



# St John the Baptist Primary School Newsletter

September 2020

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### Halloween Break:

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October –  
Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> October

### Christmas Holidays:

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December –  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

### Fitness Fun Day:

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October



## WELCOME BACK SJB!

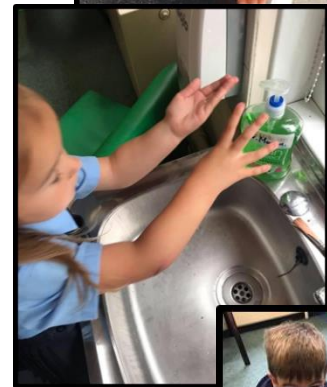
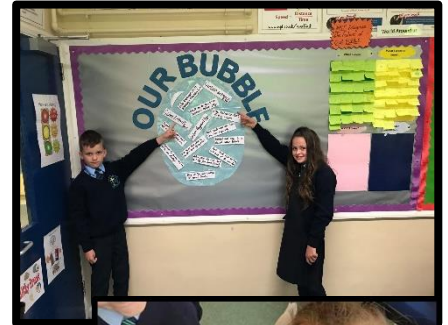
Welcome back to a new school year! After a strange end to last year, we are excited to have our fantastic pupils back for a new year.

We have already had a very busy month and it has been wonderful to see the children adjusting and enjoying our new way of life in the school.

A major focus this term in SJB has been to concentrate on settling the children into school and discussing their worries and feelings upon coming back to school. It has been important to allow the children to share their thoughts during such an unprecedented time. The children have taken part in numerous fun activities that allow them to express their worries like creating “worry monsters” and letting their worries blow away in a balloon. They have been learning the importance of washing hands and staying within our own “Class bubbles”.

We also welcome back our staff and we thank those who helped prepare over summer for the new school year. SJB are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring staff.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another excellent year in SJB!



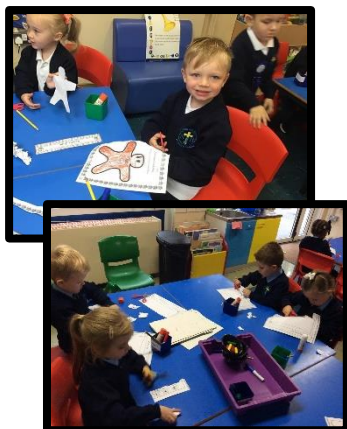
## KEEP UP TO DATE WITH SJB!



We have a Facebook page that you can now follow and keep up to date with what is happening in the school community. We will use this platform to continue to share information and show the children's success in school. The page is called “**SJB PS Finaghy RD**”. You can also follow us on Twitter @**SJBPS11** or on our website: [www.stjohnthebaptistps.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptistps.co.uk) where we post regularly.

## Welcome P1s!

A special welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils. They are settling in brilliantly and we hope they have a fantastic first year in SJB!



## Learning about Ireland

In SJB we have a new fantastic mural of Ireland. The beautiful design has brightened our hall and is an excellent way for the children to explore Ireland. It also highlights key features of Ireland and famous landmarks which the children are enjoying learning about.



Pupils from P4MM learning about the counties of Ireland, above.

## Sporting Captains in SJB

Well done to the new captains of our school GAA sports teams: Olivia, Stephen, Laoise, Oisin, Rosa, Ronan and Aoife. We look forward to seeing you all in action! Training sessions continue for P6-P7 boys every Monday from 3pm-4pm and girls every Thursday from 3pm-4pm.



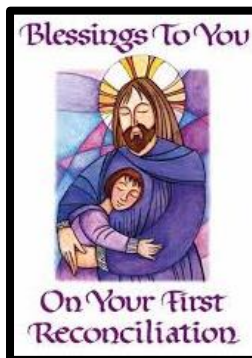
## P7 Environmental Study visit

P7AB and P7AMcC enjoyed a fantastic environmental study visit to Falls Park and the Bog Meadows led by Belfast City Council staff. They participated in Archery, team-building to put up our hammocks, using flint to light a fire, pond – dipping and so much more! Thank you to our guides, Michael, Davy and Lucille!



## Celebration of Sacraments

A big congratulations to our P4 and P5 children who celebrated their First Confession and First Communion.



The children and their teachers worked very hard in preparation for these Sacraments. Well done children, we are all very proud of you. Their readings and behaviour were excellent!

Congratulations!

## Our Safeguarding Team

- For a special educational needs query contact Mrs C. Maguire
- If your concern is a child protection issue contact:  
Ms A. Bell (Designated Teacher for Child Protection) or  
Mrs C. Maguire (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)

## Covid-19 reminder

Please continue to drop off and collect children promptly adhering to social distancing rules. Thank you.

## School Safety



It's important to remember – and share with your children – some key tips that will help keep them safe and healthy throughout the school year.

### Getting to School

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is vitally important that they – and the motorists around them – take proper safety precautions.

### Walking to school

- Walk on the footpath.
- Before crossing the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Parents: practice walking to school with your child, crossing streets at traffic lights when available.

### Cycling or using your scooter to school

- Always wear a helmet that is fitted and secured properly.
- Watch for opening car doors and other hazards.
- Wear bright-coloured clothing.

### Drivers, Share the Road

- Please be courteous to our school neighbours by not parking in front of or close to their driveways as this causes a safety issue for residents, drivers and pedestrians.
- At home time We would ask that you use the parish playground and the car park beside St Michael's youth club.

**We appreciate that parking at the school is difficult but it is important to put the safety of the child and pedestrian first. Thank you.**

## Uniform

No nail varnish; earrings should be studs for health and safety reasons; no jewellery.

Black school shoes and full school uniform every day except for the designated PE Day for each class.

PE Uniform – school white polo shirt or plain white t-shirt and navy tracksuit bottoms with school jumper/cardigan. Shorts should not be worn.

We promote healthy eating in school. Children may bring a piece of fruit, vegetables, or a small sandwich to eat during break.



We have children in this school with severe allergies.

We MUST insist that breaks and lunches are healthy and **NUT-FREE**, including NO Nutella or nut products- please check the labels.



Help us to be a *healthy minds and hearts* school. We're a smoke free school- this includes e-cigarettes.

