



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

*'Being the best that we can be'*

## Friday Note

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

No. 25

We sincerely hope that you have all had a peaceful and restful Easter break. Teachers have been working away, during this time, on further distance and online learning opportunities for the children to partake in. There still has been no clear, definitive message from the Department of Education, or from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, for Government plans to open schools despite misinformation from social media platforms. We will continue to operate alongside the guidance of the Department of Education, CCMS, EA and teaching Unions. We all very much look forward to the day when we can open our doors to the children once again!

### P1 School Admissions for September 2020

The Education Authority will be issuing letters to parents/guardians on behalf of all primary schools to advise on the outcomes of your child's primary one application. Letters will be posted out to parents/guardians on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April for receipt of collection for Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. For more information parents/guardians can visit [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)

Mrs McManus and Miss Hearty plan to liaise with the children's nursery and/or childcare placements prior to your children joining us in August/September. At this time, we still plan to host our 'Induction Day' for new primary one children in June and will announce this date closer to the time. However, if we are still closed due to Covid-19, we will look at uploading a virtual induction day to the school website and Twitter accounts to give you an idea of what happens on this induction day.

### Update on each Year group

#### P7

Primary Seven continue to work really hard and most importantly, independently using Google Classroom. This week the children completed CCEA numeracy tasks. Great work, well done everyone! The children also worked on angles and revised activities using protractors. Within literacy, the children started a unit of work on War poetry, learning about famous War poets like Wilfred Owen. The children also carried out a series of poetry related tasks. PDMU and our Friday discussions are still a success! We are continuing with our novel 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', daily mental maths and weekly spellings. The children are all working hard and we hope that they are finding the work enjoyable.

#### P6

Primary 6 have returned to home schooling in Term 3 with their usual enthusiasm and positivity. They are using a combination of SeeSaw and email to follow their home learning journey. Mrs Gartland and Mrs Fleming are creating curriculum area help sheets to take them through new learning as well as sending them 'Explain Everything' videos as support. They are really enjoying their class novels 'Journey to the River Sea' and 'Letters from the Lighthouse'. They are also very excited about their new topic 'Titanic' which we will be starting next week. Well done Primary 6 on adapting so well to your remote learning! Mrs Gartland and Mrs Fleming are very proud of you all!

#### P5

Mrs Gorman and Ms Kitt are really happy with how the Primary 5 classes are progressing. This week the children were enjoying the challenge of fractions (We also think the parents might have enjoyed these challenges too!). Although we are coming to the end of our class novels, we have more learning to achieve through these. Our projects on 'The Human Body' are progressing nicely; we are all learning some weird and wonderful facts! We are receiving such supportive comments from our parents and we are really enjoying the updates the children are sending us on Fronter and SeeSaw!

#### P4

Term 3 has seen Primary Four begin their new topic on 'minibeasts' which has sparked a lot of interest from the children! The great weather has allowed the children to get busy in their gardens carrying out minibeast hunts and gathering things they need to make their bug hotels. The minibeast Fronter room which has been set up also, provides a great opportunity



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to develop their research skills and learn lots of interesting facts! We have started our Primary Four 'home learning page' and our literacy and numeracy tasks are there for parents to download and print. Children have been completing these very well and posting to our class journals and on SeeSaw. This has been a great way to interact with the children and we can both see enhanced motivation. It also gives the children access to a range of activities (written and audio) which we can assign to them, they complete and we can respond too! Additional pupils have been added to Lexia also and pupils have been making a good effort to keep their Mathematics work on track too! We are very pleased with the super work going on and we really appreciate all the input from our families.

### **P3**

Miss Clarke and Mrs Gould have been really impressed with all the brilliant work that is happening at home in P3. The children have been using our great Fronter Room or the school website to download tasks, videos, power points and activities that have been assigned to them each week by their teachers. The children have been busy learning about contracted words, homophones and speech marks and have even started to learn their times tables! Our new topic is 'Weather', so we've got some great weather watchers completing weather reports for us too! The children have also been using SeeSaw Class to complete tasks that their teachers can comment on. Miss Clarke and Mrs Gould love to see all the brilliant photos and videos of what you've all been up to. Keep up the fantastic work!

### **P2**

Mrs Crilly and Miss Mc Anerney have been just so impressed with the learning taking place at home each day! This week, the children started learning about their new topic of 'Animals in the Wild' researching facts and writing interesting sentences using lots of describing words. We are continuing to use a combination of e interactive activities on SeeSaw Class, written activities using the packs sent home and practical 'hands on' learning. It has been brilliant to listen to the children's audio recordings which explain their work, especially their sequencing and retelling of the events of Holy Week – very impressive indeed! Many of the children have been learning outdoors as well, taking full advantage of this lovely weather, writing on painting easels, playing hopscotch with numbers to practise counting forwards and backwards with specific sets of numbers and lots of chalk writing to help learn the spellings and key words each week. The entire P2 team are so proud of each and every one for continuing this fantastic learning from home.

### **P1**

Primary One have been getting back into their home learning routine this week. A weekly overview continues to be shared online via Fronter and parents have daily access to SeeSaw to share their children's learning. There has been so much amazing work going on at home this week, independent writing about the Easter break, number consolidation activities and even research on their new topic 'Spring and the Farm'. Mrs Mc Manus and Miss Hearty are so proud of how all the boys and girls are working at home! They certainly deserve lots of playtime in their garden or a lovely walk, enjoying the sunshine while it lasts!

### **Creative Voices**

Ms Gorman has loved seeing your projects. Some of you have been making crafts from the instructional videos that I have uploaded to Twitter and the school website. I have really enjoyed seeing the emergency happiness boxes and reading your lockdown diaries, showcasing how you are remembering this strange time. Well done everyone!

### **Stakeholder Surveys**

As you know Term 3 is always a very busy term in the life of St. Joseph's, albeit even in these strange and unusual times. We are always hopeful of things returning to some kind of normality soon. In the meantime, we have to make preparations for the next academic year. Part of our preparations involve surveying parents, pupils, staff and Governors and asking them to comment on the improvements they have seen this year in school as well as what improvements they would like to see in the future. Your responses will be vital this year to help us set targets in our School Development Plan for 2020 – 2021. Mrs Fleming is currently setting up Google Surveys and you will be sent a link in the next few weeks to complete it. These



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should be very easy to complete on your phone or smart device. We value all your feedback, so please do complete the surveys as honestly as possible.

### AQE Updates

Latest information from the AQE website from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

"This is a very uncertain time for everyone involved in education, not least for parents and pupils. AQE is endeavouring to provide clarity to P6 pupils and parents about the arrangements for the tests which are scheduled to take place during the next academic year. Registration is due to open on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April for applications from parents of P6 children who will sit the AQE assessments in Autumn. AQE Limited is having ongoing discussions with key stakeholders to ensure that the best possible provision is made for applicants and, for this reason, the date of registration opening may be slightly delayed. Due to the circumstances caused by the continuing disruption of lockdown, AQE is moving completely to an online application process this year. It is hoped that the process will simplify the application procedure and will enable parents to upload electronic photographs, scanned birth certificates and pay online. Detailed information can be found on the 'Registration Section'. The online form will go live on the date registration opens".

AQE/PPTCNI have written to the Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir, to ask for a delay in the AQE/GL assessments scheduled for the Autumn Term. Any changes will be communicated to you as soon as we have them. Please remember it is really important to register as early as possible, especially if you would like your child to sit their examinations in a certain school.

**\*\*\*TIP\*\*\*** Both boys and girls can sit AQE and GL exams in Hunterhouse and Victoria College. This can make life easier for both pupils and parents when it comes to sitting the exams. However, their places fill up very quickly so you must have your registration forms returned early.

<https://aqe.org.uk/>  
<https://www.pptcni.com/>

If you have any queries regarding AQE and/or GL you can email Mrs Fleming on [pfleming930@c2kni.net](mailto:pfleming930@c2kni.net)

### School Website and Twitter

Our school website is regularly updated with lots of useful websites and resources that you can access to help your child learn at home. Click on this link and choose your child's year group page [www.stjosephsschool.org/meet-the-classes/home-learning/](http://www.stjosephsschool.org/meet-the-classes/home-learning/) We also constantly update our school Twitter feed with lots of ideas and things that you can do at home. We use Twitter to post lots of the photos that the children have been sending to us too! Follow us and have a look! Our Twitter handle is @stjosephlisburn

### Parish of Blaris Live Streaming of Mass

In these unprecedented times, all Churches in the Diocese of Down and Connor have been closed to members of the public. As this means we cannot attend Mass together, many Churches in the Diocese, including our own St. Patrick's Church, are streaming Mass. Masses in St. Patrick's are live streamed on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 10am. On Sunday Mass is live streamed at 11am. To access the Parish webcam please log on to <http://parishoflisburn.org/> The Parish bulletin can also be accessed through the website and is located on the 'News Tab'.

### GAA Go Games Skill Challenge

The GAA supported by the Cumann na mBunscol and the GPA are delighted to announce the publication of weekly GAA challenges. These challenges are a series of learning and physical activities that the children can take part in at home. Gaelic games themed lessons are across all curriculum subjects and are for children in all year groups. The link to the resources and activities is [www.stjosephsschool.org/news-/news/gaa-go-games-skill-challenge/](http://www.stjosephsschool.org/news-/news/gaa-go-games-skill-challenge/)

### Irish Linen Centre Virtual Museum



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The Irish Linen Centre in Lisburn have created a virtual museum for everyone to enjoy online. Click on the link to see lots of virtual tours, historical stories, free educational resources, arts and crafts workshops and lots more. Click on <https://www.lisburnmuseum.com/virtual-museum/>

### **BBC BiteSize**

Since Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, BBC BiteSize have been producing lots of daily activities to help with remote learning (videos, quizzes, articles and podcasts). Click on the link to explore the resources available for each Key Stage on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>



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