

# St Joseph's Primary School

## Newsletter - March 2016



### **Dates for your Diary!**

Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	-P2 Mrs Gould Tree Trail (Castle Gardens)
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-P7 Pottery Island Arts Centre -P2 Miss Beattie Tree Trail (Castle Gardens)
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-World Book Day
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	-Deaf Society Visiting the school
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	-Girls' Gaelic Match -Enrolment Service for P3 First Confession 11am
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	-P4 Castleward WWII trip
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	-P6 Handball Tournament
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	-Barra Best visits P3
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	-St Patrick's and St Joseph's Day Mass P3-P7
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	-School Closed for St Patrick's Day
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	-Reporting to Parents
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	-P7 Badminton
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	-School Closed for Easter at 12pm

### **Uniform**

Please, please ensure your KS2 child has black shoes for school. This is a part of our school uniform. Thanks you

### **Top Tips for Parents**

Please see link below for 'Top Tip for Parents Booklets'.

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/to-p-tips-parents>

This booklet has been produced as a guide to positive parenting and is available in various languages online.

### **NSPCC**

Primary six and seven children have just completed workshops. Children learned all about rights and responsibilities and how the NSPCC works.

Childline Number is 0800 1111

### **Focus of the Month- Attendance**

Thank you for your participation in our homework survey. Please see the yearly overview, handwriting and homework policies.

During the month of March we are placing a greater emphasis upon attendance and punctuality. Remember that school begins at 8.55am and arriving on time allows for a better start to the day for your child.

Regular attendance at school allows for improved attainment. Unless your child is ill, please ensure that they attend every day.

### **Emotion of the Month – Anger**

### **Prayer of the Month – Christ Be Beside Me**

### **Morning Drop-off**

Staff are on duty to supervise your child in the Yard from 8.45am.



We encourage older children to develop independence. Mums and Dads can help by dropping off at the top of the lane or the back car park.

### **SUSTRANS**

A big thank- you to Pamela from SUSTRANS for coming in to P5 Miss McAnerney's class and P3 Mrs Connolly's class to make heart magnets for Rock Red Friday. The children loved this activity and we have displayed their work in the classrooms.

### **~World Book Day~**

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Thursday is World Book Day! This is an opportunity for us to celebrate our love of reading!



As well as participating in various activities in class your child will receive a £1 token which they can exchange for books specifically published for World Book Day or get £1 off a book of their choice.

Please encourage your child in P4-P7 to explore and participate in our unique World Book Day Fronter Course.

### ***Books! Books! Books!***

Please check at home for any school books that may need returned. Just one or two copies of books can make the difference between a full or incomplete set, **especially Reading books.**

Anything found at home can be sent into teachers and will be gratefully received.

### ***Allergies***

More children are presenting with allergies which include nuts. Please DO NOT send in nuts of any kind in your child's lunch box as these could present as fatal for a child with such an allergy.

### ***What a Character!***

We are lucky in St Joseph's to be so near the Island Arts Centre and able to avail of its facilities. We also have been lucky to secure one of only six FREE workshops throughout the borough of Lisburn and Castlereagh to celebrate 'World Book Day'. On Tuesday 8th March, the pottery workshop will take a character from 'Charlie and the chocolate Factory' that Miss McAnerney's P5 class are working on and each child will create a ceramic piece based on that character.

The work will be taken away on the day of the workshop and will be fired and glazed at the Island Arts Centre and returned to the school after two weeks.

### ***Waste Warrior!***



Congratulations to Niamh Plumb (P7) who represented the school at the Annual Environmental Youth Speak Competition.

Niamh was tasked with delivering a five minute presentation on the theme of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' to a panel of judges and an audience at the Island Arts Centre. She did a fantastic job and as a school we are very proud of her.

### ***Reduce Reuse Recycle St Joseph's Eco Warriors***

Only four schools have been lucky enough to explore the topic of 'Reduce Reuse and Recycle' with artist Sarah Thompson. On Thursday 6th April, Mrs McCambridge's class will visit the Island Arts Centre and will use junk modelling techniques to produce individual pieces of art based on the theme 'Robots'. We can't wait to see their creations!

### ***Pottery Workshop P5***

Primary 5 have now finished their three pottery workshops at the Island Arts Centre. The children gained valuable experience working with clay. They learned that this is a recycled material which is the medium of choice for many artists. They worked in the pottery studio and used modelling tools, rolling pins, clay boards and some even got a chance to use the pottery wheel! They learned about the process of firing clay in a kiln and using glazes to add colour. All of the children made a number of items including their own clay tile which they imprinted with natural materials – lavender, twigs, leaves and flowers. These were fired in the kiln and then painted in watercolour and look fabulous on display in the school. The children also had the chance to explore the sculptures and ceramic installations on display both in and around the ground of the Arts Centre. Many thanks to Mrs Gorman for her expertise during the workshops.

### ***Ceramics Workshops***

Primary 7 and Primary 2 will visit the pottery workshop over the next six weeks with Ms Gorman on Wednesday mornings to work with



clay on a curriculum based topic. The children really love these opportunities to find out all about ceramics and see a real artist's studio. Don't forget to bring a coat as we walk over to the Island Arts Centre.

### ***Snow in March this year!!!***

When we are faced with a fall of snow we try to make an informed decision on the opening/closing of the school. A number of things are taken into consideration including the grounds, adequate staffing and the threat of further snow. We try to keep parents informed as soon as possible and appreciate your patience in that respect.

Brendan works extremely hard (in a short timeframe) on mornings such as this morning to make the school accessible from 8am so that we can remain open. Again – your patience and understanding are appreciated.

### ***Website***

We hope that you had an opportunity to see our new website. Although it is not fully completed, it is much modernised and we hope that

it will give a much better picture of life here in St Joseph's Lisburn.

The website will be undergoing some further essential updates and improvements over the course of this week - it should be fully operational and 'live' for good at the end of this week after its 'preview'.



We will send a text to alert you to its completion.

### **Reporting to Parents**

You should by now have received an appointment to meet with your child's teacher for a verbal report. Teachers will be reporting to parents during the week beginning Monday 14th March, concluding with our Exceptional Closure on Friday 18th March, when the majority of meetings take place. Remember that school is closed to pupils on this day!

These meetings are to update you on your child's progress since your last meeting in October. As they take place just before the end of our 2nd term, teachers will be able to outline how your child can improve and achieve throughout the 3rd term.

A written report on your child's progress will be provided in June.

### **Trocaire**

Every year during Lent we make a big drive to raise funds for Trocaire. This year's Trocaire theme is tackling Climate Injustice. In your child's class, teachers will be organising fundraising events and each class has a Trocaire box for those 'little pennies' that can make pounds. Raising money for Trocaire reflects our motto, 'We care so we share'.

Please talk at home to your child about the importance of helping others less fortunate than ourselves.

**St Patrick's Day  
School will be closed on  
17th March for the Feast  
of St Patrick.**

### **After School Activities**

Term 2 After School Activities will finish on Friday 11th March. We would like to thank all our tutors and teachers for their continued dedication to delivering an excellent after schools programme for all our pupils.

A number of catch up sessions for missed clubs will take place on the dates outlined below:

Football - Monday 14th March -P1-3 2-3pm  
-P4-7 3-4pm

Monkeynastix - Tuesday 15th March (Term 1 - 24th November missed session)

Monkeynastix - Wednesday 16th March (Term 1 - 25th November missed session)

**Registration Evening for Term 3 will take place on Tuesday 22nd March from 5-6pm.**

### **Ulster Schools Handball**

As predicted, Tyrone and Monaghan dominated this event. Hannah Gartland in P6 fell to the champion U11 girl from Donegal in the first round, won two subsequent rounds and lost narrowly in the final 2 games. The boys (Eoin Dixon and Aaron O'Connor) had a somewhat more difficult time at the Meanscoil Courts, defeating Down but then losing out to the other Ulster Teams. All we need now is a four wall handball court to improve, however, Mrs Gartland is keen to make arrangements to book the four wall courts at Meanscoil once a month. The one wall league is coming up so hopefully we will have greater success in this league. Well done to all who competed and a big thanks to Mrs Dixon for taking the boys to the event.

### **St Josephs' Swimming Team**

St Joseph's swimmers have been very busy in recent months - competing in the Swim Ulster Schools Championship in Bangor (October 2015) and the Swim Ireland Minor Schools Championships in Dublin (February



2016). In the Ulster Schools Championships in October, we had Rihanna, Katie and Moya competing in a number of events against the best swimmers in Ulster. Katie set a number of personal best times in her events. Rihanna and Moya made the finals of the 50 meter Front Crawl and 50 metre Back Stroke. Moya was second by 3/10ths of a

second in the front crawl with Rihanna in 7th place. In the Back stroke both girls improved their positions Rihanna finishing 5th and Moya winning the Gold – Ulster Minor Schools Champion! More recently, Moya swam in the Irish Minor Schools Championships at the National Aquatic Centre in Dublin. She competed in the 50m Front Crawl and 50m Back Stroke. There were 8 heats of 9 swimmers in each event with the fastest 9 getting through to swim in the final. Moya made the final in both events placing an excellent 5th in the front crawl. She did even better in the back stroke final and won it! Irish Minor Schools Champion!!!

Many thanks to Mr O'Kane for keeping us updated on the progress.

The boys Under 11 Soccer team will play in the quarter final of the cup competition on 3rd March at Laurelhill Sportszone at 2pm. We would like to wish Mr Slane and the boys the best of luck in their upcoming game.

Commiserations to the Boys Under 10 soccer team who were narrowly defeated in the quarter final by Pond Park in their cup competition.



The boys showed fantastic determination and team spirit throughout the game but ended up on the wrong side of the result. Hard luck boys!

The girls Under 11 Soccer team were fantastic and represented the school with great pride. The game ended in a draw but a goal late into extra time meant that the girls exited the competition. The girls displayed excellent skill, endeavour and determination throughout the whole game. Brilliant effort girls and keep up the great work.

The boys Under 11 Gaelic team took part in the Raffo Cup competition at Musgrave Playing Fields. The boys showed tremendous levels of skill, fitness and determination but were unfortunate not to progress to the next round of the competition. Hard luck boys. Keep up the good work.

Good luck to the girls Under 11 Gaelic



team when they take on St Joseph's Slate St and St Peter's in the group stages of their cup competition at Grosvenor LC 4G pitch on Tuesday 8th March.



### **Healthy Breakfasts**

Mrs Gartland's class presented an assembly to P5-P7 children to increase children's awareness of Healthy Breakfasts. This was brilliant, well done to the P5 class for putting in so much effort and teaching their peers all about Healthy Breakfast Choices. Watch out for information on the website next week to get more information. Please, please download the sugar smart app onto your mobile phone and check the sugar content in cereals, remember each child (7-11) is only allowed 7 additional added cubes of sugar per day and 5 for a 4-6 year old! All children will be doing some work in class or for homework on healthy breakfasts in the forthcoming weeks.

Check out this website for some fantastic healthy breakfast ideas!

<http://www.shakeupyourwakeup.com/breakfast-recipes>

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St Patrick's GAC Lisburn  
Presents

CASINO ROYALE

Join us for a night of Casino Games in

St Patrick's Pastoral Centre on  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Starting at 8.00pm  
Disco Til Late

£10 Admission

1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE - £500 Holiday Voucher

2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE - £200

3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE - £100

THEME NIGHT – DRESS TO IMPRESS!!  
PRIZES FOR Best Bond, Bond Girl &  
Bond Villan

Contact: Dennis Mallon 07889767629  
Declan Phillips 07802968632