



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

'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 11th October 2019

No.7

Road of Hope Shoe Box Appeal:

Once again we are participating in the 'Road of Hope Shoebox Appeal' this year. This is always an extremely successful appeal here in St. Joseph's. A leaflet with further information will be sent home shortly. If you would like to get started, click on the link below to find out about what you can put in the shoebox. A date for collection will be confirmed soon. Thank you so much for your generosity as always. <http://stjosephsschool.org/news-/news/road-of-hope-shoe-box-appeal-2019/>

Maths Week, Ireland:

Next week we will celebrate Maths Week Ireland in St Joseph's. Throughout the week, pupils will be taking part in lots of fun activities to celebrate all things mathematical. Follow the link below to find some ideas, resources and puzzles that you could try at home during the week: <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2019/resources-primary/>

Why not take some photos of your child doing some practical maths activities at home and SeeSaw them to your child's teacher or send us the photo via our school Twitter account [@stjosephlisburn](https://twitter.com/stjosephlisburn)

Reporting to Parents

P2 – P6 teachers will be reporting to parents during the week beginning Monday 21st October. School will close at 2pm every day to facilitate these meetings. There will be NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES that week. Homework club and Cool Kids club will remain unaffected. In order to ensure the safe pick up of pupils from the school during that week we will implement the following arrangements:

- All P1 – P3 children with no siblings in P4- P6 must be picked up at 1.45pm at their normal pick up point
- P4 – P7 pupils with siblings must be picked up at 2pm at their normal pick up points

Halloween Dress Up Day and Activities

On Friday 25th October the children will have the opportunity to come to school wearing their Halloween costumes if they choose. Masks are not permitted as they can scare the younger children. Please note **there is no charge for this day** as we asked for contributions during the World Mental Health Day activities.

Mrs Rasa Braskiene will be carrying out activities and crafts for the P1 and P2 classes on this day. We are asking for the support of two parents/grandparents that could give a commitment on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th October to assist with the planned activities. If you can help please leave your name with Mrs Gibson in the school office.



Halloween Holidays

School will be closed to pupils from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November for Halloween holidays. We will reopen on Monday 4th November at the usual times.



**Shared
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PTA News – Term 1

The PTA will be organising their annual Christmas Card fundraiser. Information and packs will be sent home by the school. Please complete and return to your child's class teacher on or before Thursday 24th October – following all instructions carefully. These are lovely keepsakes and we would encourage all of our children to take part.

Christmas Ballot tickets will be sent home with the children on Monday 11th November. This year we will send two books of tickets each with children who have no other siblings at school or three books of tickets per family. Tickets will cost £1 each or alternatively you can purchase a book of six tickets for £5. The PTA would look to parents of the school to help with the donations of prizes for this fundraiser. Donations can be left to the school office or you can arrange to leave them with any of the PTA committee members.

The Christmas Bazaar will take place on Thursday 5th December from 5.30 – 7.30pm at school. This is a really enjoyable occasion with lots of planned activities and events planned. If you can assist in any way with the running of this night, please give your name to any member of the PTA committee.

Cross Country

Congratulations to all our P6 and P7 athletes who braved the rain as they participated in the first round of the Flahavan's Primary School Cross Country League at the Antrim Forum on Thursday. The first boy home from St. Joseph's was Finn Lappin whilst the first girl in our team to cross the finish line was Ellen Rose Watson. Mrs Gartland is awaiting confirmation of individual finishing places. See Twitter for a lovely photo of our young athletes who, on mental health awareness day, demonstrated how exercise and sport is such an important factor for our mental health and wellbeing.

Cumann na mBunscol

The Antrim Cumann na mBunscol league got off to a great start this week with both the girls and boys Gaelic team out for their first round matches. Despite losing in their first match to Christ the Redeemer (0-7 to 3-3), the boys qualified for the semi final as they defeated Holy Trinity 4-3 to 1-10 and Oliver Plunkett 2-5 to 1-2. Mr Murray highlighted Hugo Twene as the player of the day.

The girls met Christ the Redeemer and St Kieran's at Lamh Dhearg. Unfortunately the former proved too strong for them but they played very well against St. Kieran's only losing by a point. Congratulations to Jessica Shanley who scored two goals and Grace Ferris and Eimear Rafferty who played very well throughout and indeed to all the girls, some of whom were playing for the first time.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

During October the arrangements for school closures, through the 'adverse weather policy' are shared with parents. These arrangements set out the school's action plan for adverse weather. In times of extreme weather, such as a heavy snowfall, the principal and senior leadership team will consider the checklist below to see if it is necessary to close the school. The principal and senior leadership team will begin the process by answering these questions related to the safety of pupils and staff:

1. Can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
2. Can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
3. In an emergency, could the emergency services access the school?
4. Is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
5. Transport – can buses, meal deliveries, etc., reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
6. If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the Pupil Teacher Ratio acceptable? An acceptable PTR would be 1:30.
7. Have local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling, been declared hazardous?



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Having considered each question carefully, the team will complete a Risk assessment based on the answers. They will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 'No' to any of the 7 questions

If a decision is made to close

- Here in St. Joseph's PS we have a text message service to inform parents if the school is closed and again when the decision is taken to reopen.
- All parent contacts will be sent a text message.
- Radio Stations – BBC Radio Ulster will also be informed.
- We will use our Twitter feed to communicate the closure.

Future Dates

Flu Vaccination Scheme	Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th November
Open Night	Tuesday 3rd December from 7pm
PTA Christmas Bazaar	Thursday 5th December (5.30 – 7.30pm)
P5 Christmas Nativity Play	Monday 9th December
P1 and P2 Christmas Concert	Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December at 9.30am
Whole School Panto Day	Thursday 12th December
P4 – P7 Christmas Mass	Tuesday 17th December at 10am
P4 – P7 Christmas Carol Service	Tuesday 17th December at 7pm

The week ahead: **Week beginning Monday 14th October**

Monday 14 th	Tuesday 15 th	Wednesday 16 th	Thursday 17 th	Friday 18 th
After school activity clubs continue – week 6 Maths Week Ireland	Clarinet tuition (8.30 – 10.45am) P5 and P6 basketball coaching	Violin tuition P6 German and Spanish lessons from The Wallace High School P3 (Mrs Gould) and P6 (Mrs Gartland) attending pottery lessons in the Island Arts Centre P4 tennis coaching P6 & P7 Quiz team attending Meadowbridge PS P5 tin whistle at 2.15pm	Flute tuition (8.30 – 10.30am) Violin tuition	P1 school photographs P7 badminton coaching (10.30 – 11.30am & 11.30 – 12.30pm) P5 swimming lessons GAA Fundamentals coaching (P2 1.00 – 2.00 & P4 2.00 – 3.00pm)



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