

## ‘Being the best that we can be’

### Staffing

We are delighted to have Miss Beattie back with us this September. She will be teaching Primary 2 along with Miss McAnerney who also joins us again. We welcome Mrs Ciara Gorman who is taking over Mrs Crilly’s maternity leave in P1. We are delighted to have Mrs Gorman on our staff team, we know her very well as a parent and now we look forward to working alongside her. Mr Reid joins us again this year in Primary 5. He will be working in my class while I take on the role of Acting Principal in the absence of Mrs Wylie. We also welcome back Mrs Teresa Twene who will be joining us for 3 days a week offering learning support in Literacy and Miss Annette Bushe, a past pupil of mine, returns as a teacher. She will be with us 2 days a week offering learning support in Mathematics. We also welcome back Ms Noirin Jordan and who will be assisting Mrs O’Hare and Mrs McCambridge in P7 and Ms Rasa Braskiene who will be working in Mr Reid’s class in P5 and in Mrs Gould’s class in P4.

### Curriculum Meetings

Each year in September we hold curriculum meeting for P1 – P6. These meetings are very important as they give you a chance to meet the teacher as well as find out about what lies ahead for your child. In recent years we have investigated a number of different times to hold our curriculum meetings so that as many parents as possible can attend, however unfortunately we have had low numbers. This year we have decided to try something different. We are holding our curriculum meetings first thing in the morning after school drop off at 9am – 9.45am. This way we hope that working parents can drop in and get to work or home no later than 10.30. We hope that at least one parent can attend as these are extremely important meetings. The meetings will be held in the assembly hall and the dates and times of the curriculum meetings are:

- P2 Wednesday 28 September at 9am
- P3 Tuesday 27 September at 9am
- P4 Thursday 22 September at 9am
- P5 Wednesday 21 September at 9am
- P6 Tuesday 20 September at 9am

### Tweet Tweet!

Yes.... We have opened our own school Twitter account! We opened it just before the summer holidays and at the time of this newsheet going to print we have 76 followers and are following 170. We hope to use this as an extra form of communication to you as well as our texting and email service. Our account details are [@stjosephlisburn](https://twitter.com/stjosephlisburn). If you haven’t already done so please do follow us for live updates...there’s so much to see!

### School Trips – Parent helpers needed!

As you may already know there have been severe cuts to the education budgets of all schools. Where before the school might have been able to pay for classroom assistants out of our own budget, now we are unable to do so. 75% of our classroom assistants are linked to a particular child. This means that we cannot use them to accompany teachers on school trips to ensure the correct ratios. **We are appealing to you as parents to ask if any of you would like to put your name down on a standing list of parents available to accompany classes on school trips.** If you are available, please let Julie/Gillian know in the office and they will add you to the list. Thank you.



### Look Smart, Think Smart, Work Smart!

It is wonderful to see all of our pupils returning with lovely new school uniforms. As a school we take pride in our uniform. A few things to remember this year:

Black shoes at all time. Trainers are only permitted for PE and sporting after school activities.

Summer dresses can be worn until 30 September. From 1 October until Easter we would like to see all girls in full winter uniform.

Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled as it can be very confusing when changing for PE swimming etc.



### Oh yes it’s the Pantomime...Oh no it isn’t

I know it’s hard to believe that we are even thinking of Pantomimes and the sun is still shining but we want to give you advance notice of the date and cost. The Panto this year is Cinderella and the whole school will be going Tuesday 13 December (Further details will be sent out closer to the time). The cost per pupil is £14. You can pay the full amount straight away or pay in instalments but the full amount needs to be paid before Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

### PTA

We are so lucky in St. Joseph’s to have such a fabulous PTA...a committed group of parents who raise the much needed funds to help us deliver a full and enriched curriculum. However... we always need ‘new blood’ so if you think you could spare a few hours please do come along to the next PTA meeting will be very soon. We will let you know closer to the time.

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### **St. Joseph’s House System**

We have decided to introduce a new ‘House System’ for pupils in Primary 4 – Primary 7. Each child in P4 – P7 will be allocated a house and siblings will all be members of the same house. Each house will have a house colour and each child will wear a coloured badge to indicate their house.

Pupils in P6 and P7 will have the chance to be Vice-Captains and Captains. Teachers in Key Stage 1 and 2 have agreed how house points will be awarded. We will have monthly, termly and end of year awards for the winning houses. We are all very much looking forward to introducing this new system into the school.

### **Break**

This year we will be continuing to offer fruit and milk for break. However due to increasing costs we have had to increase the cost of fruit per week from £1 to £1.50. The cost of milk per week remains the same at £1. This means that the total cost of milk and fruit per week is £2.50.

We have noticed that the time taken for teachers to collect money for break, swimming, badminton etc on a Monday is impacting heavily on teaching and learning time. For this reason we are asking that as far as possible break money etc is paid termly at the start of the term. The cost for each term is as follows:

#### **Term 1**

Fruit only	£22.50
Milk only	£15.00
Milk and Fruit	£37.50

#### **Term 2**

Fruit only	£19.50
Milk only	£13
Fruit and Milk	£32.50

#### **Term 3**

Fruit only	£15
Milk Only	£10
Fruit and Milk	£25

If you would like to pay for the year you can do so as well at the start of the year.

For all other activities we will let you know the total cost by letter before the activity begins. Thank you.

### **Values of the Month**

We have introduced 10 new values of the month for each month we are in school. We will be encouraging children to display this value in class, in the playground and at home. We will explore each value during assembly time too. September’s value is FRIENDSHIP. As we return to school we are renewing old

friendships as well as making new friends. Our quote of the month to support the value of friendship is:

*“Friendship...is not something you learn in school. But if you haven’t learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven’t learned anything.”* **Muhammad Ali**

We hope that the values of the month will be displayed throughout the whole school community.

### **Coming and going to school**

This year we will be opening the doors of the P1 and P2 classrooms at 8.45am. Parents will be able to drop off their P1 and P2 children directly into the classroom where the teacher will be supervising until 9am when the school day begins. We feel this will benefit parents as they will be able to nip into school before the traffic gets heavy and know that their child is safely in the classroom and for us we hope that in time the traffic in the back car park will ease.

### **Fantastic News**

#### **Playtrail for St Joseph’s**

We are very lucky to have received an ‘Awards for All Grant’ of £10,000 to build a whole new playtrail on the grassy area beside the fence on queen’s Road. Garden Escapes have designed a fantastic play area and we will be starting work in early October. Plans for the trail can be found on the website.

### **Thank you!**

We must say a big ‘thank you’ to Mrs Aveen Hewitt who, over the past number of years has organised our ‘Parents Praying’ group operating for the Parents’ Cabin. We are so grateful to her and those parents for keeping the school, the children and all their families in their prayers at this time. We hope that this group will continue over the coming years.

### **Post Inspection**

As you know we are now in a process of formal intervention following the school’s ETI inspection in May. This process will last 18 – 24 months. During this time the school will be supported by both the Education Authority (EA) and CCMS. In the coming weeks the leadership team and coordinators will be writing action plans for school improvement which will be shared with you as parents when completed. We have already made some

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changes to the way we work and adapted our mid-term planning in Literacy and Numeracy to include differentiation and extension. We have introduced Mathletics for every pupil from P2 – P7 and we are introducing a house system in P4 – P7...more details later. All of the teaching staff attended EA training in problem solving in Mathematics last week. We also had a very worthwhile post-inspection review day on Friday 26 August which was attended by all staff and members of our Board of Governors. This allowed all staff to identify the areas of strength and the areas for development within the report as well as identifying the strategies and timeline for the way forward. We would like to keep you informed at every step of this post-inspection journey, either through the newsletter or letters from myself or the chair of Governors.

### Afternoon release for P4 – P7 Teachers

In order to give P4 – P7 teachers PPA time (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) teachers from P1 – P3 as well as our learning support teachers take P4 – P7 classes on two afternoons per week, normally Tuesday and Thursday. This time is beneficial to teachers as well as pupils. The release teachers use their talents to deliver a different part of the curriculum eg art/music/ICT. This term the timetable is as follows:

- Miss McAnerney and Miss Beattie will be delivering ICT and Art in P4 classes.
  - Ms Gorman, Mrs Twene and Miss Bush will be delivering Art and PDMU in P5 classes.
  - Mrs Kitt and Mrs Gorman will be delivering Music and Drama in P6
  - Miss Clarke and Mrs McManus will be delivering ICT and Drama in P7
- These are arrangements for the first term. We will keep you updated with any changes.

### Investing in ICT

We are delighted to tell you that we are in the process of ordering 7 iPads per class... a total of 80 iPads. We believe that in order to integrate ICT into the curriculum effectively we need to invest heavily in the hardware to accompany it. Teachers will receive training from ‘Iteach’ to help them use the iPads effectively in the classroom. More details to come....

### English Language Classes

ESOL classes starting this September in Lisburn SERC. If English is not your first language then these could be for you. Classes are in operation during the day (9.30am – 1pm) as well as in the evening (5pm – 9pm). Flyers are available from Mrs Turtle or Mrs Gowdy in the office. Opening Evening today at SERC from 4pm – 8pm.

### Mindfulness

We are absolutely delighted to be able to offer a series of 4 mindfulness sessions to our P7 pupils. The purpose of the sessions is to develop relaxation techniques with pupils, to show pupils how to practice mindfulness and to provide pupils with the tools they need to manage their own anxiety. Vivienne Bannon will lead the sessions monthly from September until December. After that we will review the sessions to consider introducing them in other year groups. If you would like any further information Vivienne’s website can be found at this address: <http://www.envisagenow.zone>

### Year Group Newsletters

As a school we are constantly reviewing how we communicate with you as parents. With this in mind we are introducing ‘Year Group Newsletters’ for each half term. These newsletters will give you a flavour of what is happening in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT as well as other learning areas. They will be sent out at the beginning of each half term. P1 – P6 year groups will receive their first newsletter at their curriculum meeting and P7 will be sending theirs out in the coming days.

### School access

A note has been already sent out to you regarding school access arrangements. Please read this carefully for the safety of all our children.

### Healthy Recipe of the Month

#### Breakfast Brown Bread Mix

- 1000mls oat flakes (porridge flakes) (measure in 2x500ml yoghurt cartons)
- 500ml natural yoghurt
- 2 level teaspoons baking soda
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil
- Greased loaf tin

Mix dry ingredients, add any optional dry ingredients at this stage – apple, ginger, sunflower/pumpkin seeds, etc.

Then add oil and yoghurt. Mix well.

Bake in pre-heated oven at 200C for 45 minutes.

Remove from tin.

Bake for further 15 minutes.

### 10 Keys to Happier Living

Do things for **others**. Notice the world around you. Be **comfortable** with who you are. Take **care** of your body. Have **goals** to look forward to. Keep **learning**. Be part of something **bigger**. Find ways to **bounce** back. Take a **positive** approach. **Connect** with people.