



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

*'Being the best that we can be'*

## Friday Note

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

No. 26

It's hard to believe that we are now in May and starting the final two months of the traditional academic year. However, there is nothing traditional about how we are operating school during these times. It is so encouraging to see the work that the children are producing, the SeeSaw videos and messages that they are sending to teachers and the resilience they have shown throughout this process. I commend the professionalism and dedication of staff in their approach to this new style of work, ensuring that all children are being catered for.

## Update on each Year group

### P7

Primary Seven children are doing a fantastic job - we have more and more children adding to our Google Classroom every day. If you can't manage to add the work, join us for our discussion morning on a Friday. We get to chat to the children and they can talk to each other. This week we have been reading some amazing war poetry. We will share some online and **on the last page of this Friday note is a sample of work from Erin Mallon.** This week we hooked in with Ms Gorman on YouTube and did some of her art lessons.

### P6

Primary 6 continue to approach their home learning journey with their usual enthusiasm and positivity. Their new topic of Titanic has ignited their love for the world around them. Of course, we are very disappointed not to be able to visit the Titanic centre this term as we normally would, but we may well be creating our own versions of the ship herself next week as Ms Gorman will be tweeting some Titanic related art activities. The children will be able to work away on these at home with no parental involvement needed so we will look forward to seeing those next week. Seesaw and Explain Everything are proving to be invaluable to Ms Gartland and Mrs Fleming as they send explanatory videos on new and old topics.

### P5

Primary 5 have been working hard this week on equivalent fractions using a help sheet, video and their textbooks. They continue to receive a weekly timetable and email attachments of all tasks. These will also be added to the Home Learning page of the school website. We are looking forward to starting our new novels next week. Ms Kitt's class will be reading Matilda and Mrs Gorman's class will be reading Charlie and the Chocolate factory. The children have really enjoyed completing weekly novel work. We are all working away on our Human Body projects and learning lots. Ms Kitt and Mrs Gorman have loved getting photos of your wonderful work and the rainbow photos really brightened our days!

### P4

Another busy week of Home Learning in Primary Four. The children are getting into the swing of using the activities in our class journal on SeeSaw! It is great to see their work and creative responses. There has been a lot of research going on for our topic on Minibeasts. Children's literacy tasks have been linked to this and they have been completing fact files and labelled drawings of a variety of creepy crawlies and bugs! Our Minibeast Frontier Room has also been updated with links to relevant eBooks and the NewsDesk children are also keen to show us all the wonderful things they are getting up to at home; painting, cooking, playing piano and sports outside. They are certainly developing all their talents whilst at home.

### P3

Primary 3 have continued to work really hard this week at home. Miss Clarke and Mrs Gould are so proud of every single one of you! This week the children have continued to enjoy their 'Weather' topic. We've had some amazing Weather Watchers updating us on the weather each day and telling us lots of facts about Tornadoes - Barra Best had better watch out! The children have been busy with their STEM task where they were asked to make a Tornado in a Bottle. They followed this up by writing a set of instructions on how to make a Tornado - fantastic work! We have loved receiving videos of the children making their Tornadoes too - we think we may have some budding teachers and YouTube stars of the future! In



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maths this week the children have continued to learn about multiplication as repeated addition and they have been learning about the months of the year too. We love using the Class SeeSaw app to set interactive activities for the children to complete. Having some tasks returned to us and seeing how motivated the children are when we comment on their work is just wonderful. Miss Clarke and Mrs Gould continue to share weekly overviews, activities, resources, videos and class discussions on Fronter. We also answer any questions from parents on SeeSaw. Keep up the super work P3 - you are all doing an amazing job!

## P2

Primary 2 have been doing lots of research at home on their 'Animals in the Wild' topic. Mrs Crilly and Miss McAnerney have received lots of very informative videos from the children. It has been so refreshing to hear and see the children reporting on a wide range of animals. It is also fantastic to see the children posting their super independent writing. We can see that they have certainly been working hard on their spellings. Keep up the great work!

## P1

Mrs Mc Manus and Miss Hearty are so proud of the home learning that has been taking place this week. We have begun learning about The Farm using a mix of online texts, activities and videos. We love receiving the photos and videos from the children and seeing their enthusiasm for learning continuing. This week we have been focusing on the life cycles of farm animals and their babies and we have seen some fabulous drawings and photographs from the children and found out some great farm facts! We have also been learning about money and looking at the different value, colour and shape of coins. The children have been sorting real coins at home and playing educational shopping games online. On top of these new aspects of learning they have been continuing to work on reading, spelling and writing and developing their number addition facts and number recognition to 20. The children have also been busy playing, singing, dancing, baking, painting ... even taking part in Farm animal Yoga!!!! Busy busy bees in P1. Well done everyone - we are so proud of you.

## Creative Voices

Children in creative voices have been sending in their family art and their work to Ms Gorman via see saw. She is so proud of how brave you all are, staying in and keeping yourself and others safe. Work sheets are still available and updated on the school website. New craft videos have been posted on the school website as well. Why not have a go at some of the activities, they all use old materials you probably have at home already.

## Stakeholder Surveys

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the stakeholder surveys that Mrs Fleming created. All comments are vital to school improvement and will certainly go a long way to support the Governors, new principal when appointed and the Senior Leadership Team in creating the next School Development Plan. As in previous years, the data will be analysed and feedback given to all stakeholders. In case you haven't replied yet, the closing time for submitting surveys is today, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 5pm.

## AQE Updates

### Registration Update – Registration Delayed Until Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

In the continuing uncertainty caused by Covid-19, 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. AQE's first priority in planning for the assessments is the health and wellbeing of the pupils and staff involved. Registration for parents of P6 children who will sit the AQE assessments in the Autumn was due to open on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

We continue to have discussions with key stakeholders to ensure that the best possible provision is made for applicants and, to facilitate these discussions, **registration will now open on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May.**

There has been no change to how registration will operate, following on from our communication at the end of last week; however, there are a few things that we should perhaps clarify;



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1. Downloadable and paper versions of the registration form are not available at the moment as we have no access to the office and therefore cannot receive them by post. However, we do intend to make these available when government restrictions are eased to allow us to facilitate both online and postal registrations.
2. Photographs for the registration form can be taken at home by parents but should meet the basic criteria (a clear image, taken from the shoulders up, cropped to passport size and no larger than 9MB).
3. Documentation to be uploaded (birth certificates / passports / FSM confirmation) should be scanned rather than photographed to ensure the full document is included, without anything else in the background and that the information on the document is legible.

### **PPTC 2020-21 Update**

PPTC has been working closely with its Entrance Assessment provider, GL Assessment, to find ways to best support pupils who will transfer to post-primary schools in 2021 and their parents. Discussions have centred on three main areas:

#### **1 Delaying the Assessment Date**

We are working to establish if the Entrance Assessment can be delayed from mid-November 2020. This would provide all pupils with valuable additional P7 time before being assessed.

#### **2 Delaying and extending the Registration Period**

We are looking at delaying the start date for parents to register their children to sit the Entrance Assessment from mid-May to provide more time before registration decisions need to be made. We are also looking at extending the Registration deadline from mid-September 2020 to provide additional registration time when pupils are in P7.

#### **3 Making the Entrance Assessment as accessible as possible for pupils**

We are exploring different ways to take account of the current disruption to pupils' schooling, in order to help them achieve their full potential when sitting the Entrance Assessment.

*PPTC will make specific information public through this website as soon we are in a position to do so. The "Information for Parents" section will subsequently be updated to include the full "2020-21 Registration Pack".*

### **The Fall of Men**

Guns - never stopping, popping sound,  
Gliding across the battlefield, hoping to strike a victim,  
There is no escape from The Fall of Men.  
Bombs - glide overhead, a small, eerie, whistling sound,  
When it falls, flying limbs and wounded friends,  
There is no escape from The Fall of Men.  
Trenches - filled with damp, murky, gloopy mud,  
Infested with rats and diseases,  
making every footstep a struggle,  
There is no escape from The Fall of Men.  
Gas fills the air; we fumble and panic,



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Flimsy, wobbly masks over our faces,

We are now blinded

A sea of green mist,

There is no escape from

The Fall of Men.

The guns are not popping,

The bombs are not gliding,

The trenches are not muddy,

The gas is not blinding,

We have escaped from The Fall of Men...

**By Erin Mallon.**



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