



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

'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 14th February 2020

No. 20

P7 Sacrament of Confirmation

We proudly celebrated the children's Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday 12th February. Over 130 children from 9 schools in the Parish were anointed with the Holy Spirit by Bishop Treanor. Bishop Treanor wanted to pass on his thanks and praise to the staff and the parents for the way in which the children were prepared for this special ceremony. He also thanked the staff and choir for the beautiful music that we had on the day.

I would also like to pay my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mrs Mc Cambridge, Mrs O'Hare, Miss Clarke and the staff of the school for their commitment to the children in preparing them so reverently for this Sacrament. It really is a privilege to prepare children, alongside parents, for this wonderful Parish event.

I would also like to thank the parents for their voluntary work in assisting with light refreshments in the hall afterwards.

February Midterm Break

School will be closed to pupils from Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February for midterm break. We will reopen on Monday 24th February at the usual times.



*Please remember to book your child's dinners, after school homework club and cool kids club before midnight on **Sunday 23rd February**. Many thanks for your continued co-operation with this.*

Parking and Collection Arrangements

I would stress the importance of safety when leaving and collecting your children to and from school. Please make sure the children are accompanied at all times. I would ask parents not to park on the yellow marked boxes at the entrance to the school on Castle Street. This makes it extremely difficult for school users to safely enter and exit the school premises. When using the back car park please exercise extreme caution when driving out as children will be walking in this area. We had a very close incident on Monday 10th February and we want to avoid any potential injuries to children, parents and staff alike. Finally, please do not park on the yellow boxes outside the canteen as deliveries are made on a daily basis and use this area to park and offload. Many thanks for your support.

Cool Kids, Homework and Breakfast Clubs

This is a very popular and growing service that we are proud to promote at school. We see this as a very valuable component to what we are able to offer here at St. Joseph's. In order to make this facility more efficient and easier for the managers to have the correct staffing compliment, we need parents to book sessions well in advance.

Parents please note that staff start to supervise in the breakfast club at exactly 8am. There is no supervision on the school site before that. Children should be fully supervised by parents until the doors of the school are open to accept the children into the breakfast club. We really appreciate your support with this. The breakfast club will also be under review with a price increase likely to be forthcoming in Term 3 or Term 1 in September. Again, we will endeavour to communicate any such increases, and the explanations of any increases, to parents well in advance.

Reporting to Parents

P1 – P6 teachers will be reporting to parents during the week beginning Monday 9th March. School will close at the normal times of 2pm and 3pm. We will have one late night to report to parents on Monday 9th March and school will be closed to pupils on Friday 13th March to facilitate additional meetings. Letters with appointment times will be sent home with the children on Monday 24th February.

There will be NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES that week. Homework club and Cool Kids club will remain unaffected.



**Shared
Education**

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Safer Internet Day 2020



Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 11th February and this year's theme was "Free to be me". As a school we looked at identity online and how to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Each class participated in various lessons and activities around this theme and the Digital leaders delivered assemblies on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February.

St. Patrick's GAC (Report and pictures kindly supplied to St. Joseph's Primary School by Clíodhna Craig).

St. Patrick's GAA club has gained some new fans! All the way in Africa! These smiling children at a village school in Uganda were pictured wearing St. Patrick's GAC's official jerseys. But how did it get there? The man behind the camera is Pius Kulama. He is principal of the I Am Academy School which cares for 300 orphaned and needy children. Pius was the VIP guest at last December's Saintfield Christmas Charity Ride, his visit coming a decade after his first trip to Northern Ireland with the Mawamba Choir in 2009.

"Pius sadly lost both of his parents to Aids when he was just four," explained St Patrick's Under 16 coach Gerry Collins. "He came to Northern Ireland in 2009 when he was part of the Mawamba Choir as part of a visit organised by Rock Ministries NI. "It was great having him back in Northern Ireland at the end of last year, and during the trip we presented him with a St Patrick's GAC jersey which he took back to Uganda."

This St Patrick's GAC jersey design was made as a tribute in memory of Charlie Craig.



Class Assemblies for Term 2

Please note that parents/guardians are invited to class assemblies. Assemblies will begin promptly at 9.15am.

Class	Date
P6 – Mrs Fleming	Friday 27 th March
P6 – Mrs Gartland	Friday 3 rd April

Adverse Weather Arrangements

On Tuesday 11th February we took the informed decision to close school earlier due to DE guidance, the current weather forecast and the safety of operating the school estate. This includes number 7 on the school's checklist, which have been shared with our school community three times to date, "areas that staff will be travelling to being declared hazardous". It is never an easy decision to take but in the interests of all school estate users it was the best one. Thank you for your support and swift response to the text sent home on the day.



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P4 Do This in Memory of Me Programme

Do this in Memory is a Parish based programme of preparation for First Holy Communion centred on the Parish celebration of the Sunday Eucharist and in the home. For any additional information please contact Miss Clarke directly. The remaining Mass dates for the programme this year are Sunday 16th February, Sunday 15th March, Sunday 5th April, Thursday 9th April, Sunday 26th April and Sunday 14th June.

Term 2 Holidays

Next Meeting of the PTA	27/02/2020 at 7pm (Cool Kids Cabin). <u>New members welcome.</u>
PTA Wear Green for St Patrick's Day	Wednesday 11th March (£1 donation per child).
Reporting to parents	Friday 13 th March.
Staff Development Day	Monday 16 th March.
St. Patrick's Day	Tuesday 17 th March.
Easter Holidays	Friday 10 th April to Friday 17 th April. School reopens on Monday 20 th April.

The week ahead: **Week beginning Monday 24th February 2020**

Monday 24 th	Tuesday 25 th	Wednesday 26 th	Thursday 27 th	Friday 28 th
Reporting to Parent appointment letters home today. Mrs Fleming attending CCEA Moderation. Elena Smyth will teach P6.	Clarinet tuition (8.30 – 10.45am). Flute tuition (8.30 – 10.30am.) Mrs Fleming attending CCEA Moderation. Elena Smyth will teach P6.	Violin tuition. Mrs Fleming attending CCEA Moderation. Elena Smyth will teach P6. Pottery sessions in the Island Arts Centre for P5 (CG) classes from 9.15 – 10.45am and P7 (EMcC) from 10.45 – 12.15pm. P5 tennis coaching at Wallace Park. German and Spanish for P6 pupils with The Wallace High School students.	Violin tuition. Awards Assembly with Mr Murray. U11 Soccer Cup at Laurel Hill Sportszone v Harmony Hill. Therese Gorman will be teaching Miss Clarke's P3 class today. PTA Meeting 7pm.	Awards Assembly with Mrs Fleming. P4 badminton coaching. P7 swimming lessons.



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