

St Joseph's Primary School

Newsletter - Nov 2015



From the Principal

I would like to thank the pupils, parents, staff and governors on the very warm welcome I have received since taking up my post. St Joseph's is a wonderful school with a very busy and varied curriculum. I look forward to working with you all.
H Kelly

Dates for Your Diary!

Wed 4 th	-Photographer for P1
Thurs 5 th	-Awards Assembly KS1
Fri 6 th	-Awards Assembly KS2
Mon 9 th	-Road of Hope Shoe Boxes to be returned. -Tickets available P1-P3 Christmas Concert
Tues 10 th	-RSPB in for P5's
Wed 11 th	-Year Group Mass -P4 and P5 Bee Talk from Mr Hania
Mon 23 rd -Fri 27 th	-Book Fair School Hall
Thurs 26 th	-P5 Castle House Show
Fri 27 th	-P4 Castle House Show

Shoes for little Syrians

A colossal thanks to all those parents who donated at such short notice. 11 bin bags of shoes were collected and sorted. They will definitely make a difference to Syrian children this winter.
We care so we share.

School in Bloom

As we take down the hanging baskets and finish the remaining rhubarb and potatoes, we once again would like to thank Margaret (Shea and Moya O'Kane's Granny) who has been working with the children since March. Two superb pupils Clare Glover and Lucy Kelly tended the plants every morning and last week worked on the hanging baskets for next year.



The girls did this every morning without being asked and would make two great leaders for our Conservation Club which will begin again in March. Thank you Margaret, Clare, Lucy and everyone else who helped out including last year's P5 Mrs O'Hare's class. If there are any parents who could volunteer to help us get the beds cleared for next year please ring the office. Thank you.

Naming all items of Clothing

This is crucial as items are reunited with their owner if they are named. Otherwise they end up in lost property never to be claimed. Please, please label all jumpers, ties, coats and PE kits. Please check your child's belongings from time to time in case they have lifted someone else's belongings. Return these promptly as parents who go to the bother of naming their child's belongings. Thank you for your support.

Beauty and the Beast

Well done to the past pupils who appeared in Rathmore's production of Beauty and the Beast with our very own Patrick Glover as Chip and Johann Drayne as Gaston. In the chorus were past musicians Ethan Tohill, Caoimhe Glover, Caoimhe Ryan and Cenka Drayne. Mrs O'Hare and Miss Delaney were very proud.



Freddy Fitness

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting this fund raising event, we raised £1936 for school funds. All forms should now be returned for the prize draw.

Shine

Thank you also for donations to this wonderful charity, we raised just over £400!

Congratulations

To Fionn Dobbin (P6) who has won the European Junior Golf Tour Final. The competition took place in Lacala (Spain) and Fionn beat stiff competition from junior golfers from Russia, England and China. Well done Fionn!

Christmas Celebrations

Carol Service this year in the Island Centre is on 21st December at 7pm - 8:30pm

- Primary Five Nativity
- Primary Four Junior Choir
- Primary Five to Seven Senior Choir
- Folk Group
- Poetry Recitals.

Tickets will go on sale from the Island Centre on Monday 7th December £8 adult ticket and £5 child ticket. Tickets available from the Island Centre from Monday 7th December.

P1-P3 Christmas Concerts

Thurs 10th & Fri 11th Dec



As numbers are at a maximum and the number of families increases, so we experience difficulties with accommodating everyone who would like to come to the concerts. As last year, to be fair to everyone, we are limiting ticket sales to 3 per family. We hope you understand the difficulties and appreciate how we are managing these to be fair to everyone. Tickets are £4 and will go on sale Monday 9th November. Tickets can only be purchased directly from the school office.

Donations Wanted

We would appreciate any donations of the following to be used in P1 and P2 classes during play:

- costumes (knights/princess/boy costumes)
 - good condition Lego
 - Small world figures
 - Good condition boy's toys
 - Games
 - Jigsaws
 - Duplo
- Please send in with your child to the class teacher.

Road of Hope Shoe Box Appeal

Shoe Boxes to be in school by Monday 9th November. Please help us to support this worthwhile cause!



Book Fair

Arrives Mon 23rd-Fri 27th Nov before and after school in the hall. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to share our love of books and promote reading. Please come and browse - perhaps do some Christmas shopping? We can also purchase books for the school from the commission we make. Many thanks.

World Around Us and The Arts Update

Following the fantastic ideas and feedback from the Parent's Questionnaires from Mrs O'Hare we have put the following in place.



- Art - P3 - P7 classes will take part in three clay workshops in the Island Arts Centre over the year. The very talented Therese Gorman will lead these workshops and will cost £6 (for three sessions). More info on specific dates to follow.
- Miss Delaney will be taking staff drama workshops with the help of Mr Arthur Webb - this will give staff plenty of ideas to bring into the classroom from Foundation Stage to Key Stage Two.
- We have booked as many classes as possible into all free drama productions and workshops in the Island Centre.

- We will have a World Around Us week in January when all classes will be taking part in technology challenges and a series of workshops led by the class teachers.
- During our World Around Us weeks and throughout the year all classes will be completing a local study and will take part in free workshops in the Linen Centre.
- We will be inviting the parent volunteers into the classes to talk about their specialised jobs.
- Teachers have contacted organisations such as the RSPB to come in and talk to the children.
- Our Gardening Club will recommence in the spring to ensure our gardens and vegetables are tended to.
- All classes will visit their local study areas and will complete activities related to the World Around Us.
- Classes P1 - P7 are now enjoying technology in their classes using K Nex and other resources.

Thanks so much for your ideas and feedback - anymore ideas please e mail Mrs O'Hare on nohare525@c2kni.net

Pottery Workshop

We are so so lucky to have an arts centre right on our doorstep, (with-in walking distance). Ms Gorman has arranged that every child in the school gets the opportunity to experience a real pottery workshop. They will use real clay and have it fired in a kiln. Each class will visit the Island Art Centre for three 3 Weds. The cost is £2 per week towards the hire of the studio.

Boys Gaelic

Congratulations to the boy's Gaelic team for coming second place in their Gaelic Blitz played at Lámh Dearg. The Boys played against St Michael's and Christ the Redeemer from Belfast, and Gaelscoil Éanna from Newtownabbey. The team won two matches impressively and lost one. The school is very proud of the team, well done boys!

Uniform

Our school uniform is an important part of St Joseph's PS and is a reflection of our ethos. Please ensure that your child wears all of the appropriate uniform to school including black shoes. Pupils can bring trainers to wear over break and lunch.

Bees

Primary Four and Five will be learning all about bees (without the real bees!) Mr Hania (Father of Kor) will visit the school on Wednesday 11th November.

Text Messages

If you have changed your mobile number please inform office staff so that our records can be updated.

After School Activities

As you will be aware Gaelic Football and Soccer from 2-3pm have been cancelled recently. This has been due to staffing issues. We are actively trying to make arrangements for these activities to resume. We appreciate your understanding and support as we endeavour to provide the best quality and safest activities that we can for the children. Once activities are ready to resume a text message will be sent.

African Children's Choir

Get your tickets soon for this fantastic event. Adults £8 and children £5. Tickets can be purchased by placing the name of your child, class, amount of tickets required and payment in an envelope and giving this to the class teacher. Remember every penny from this concert goes to the African Children and their families. Tickets now on sale to members of the public.

Autumn Active Challenge

Congratulations to all those who participated in the SUSTRANS Autumn Active challenge. We had over 65 children, including some parents, who managed to make 18 active journey during the 4 week challenge!! The draw for prizes will take place this Friday 6th November.

Photographs will be posted on the website so keep an eye out! There are a few spot prizes for adults too.

Olympic Handball

St. Joseph's has been participating in the South Eastern Olympic Handball league for the past 6 years and we have had great success in this league. The new league begins soon so Mrs Gartland will be beginning training at lunch time next week. Any P6 or P7 child who has previously played is asked to come to training and trials. Any new children who would like to participate are also welcome. As this is a competitive league, unfortunately not all children will make the team but please come along if you are interested in developing team and ball skills. Children will be informed of times and dates in school.

Healthy Eating

As part of our continued Healthy Eating initiative, Mr Kelly and Mrs Gartland will be carrying out spot checks of lunch boxes in the next few weeks in the canteen. Children will be awarded spot prizes and certificates for healthy lunches and for adhering to the daily initiatives (Multi-coloured Monday, Tuna Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, Sandwich free Thursday and Fruity Friday). We would ask parents to help us support this initiative by cutting down on sugary treats and drinks and helping us to promote healthy eating. We would also ask that water is the only drink that children are given for lunch. Kate Corrila, nutritional expert from the board has also been invited by Mrs Gartland to speak to Key Stage 2 children about healthy eating at assembly this Friday 6th November. We look forward to listening to the advice Kate can give us to keep our bodies as healthy as possible.

Healthy Breakfast Recipe Idea 2 Cinnamon crepes with nut butter, sliced banana & raspberries

- 75g gluten-free brown bread flour
- 1 medium egg
- 1tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 banana, sliced
- 225ml semi-skimmed milk
- 140g raspberries
- 1 tsp rapeseed oil, for frying
- lemon wedges
- 2tbsp almond nut butter



- 1) Tip the flour into a large mixing bowl with the cinnamon. Add the egg and milk and whisk vigorously until you have a smooth pouring consistency.
- 2) Place a non-sticking frying pan over a medium heat and add a little of the oil. When the oil starts to heat, wipe most of it away with kitchen paper. Once the pan is hot, pour a small amount of the batter into the centre of the pan and swirl it to the sides of the pan in a thin layer. Leave to cook, untouched, for about 2 mins. When it is brown underneath, turn over and cook for 1 min more.
- 3) Transfer to a warm plate and cover with foil to keep warm. Repeat with the remaining batter. Divide the warm pancakes between 2 plates and serve with the nut butter, banana, raspberries and lemon to assemble at the table.

World Around Us

This year we hope to invite specialist parents or grandparents into the school to give the children demonstrations or talks about their work or hobby. If you are, for example, a doctor, nurse, fireman, know about birds, have an interest in gardening, etc you can help us. Please ring the office and leave your name and telephone number if you would be willing to come into a class to give a talk or demonstration.

Calling All Volunteers!

On Thursday 12th November Margaret (our resident gardener) has offered to lead a team of volunteers to get the greenhouse and school-beds ready for next year. From 1pm-3pm we need:

- 2-4 strong men to clear the flower bed and fill it with sand.
- Volunteers to clean and clear the pots.
- Volunteers to cut back and clear flower beds.



Greenhouse

Does anyone know where we can get cut Perspex to replace our greenhouse windows or anyone who can help us repair it. If you can help at all please contact Mrs O'Hare on nohare525@c2kni.net we will need you to bring gardening equipment. Thank you so much.