



'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

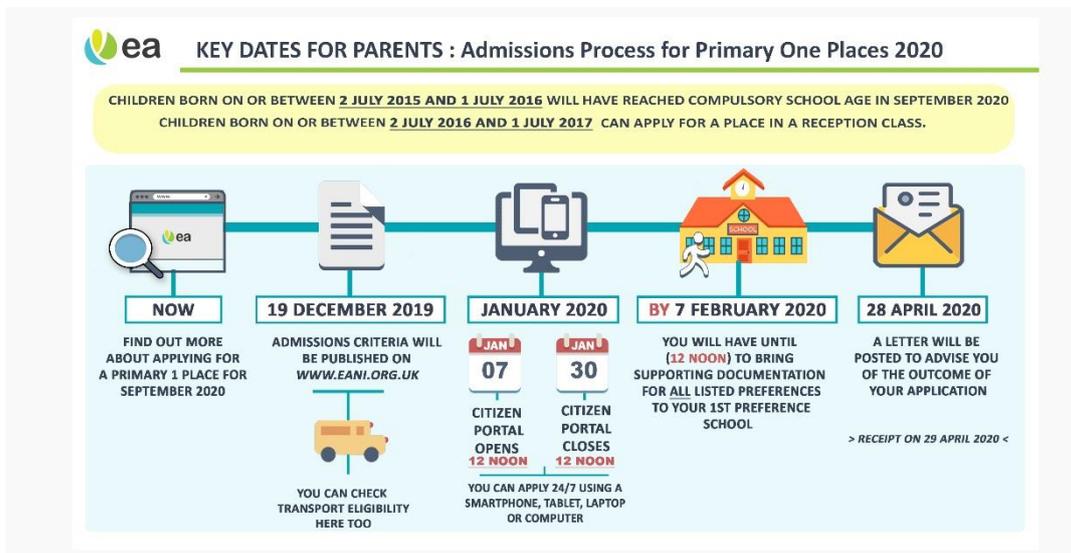
Friday 6th December 2019

No. 12

P1 Open Night

We were delighted with the turn out for our Open Night. It was lovely for current and prospective parents to see what our wonderful school has to offer. As mentioned at Open Night we are prepared to assist parents/guardians completing their online applications and as such will host 'admission clinics' on Thursday 9th January from 9.30 – 11am and Tuesday 14th January from 5.00 – 6.00pm. If the scheduled times do not suit you, or if you would like an individual meeting with the Principal or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, we will be happy to provide this as well. I have included below the EA timeline of events relevant to the online application process.

At this time, I would like to thank all staff for their contributions to Open Night and the children in the folk group and senior choir. Lots of parents commented on the very high standards of music on the night.



PTA Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was held on Thursday evening. Once again the PTA delivered an exceptional evening with their rickety wheel, tombola, Christmas stalls, cafes, tuck shops, 'Elfridges', Christmas crafts and Santa's Grotto. The work they do is really appreciated by everyone in the school. The Bazaar was a lovely introduction to Christmas and has really helped to set the mood for many of us during this festive season. Huge thanks also go to the staff of the school for giving up their time to come along and help with the Bazaar. Totals and photographs will appear in next week's note home to parents.

P5 Nativity Play

The children need to arrive to school on Monday 9th December dressed in 'black clothing' to be worn under their costumes. They will be permitted to wear stage make-up (foundation, blushers etc.). We will be leaving school at 9am and will return to school for 3pm. The running time of the Nativity is 45 minutes.

Carol Concert

The P4 junior choir, P5 – P7 senior choir and the folkgroup need a packed lunch with them on Monday 16th December and Tuesday 17th December as they will be rehearsing for the majority of both days at St. Patrick's Church. Our Carol Concert will be held in St. Patrick's Church at 7pm on Tuesday 17th December. The P4 choir, P5 – P7 choir and folkgroup will be performing. This will be a magical event for the whole family to enjoy. We will be asking for a £5 donation per person attending at the door with all proceeds going towards 'Charlie's Fund'.



Shared Education

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St. Joseph's Primary School
42 Castle Street
Lisburn
BT274XE

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P7 Confirmation Date

The Bishop's Office has released the date of Confirmation for this year's Primary 7 classes. It will take place at 11am on Wednesday 12th February in St. Patrick's Church.

School Pantomime Trip – Thursday 12th December

Please be aware of the following arrangements:

- Pupils do not need to bring a school bag to school on this day.
- Pupils who take lunches should bring their lunch to school in a plastic bag as they will not be returning to school after the pantomime to collect lunch boxes.
- Pupils may bring one treat but NO drinks.
- Buses will return to Lisburn Leisureplex car park at 4.10pm. When collecting your children please use the Warren Drive entrance and use the overflow car park.

Christmas Dinners

A huge thank you goes to the canteen team for their diligent efforts in serving 318 Christmas Dinners for the pupils on Wednesday. It was a very memorable day for the children. I would also like to give my thanks and appreciation to the staff for assisting with the very smooth running of this event.



Cross Country

Congratulations to all of our Primary 7 children who took part in the second round of the Flahavan's Cross County League at Lisnagarvy High School on Thursday. It was a cold, wet day but each runner gave it their very best. Ella Rose Watson finished 3rd overall in her race and our first boy home was Finn Lappin in 13th place. Mrs Gartland reported that it was a really fun day, adding that the behaviour and attitude of all the runners involved was exceptional. We await confirmation from Athletics NI on placings tomorrow. We also wish our 15 P6 children, who were selected for the Primary Schools basketball tournament in Queens PEC today (Friday) the very best of luck. They have been practising really hard every week since September. We will keep you updated on their performance next week. Watch this space!

Registration for After School Activities Term 2

Registration for Term 2 After School Activities will open on **Tuesday 16th December at 8am**. To register your child, you must book through Schoolmoney. A letter outlining what clubs are available in Term 2 and fees for the term will be emailed next week. Please keep a close eye on your inbox. A paper copy will also be available on request at the office.

Book Fair

Last week we held our Book Fair in which we made an amazing £1526. Thank you so much to all the families who came and supported it along with the children, some coming back a second or third time! It was fantastic to see such a buzz and love of reading! Thanks also to the hard working P7 children who promoted the book fair and worked each day, selling the books, organising the stock and delivering reading sessions to the younger children.



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A big thank you!

Sincere thanks to Zachary Neeson in P5 and his mummy who kindly donated a "Charlie's Angel" to each of our Primary 6 children this week. Our P6 pupils were delighted to receive this very kind and thoughtful gift in memory of their dear friend Charlie. Well done Zachary!

Public Health Information

With increased levels of sickness across a lot of schools it is important to reinforce the good habits of hand washing using the supplied soap at school and when at home. This maintains clean, hygienic standards and helps minimise any further potential outbreaks of sickness. Please use the recommended guide below, from the Public Health Agency, to manage any queries you may have.

Do I need to keep my child off school? HSC Public Health Agency

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		

The week ahead: **Week beginning Monday 9th December**

Monday 9 th	Tuesday 10 th	Wednesday 11 th	Thursday 12 th	Friday 13 th
P5 Christmas Nativity in the Studio Theatre at the following times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.30pm 2.00pm 7.00pm Primary 6 Christmas assessments week. 	Clarinet tuition (8.30 – 10.45am). P1 and P2 Nativity Plays from 9.30am in the school assembly hall. 	Violin tuition. P1 and P2 Nativity Plays from 9.30am in the school assembly hall. P3 tennis coaching. German and Spanish tuition for P6 classes from The Wallace High School students. St. Joseph's Choir Members singing for Senior Citizens at 3pm.	Flute tuition (8.30 – 10.30am). Violin tuition. Friends science students in P6 (SG). Whole-school pantomime trip. 	P7 badminton coaching (10.30 – 11.30am & 11.30 – 12.30pm). P3 classes visit Santa in the Linen Centre and complete some Christmas arts and crafts. Last P5 swimming session today.  P5 Swimming ends. GAA Fundamentals for P2 (1.00-2.00pm) and P4 (2.00-3.00pm).



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Future Dates

P4 – P7 Christmas Mass	Tuesday 17 th December at 10am
P4 – P7 Christmas Carol Service	Tuesday 17 th December at 7pm
Christmas Holidays	Friday 20 th December at 12 noon
Term 2 Commences	Tuesday 7 th January
New P1 Applications (Online)	Tuesday 7 th January from 12 noon
P4 – P7 Catholic Schools Week Mass	Tuesday 28 th January at 10am
February Midterm Break	Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st February (All week)

Adverse Weather Policy (Reminder for parents)

With some long term weather forecasts predicting snow for next week I thought I would share again with you our adverse weather policy. Please take your time to carefully read it as it sets out the action we will take as a school to safeguard the interests of everyone. In times of extreme weather, such as a heavy snowfall, the Principal and Senior Leadership Team will consider the checklist below to see if it is necessary to close the school.

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team will begin the process by answering these questions related to the safety of pupils and staff:

1. Can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
2. Can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
3. In an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
4. Is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
5. Transport. Can buses and meal deliveries reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
6. If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) acceptable? An acceptable PTR would be 1:30.
7. Have local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling, been declared hazardous?

Having considered each question carefully, the Senior Leadership team will complete a Risk Assessment based on the answers. They will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 'No' to any of the 7 questions.

If a decision is made to close:

- Here in St. Joseph's Primary School we have a text messaging service to inform parents if the school is closed and again when the decision is taken to reopen.
- All parent contacts will be sent a text message.
- Radio Stations – BBC Radio Ulster will also be informed.
- We will use our twitter feed to communicate the closure.



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