



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

'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 15th May 2020

No. 28

First Holy Communion:

As you are aware, the First Holy Communion service for our Primary 4 children has had to be postponed this year due to the circumstances with Covid-19. To mark the special occasion for Primary 4, Fr Dermot will offer Mass tomorrow, Saturday 16th May at 10am for our Primary 4 children and their families. This Mass will be broadcast on the Parish Webcam, so we would encourage the children to tune in and celebrate Mass together on this special day. To view the Parish webcam, click on the following link <http://parishoflisburn.org/> and choose the Live Webcam tab at the top.

Post Primary School Admissions 2020 - 2021

Given the uncertainty of the current situation, the Education Authority has taken the decision to prepare and issue notification of post primary placement letters on behalf of schools to parents/guardians for receipt on **Thursday 4th June**. The letter will provide the application outcome, information on the appeals process and links to the EA website for more information.

Update on each Year group

P7

What a wonderful week P7 have had with lots of movies being made. We have been adding our work to Twitter so you can all have a look at the fantastic acting and animations in P7. We had a very successful online Book Club on Monday where we reviewed the 'Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and recommended new books. We will be making a list for you all! In maths we have been learning about the World's Temperatures and we completed two CCEA tasks based on a day out 'Go-Karting' and 'Planning a Concert'. This week we finish learning about World War II and we move onto our final topic. Me, Myself and Moving On. Thursday night would have been our school show 'Bugsy Malone' we still hold onto the hope that we will get to perform this in some way for you all!

P6

In P6, the children are really enjoying Titanic project and this week learned all about the crew and fitting out the ship. Many of the children have visited the Titanic Belfast and had their picture taken and the projects and models are all looking marvellous. It has been super to see Nicola Pierce, author of Spirit of the Titanic comment on the children's work on Twitter. The children are still working hard on their shared novel activities and also to cover the curriculum content. The parents are continuing to request videos and the children are benefitting from these immensely.

P5

Another successful week for Primary 5! This week, we set ourselves further challenge by adding an additional morning activity! These are a great way to 'wake up' our brains and improve our focus for our learning that day. We made a great attempt at decimals which has prepared us well for our next topic of Money. We are nearing the end of our human body project and are looking forward to starting our new topic; Egyptians! We are very proud of the effort our pupils continue to make! Well done Primary 5!

P4

Primary Four have been working hard this week at home and learning all about contractions. They have completed some great work on this as well as keeping up with their reading too! In numeracy the children have been focusing on rounding to the nearest 10 and 100. They have really enjoyed the class journal activities and continue to be creative in their responses! As part of our 'Minibeast' topic, they have been drawing and labelling different insects and getting outside to see what they can find and record! Keep up the great work Primary Four.



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P3

We've come to the end of yet another brilliant week of Home Learning in P3. We've had some amazing STEM work submitted to us this week based on our Weather topic. The children had to design a fair test to decide which material would be best to make an umbrella to keep their teddy dry. We definitely have lots of budding Scientists and YouTube stars of the future in Primary 3! In Literacy the children were learning all about Rain and Wild Weather and found out some really interesting facts about Waterspouts that even Miss Clarke and Mrs Gould didn't know! They children were also learning about speech marks and have been working hard at their spellings, reading and writing. They love reading all the Non Fiction eBooks on Weather! Our super P3 Mathematicians have been doing lots of practical maths this week using a right angle tester to explore and find right angles around their house. You can check out some of their fantastic work on our school website and twitter feed. Well done Primary 3 - you are all superstars!

P2

Primary 2 pupils are continuing to learn all about life in the jungle. This week they used their senses to write brilliant sentences about life in the Rainforest...what they can see, taste, touch, smell and hear! It was lovely to hear the children read these aloud on Seesaw, also...such clear voices and beautiful expression...the writing was so detailed. Mrs Crilly and Miss Mc Anerney felt like they were actually in the jungle! In maths, they began to learn about area and measure these using squares as well as continuing to practise number stories and lots of counting! Pupils also had the opportunity to record themselves reading one of their reading books using Seesaw...this was especially lovely for us to hear as we miss guided reading very much! The entire P2 team continue to be so impressed with all learning from home, including the weekly spellings, and are very thankful for all of the videos, photos and pictures of work sent though on Seesaw.

P1

Mrs Mc Manus and Miss Hearty are so proud of the home learning that has been taking place this week. We love receiving the photos and videos from the children and seeing their enthusiasm for learning continuing. The children have also been busy playing, singing, dancing, baking and painting and in P1. Well done everyone - we are so proud of you!

Creative Voices

Pupils have been working on visual diaries, taking photos of stuff they are grateful for that they can reflect on later if they need cheering up. Some children have been buzzing through five steps to wellbeing; bee active, take notice, give, connect and keep learning. Feelings workbook continues to be completed this week concentrating on; Worried, Excited, Exasperated, Envious, Enraged and Disgusted. Ms Gorman has posted art videos showing how to do printmaking with potatoes and how to make ice sculptures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. She loves seeing your photos and pictures so please keep sending them in. They make her day.

AQE Updates - Change to Assessment Dates for 2020

The Board of AQE Limited has been closely monitoring the coronavirus situation and the real difficulties and uncertainty it has posed for parents, pupils and schools alike over recent weeks, particularly in relation to home schooling and pressures of work. To allow this year's cohort of P6 pupils the opportunity to catch up with direct curriculum teaching, and after consultation with Primary and Post Primary Principals, the Board wrote to the Minister of Education on 17th April proposing to postpone the usual November AQE assessment until January 2021. The Chairman and Joint CEO of AQE engaged with officials of the Department to explore the possibility of accommodating such a delay within the time frame of the official Transfer process.

AQE acknowledges the Minister's firm support for academic selection and both parties examined in good faith a number of differing options. However, for logistical reasons, it was reluctantly recognised that such an accommodation would not be possible and the Department was unable to accede to AQE's proposal.

Having considered all of the available dates and taking into account the Post-Primary Transfer Timetable, the Board has decided that the dates for the 2020/21 assessments will be on Saturday 21st November, Saturday 28th November and



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Saturday 12th December 2020. PPTC will host their assessment on Saturday 5th December. Results will be issued on Saturday 30th January 2021.

As previously announced, the registration process for the 2020/21 cycle will commence on Thursday, 14th May. As the AQE office staff are currently obliged to work from home, applications can be made online in a new, simple to complete format that will be easily accessed on the AQE website. Whilst we strongly advise parents to register using the online form, a version of the form will be available on the AQE website which can be printed and completed by hand, however, due to the current restrictions the processing time required for this method of registration will be much longer.

Closing date for registration will now be Friday 25th September 2020.

PPTC Key Dates Update 2020 – 2021

Entrance Assessment date: Saturday 5th December 2020. PPTC has been able to delay the Entrance Assessment date by three weeks to allow pupils extra P7 time and yet also to ensure that outcomes will be available to be posted to parents ahead of Transfer Form Completion.

Outcomes Date: Saturday 30th January 2021.

Registration period: Monday 1st June 2020 – Friday 9th October 2020.

The full 2020-21 Registration Pack, which includes the Entrance Assessment Registration Form, will be available on the PPTCNI website from Monday 1st June. PPTC has delayed the start date for parents to register their children to sit the Entrance Assessment to provide more time before registration decisions need to be made. PPTC has also extended the Registration deadline to 9th October to provide additional registration time when pupils are in P7.
Supplementary Entrance Assessment Date: Saturday 19th December 2020.



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