August except for the July Bank Holidays and the week beginning Monday 26 August. All bookings **MUST** be completed by Friday 14 June. This allows us to ensure adequate staffing throughout the summer months.



Summer Book fair

The summer book fair will arrive next week and will begin trading on Monday afternoon. Once again, our P7 pupils will organise the fair. And it will be open in the mornings as well as after school each day. Come along and get your summer reading sorted.



Annual Reports

As part of our assessment processes, each child will receive their annual report. On Friday 21 June. This report is a written report detailing your child's progress in all areas of the curriculum as well as a focus for development.

Following feedback from you as parents and from our own staff we have adapted the format of these reports this year. The new report format is a mixture of tick boxes as well as comments and is designed to give you a more accurate picture of how well your child is doing in class.



‘Being the best that we can be’

Dates for your diary!

Mon 3 June	SUMMER BOOK FAIR Planner 8 begins P6 Shared Education Day P7 Tools for Solidarity Workshop
Tues 4 June	SUMMER BOOK FAIR P5 Shared Education Day Induction Afternoon for new Primary 1 pupils: Current P1 pupils go home at 12noon
Wed 5 June	SUMMER BOOK FAIR Key Stage One Sports day at 9.30am P5 Shared Education Day Forest School Session 6 for P1 Mrs McManus P7 tennis P7 Cycling Proficiency 3pm - 4pm
Thurs 6 June	SUMMER BOOK FAIR P1 Miss Hearty Parent Assembly at 9.30am P5 Shared Education Day
Fri 7 June	SUMMER BOOK FAIR P5 badminton P6 swimming P2 trip to Spruce Meadows Farm
Mon 10 June	P7 Tools for Solidarity Workshop
Tues 11 June	Key Stage Two Sports Day at 9.30am
Wed 12 June	P7 tennis P7 Cycling Proficiency 3pm - 4pm Cancer Focus Workshops for pupils
Thurs 13 June	Summer fair evening FROM 5.30PM - 7.30PM

	P3 TRIP TO Castle Ward P7 Cinemagic Workshop
Fri 14 June	P5 badminton P6 swimming BOOKING FOR COOL KIDS SUMMER SCHEME CLOSSES TODAY
Mon 17 June	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK P7 Tools for Solidarity Workshop Board of Governor Meeting at 6pm
Tues 18 June	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK
Wed 19 June	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK P5 trip to Aunt Sandra's and Stormont Park P7 Cycling Proficiency 3pm - 4pm
Thurs 20 June	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK Hurling/Camogie tournament at St. Colman's PS
Fri 21 June	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK Primary 7 Leavers' Mass and Presentation Morning No School dinners available P6 swimming Annual Reports out to parents
Mon 24 June	REFRESHER WEEK
Tues 25 June	REFRESHER WEEK
Wed 26 June	REFRESHER WEEK
Thurs 27 June	REFRESHER WEEK
Fri 28 June	School closes for summer holidays

‘Being the best that we can be’