



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

'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 22nd May 2020

No. 29

Department of Education Communication

I am sure you have heard the recent arrangements from the Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir, in relation to possible school phased opening during the latter stages in August. I would like to clarify that as a school, we are receiving our information from the news, various media and DE website. In real time we receive the news like yourselves. We are not consulted about school openings and I truly have no inkling on when schools will officially open and how these arrangements will look. As soon as we get information it is always shared with Governors, staff and parents. I know Mr McMahon will be keen to follow this guidance when he takes over the reins of St. Joseph's Primary School on Friday 12th June.

Letter from the Chairperson on Interim Principal Arrangements

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As you know Mr Murray was successful in the recruitment for the Principal position at St. Mary's Primary School Newcastle and takes up this post on 12th June; we wish Mr Murray the very best of luck and thank him for the contribution he has made to St. Joseph's.

The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) has suspended the recruitment process due to Covid-19; and until this process can be recommenced, I can advise that **Mr Barry McMahon** will take up the post of Acting Principal from 12th June. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr McMahon and wish him well in leading St. Joseph's and working closely with the Senior Leadership Team at the school.

Covid-19 has rocked our world in many ways and I would like to say an enormous thank you to all parents and guardians who have supported home schooling since the 23rd March. I know this has been extremely challenging and though it's no substitute for your children being at school; your help and support is greatly appreciated. Hopefully you will have found the educational support packs and online digital resources that the team at St. Joseph's have provided to be of help. We are truly getting the opportunity to be 'Digital' leaders.

I would like to pay tribute to Mr Murray, the Senior Leadership Team and all of the teaching staff, classroom assistants and support staff who have developed new ways of teaching and supporting children, parents and guardians through these times. We will prepare to reopen the school in late August with a key priority to keep both children and staff safe; and how best we can deliver teaching, learning and all the other facets of what school life has to offer at St. Joseph's.

Yours sincerely,

Eamonn Broderick
Chair of Governors

***Please note Mrs Fleming emailed out a letter of introduction from Mr Barry McMahon today.
If you have difficulty accessing your emails, it can be downloaded and read from the school website***



**Shared
Education**

Tel: 92674901 Fax: 9262907
www.stjosephsschool.org
Twitter: @stjosephlisburn



Principal: Mr Declan Murray
Email: dmurray538@c2kni.net

Vice Principal: Mrs Pauline Fleming
Email: pfleming930@c2kni.net



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

'Being the best that we can be'

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. If any communication is late in arriving or you do not receive your acceptance before 5pm please contact me on dmurray538@c2kni.net

P1 Induction Arrangements

This year this will take a very unusual direction this year with no contact day in June for pupils or their parents. Instead, we will operate in the following manner:

- Letters will be sent home to P1 pupils/parents during the first week in June with induction information.
- Induction packs will be ready to collect from Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June. Your letter will explain your day for collecting the packs.

Annual Reports

You will have seen and read of information on the news regarding pupil annual reports. As a school we have agreed to issue parents with annual reports for their children. We feel these documents are extremely useful and indeed valuable to pupils, parents and teaching staff. There are some changes to note:

- Teachers will report on pupil progress up until Thursday 12 March 2020 which was the last day of school for our pupils.
- P1 – P3 will have a unique annual report this year which reflects the unique environment in an early years and infant classroom.
- P4 – P7 annual reports will follow the same format as previously.
- Attendance will not be reported on this year.
- Reports will be posted out to parents on Friday 12th June.

Cool Kids Summer Scheme

The Cool Kids programme for July and August has had to be cancelled in line with the safe operation of the school site. If anything changes, or it becomes apparent that steps can be taken to safely operate the programme in accordance with PPE/PHA regulations and clarification from the Department of Education/Education Authority we will inform parents immediately. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this time.

Update on each Year group

Staff will not be available to answer queries on Wednesday 27th May as this is a training day for them.

Communication with staff will continue to follow the set criteria that was implemented at the start of this programme of distance learning. Staff will not be using Zoom to communicate with children and/or parents as we adhere to our child protection and safeguarding arrangements.

P7

Primary Seven continue to work hard on our 'Google Classroom'. We have now finished the topic of Conflict. We move onto our final topic 'Me, Myself and Moving On'. We continue our very successful discussion groups on a Monday and Friday mornings where the children can share news, photos and chat with their friends using our Google Stream. We are posting our movies, artwork and poetry on Twitter so be sure to have a look at the wonderful work the children are doing.

P6

Week 8 in lockdown in Primary 6 and our pupils continue to work with their customary enthusiasm and positivity. Titanic remains a really interesting theme for them with models being made, super projects taking shape and Titanic has even made



**Shared
Education**

Tel: 92674901 Fax: 9262907
www.stjosephsschool.org
Twitter: @stjosephlisburn



Principal: Mr Declan Murray
Email: dmurray538@c2kni.net

Vice Principal: Mrs Pauline Fleming
Email: pfleming930@c2kni.net



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

'Being the best that we can be'

it onto Minecraft. Lots of the super Primary 6 work is being showcased on our Twitter feed. Well done children. Mrs Gartland and Mrs Fleming would like to thank the Primary 6 parents too for their hard work at home and continued support throughout this home learning journey. We couldn't do it without you. It really is a big team effort. Thank you!

P5

This week in Primary Five we have been finishing our Human Body projects. Ms Kitt and Mrs Gorman loved seeing any that you have sent us! We are excited to begin our new topic of Egyptians. We have uploaded a new Fronter page with lots of interesting facts, videos and eBooks for the children to explore. The children are enjoying completing novel work and writing activities. They have been learning about measure and we have loved seeing photos of them measuring things around the house. Next week we will be continuing our topic of money and exploring capacity. Thank you for sharing photos of your lovely May altars. Don't forget all work is added weekly to the Home School section of the website as well as emailed. Here you will find some videos on our learning and links to useful websites

P4

Mrs Hanna and Mrs Connolly have been really pleased with all the superb work going on in Primary Four this week. The children have tackled speech marks this week in Literacy as well as improving their comprehension skills! In Numeracy they have been identifying fractions of shapes, looking at equal parts and are doing so well learning their tables! The children have completed activities on our Home Learning page as well as the class journal! The children continue to amaze us with their talents, learning musical instruments, baking, drawing, singing and dancing! It is lovely to see this side of the children flourish. We look forward to our next topic on Celebrations!

P3

It has been another fantastic week of Home learning in P3. This week was Mental Health Awareness week and we continued with our Wellbeing Wednesday work and met Captain Calm and learnt to calm our minds if we became stressed or upset. The children (and some parents) are really enjoying our Stem activities based on our Weather topic. This week saw the children creating a rain gauge watching the video on Fronter. Thank goodness for the rain on Thursday night so the children had something to measure. In Literacy the children were learning all about compound words and found lots of examples of these through our topic. They watched the video "Cloud Maker" from the literacy Shed and imagined they were the Cloud Maker for the day and wrote amazing stories. They also created a book review based on the story "Whatever the Weather". We would certainly read this book after the reviews by the children. Our super P3 Mathematicians have been doing lots of practical maths this week on making sets and continuing to find right angles around their house. They have been remembering to use RUCSAC to solve the Weather word problems and have also been completing tasks on Fronter and Seesaw! 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

This week the children in P2 learned the number story of 14 by sorting the amount into 2 sets and creating the matching addition and subtraction calculations. This was achieved with great success and their teachers so enjoyed seeing the videos and photos of this sent in. They also enjoyed learning about how animals can be grouped based on what they eat e.g. herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. Next week, they will move on to their final P2 learning topic 'At the Seaside' which is always very popular! Thank you for the continued photographs of work from home and completing the Seesaw activities online. Another successful week!

P1

Primary One have been working diligently this week, their teachers have been delighted to receive weekly updates, photographs and even videos! With a change to our new topic 'Summer and Growing', children have shown excellent investigation skills as they explored the life cycle of a chicken. Literacy and Numeracy skills continued, with the children to focus on reading skills, sentence building and quick recall of the number facts to 7. The paper chain challenge was a fun way



**Shared
Education**

Tel: 92674901 Fax: 9262907
www.stjosephsschool.org
Twitter: @stjosephlisburn



Principal: Mr Declan Murray
Email: dmurray538@c2kni.net

Vice Principal: Mrs Pauline Fleming
Email: pfleming930@c2kni.net



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

'Being the best that we can be'

to engage new measuring skills! A big thank you to all our parents who support this work at home and set up fantastic learning experiences for their children, we appreciate all you do in keeping us updated!

Creative Voices

This week was **Mental Health Awareness Week** So Creative Voices was very busy with a new activity every day. Children made ; Vision Boards, Feelings Self Portraits, Gratitude Trees, 3D Bag Portraits filled up with special, personal items and a Past, Present and Future Self Portrait. Lots of Well Being tips were circulated back and forth and of course heaps more therapeutic art and craft activities using household items. Please keep sending in photos of what you've made and done. Ms Gorman just loves seeing your stuff. There are some new art and craft videos for all pupils on the school website. Menu / Classes / Home Learning / Art and Craft Videos.



**Shared
Education**

Tel: 92674901 Fax: 9262907
www.stjosephsschool.org
Twitter: @stjosephlisburn



Principal: Mr Declan Murray
Email: dmurray538@c2kni.net

Vice Principal: Mrs Pauline Fleming
Email: pfleming930@c2kni.net