



'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 18th October 2019

No.7

Parking and Collection Arrangements

The contractors carrying out the road works on Castle Street have assured the school that their works will be kept to a minimum during drop off and collection times. I would still 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. Furthermore, 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.

Cool Kids and Homework Club

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. We will monitor the use of the booking system over the next few weeks. There may be a point where we can no longer accept late phone-ins.

The breakfast club will also be under review with a price increase likely to be forthcoming in Term 2. Again, we will endeavour to communicate any such increases, and the explanations of any increases, to parents well in advance.

World Mental Health Day and Charlie's Legacy Fund

Huge thanks to the staff, children and parents for supporting World Mental Health Day and Charlie's legacy fund. We managed to raise an impressive £250 which will be divided equally between them.

Reporting to Parents

School will close at 2pm every day to facilitate these meetings. There will be **NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES** this 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

Primary School Quiz

Well done to the four children from P6 and P7 for representing St. Joseph's Primary School in the annual Meadowbridge Primary School quiz. The children had a high level of general knowledge and academic facts which enabled them to finish fourth out of thirteen teams. Well done to Meadowbridge Primary School for winning and to Mr Good for the invite to such a wonderful occasion.



Halloween Dress Up Day and Holidays



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.

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

Charlie's Fundraiser for the Children's Cancer Unit Charity

Fintan and Cliodhna are running a charity fundraiser for the Children's Cancer unit on Saturday 16th November in St. Patrick's Parish Centre and would love your support. If you would like to run a stall or a craft workshop, please contact Maura 07879 867733 (stalls will cost £20). If you would like to donate any prizes for tombola or the ballot, please leave them into the school or the parish centre. This will be a lovely day for friends and family to get together for a great cause.



**Shared
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Cumann na mBunscol Semi-Finals

This week our talented Gaelic team were in action in the semi-final of the Cumann na mBunscol league. Unfortunately, they lost out to a great team, Bunscoil an sleibhe dhuibh whose passing just outshone ours. Final score was 13-18. A special mention for James Wilkinson who played brilliantly in goals and Dylan O'Hare whose defensive skills, strength, fitness and reading of the game was absolutely outstanding.



Celebrating Maths Week

We had a great week celebrating all that is Mathematical in school. It was lovely to celebrate Maths in such a positive way. Photos of some of the activities that were carried out in each class and at home will be on the school website next week.

Road of Hope Shoe Box Appeal

We are delighted to be taking part in the appeal again this year. An information leaflet was sent home with the eldest child in the family this week but if you would like further information about what to put in the shoe box click on the link:

<http://stjosephsschool.org/news-/news/road-of-hope-shoe-box-appeal-2019/>

Please return all completed shoe boxes to school by Monday 4th November. Thank you for your support and generosity.

PTA Christmas Cards

Design templates were sent home with each child this week. Please complete and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible. These are lovely keepsakes and we would encourage all of our children to take part. The final date for submission is Thursday 24th October - we cannot accept any designs after this date. You will receive a sample card in a few weeks with your child's design on it. An order form will be enclosed with the sample card. Please DO NOT send any money in with your child's design.

Carol Concert and Christmas Celebrations

This year our annual Christmas Carol Concert and Christmas Celebrations will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 7pm in St. Patrick's Church. The Junior Choir (P4), Senior Choir (P5 - P7), folk group and other musicians and dancers will take part. All proceeds from the concert will go to charity and towards Charlie's Legacy in our school. We would ask for a minimum voluntary contribution of £5 per person to support these charities. This will be a beautiful celebration of Christmas.



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Primary Five Nativity

This will take place on Monday 9th December in the Studio Theatre (Island Arts Centre) - tickets will be on sale from Monday 11th November from the Island Arts Centre and are priced at £5 per ticket. There will be two shows scheduled for 12:30pm and 6:30pm. Siblings **ARE** able to leave school on that day to attend the show. If the demand is there and we need to put on an additional show this will be at 2:30pm on the same day.

Cards at School

I would like to advise parents that Pokemon, football and/or other types of cards are not permitted in school. Should teachers or classroom assistants see any such cards at break or lunchtime they will be taken off the children and collection arrangements will need to be made. We fully appreciate your support with this.

Future Dates

Flu Vaccination Scheme	Tuesday 5 th and Wednesday 6 th November
Open Night	Tuesday 3 rd December from 7pm
Christmas Dinners and Jumper Day	Wednesday 4 th December
PTA Christmas Bazaar	Thursday 5 th December (5.30 – 7.30pm)
P5 Christmas Nativity Play	Monday 9 th December
P1 and P2 Christmas Concert	Tuesday 10 th and Wednesday 11 th December at 9.30am
Whole School Panto Day	Thursday 12 th December
P4 – P7 Christmas Mass	Tuesday 17 th December at 10am
P4 – P7 Christmas Carol Service	Tuesday 17 th December at 7pm

The week ahead: Week beginning Monday 21st October

Monday 21 st	Tuesday 22 nd	Wednesday 23 rd	Thursday 24 th	Friday 25 th
After school activity clubs continue – week 7	Clarinet tuition (8.30 – 10.45am)	Violin tuition	Flute tuition (8.30 – 10.30am)	Halloween dress up day
PTA Christmas Card designs returned to class teachers	P5 and P6 basketball coaching	P6 German and Spanish lessons from The Wallace High School	Violin tuition	P1 and P2 classes 'spooky walk' around Castle Gardens from 9.30am
School closes at 2pm for pupil reporting to parents	School closes at 2pm for pupil reporting to parents	P7 at Friends' School production of Oliver from 9.30am.	P6 year group Mass at 10am.	P7 badminton coaching (10.30 – 11.30am & 11.30 – 12.30pm)
	PTA Meeting at 7pm in 'Cool Kids Cabin' – new members welcome.	P3 (Mrs Gould) and P6 (Mrs Gartland) attending pottery lessons in the Island Arts Centre	School closes at 2pm for pupil reporting to parents	P5 swimming lessons
		P4 tennis coaching		School closes at 2pm for pupil reporting to parents
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