



Dear Parents, Guardians and friends of St. Joseph's,

We are delighted to welcome you all back to our new school year. Thank you to all the parents for assisting in the early morning routines, this has ensured a very smooth start to the morning lessons and the school term. Parents are reminded that children line up in the playground and teachers collect children from the playground and take them to class.



Children are making great efforts to get into school on time- well done everyone!

This is essential so that children do not miss any of the learning that starts as soon as we get into the classroom. Remember, late children need to go in through the office as all of the other doors will be closed as soon as the lines are brought in at 8.55am.

All parents are asked to ensure all uniform items are labelled including the black plimsolls for indoor wear and P.E. It is important that all children have indoor shoes. It is expected that all children have a full school P.E. uniform – white polo shirt and navy P.E. shorts. Please remember to label all parts of your children's uniforms as changing for P.E. can cause a few mix-ups! Please remember that children should wear black school shoes to school at all times!

School dinners are £2.60 for any children wishing to have a hot dinner. If you feel you may be entitled to free school meals we would advise you to collect a form from the office and apply as soon as possible as you will not be able to avail of this service until the application has been processed by the Board. Dinner menus can be found on the school website. Please remember that break time snacks must be healthy!

We ask that all parents drive with care in the car parks and use the parking spaces provided. This is essential for the safety of all children and we have been receiving reports that speeding and unsafe parking are placing children in danger.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Please find below the dates we have so far for the sacramental programme this year as agreed with the Parish.

P3 Sacrament of Penance (First Confession)

18 Jan 2018 6.30pm Parent meeting in parish centre



21 Jan 2018 11am Enrolment service in church

7 March at 1.30 Sacrament of First Penance. Children will be collected from school at 12.00 and should come to the church with their parents.

P4 Sacrament of First Holy Communion

25 Jan 2018 6.30pm Parent meeting in Parish Centre



28 Jan 2018 11am Enrolment Service in church

From 18 Feb 2018 onward, Special Sunday masses for First Communion children 11am in the church

19 May 11am First Communion

Sunday 3rd June 11am Corpus Christi Mass – Children to attend in First Communion outfits

P7 Confirmation

11 Jan 2018 6.30pm Parent meeting in Parish Centre



14 Jan 2018 11am Commitment Service in Church

Service of Light, Confirmation dates all to be confirmed.

24 May 7pm Pledge Mass in St. Comgall's Church

ALL CHANGE!

Congratulations and good luck to all of our P.7s who left us in June. They had a memorable graduation night with Richard Fee- Director of Eye Feel Good - as their honorary graduate. We hope they have settled into their new schools and remind them that we are always here if they need a chat!

We also welcome our new P.1 pupils to the school, they are settling in well and getting really good at changing their shoes and looking after their belongings!

WORKING TOGETHER

Many thanks to all of our parents who completed the questionnaire with the school reports in June. All of you reported that you are happier with the new format and new values section and we will always do our best to communicate with you as best as we can.

Thank you to all who attended curriculum meetings so far with your year group teachers and please do not hesitate to arrange to speak with any of our teachers should you have any questions or concerns. Remember that Mr McGinley and Mrs Treacy are the designated teachers for child protection if you have any worries or need any help.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Our Extended Schools programme has been approved and we will be continuing with a range of afterschools clubs this year including Bricks for Kids, Judo, Drama Club, Youth club, Gaelic, soccer, clayrazy, drumming, yoga and a range of other various sports coaching. We will keep you posted as each club becomes available.

WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care is still operating for morning and afternoon sessions- please see below for details. Children can bring in fees or these can be paid at the school office.

8:00-8:30 Breakfast time £1

8:30-8:55 Morning Games Club £1

2:00-3:00 P1 and 2 Youth Club £1

3:00-4:00 P1-7 Youth club £1

4:00-5:30 Games/Wind down £4

Parents can select any and all times that suit their needs- please speak to the office if you have any questions. Please advise staff if your child will need help with homework in afterschool time.

Wraparound will operate over Halloween if required. Please book at the school office in advance or we cannot guarantee places.

PTA

We will be having our first meeting of the year on **Tuesday 26 September at 6pm** in school. Parent support and involvement is vital to St Joseph's and we would encourage all to become involved- even just to help with ideas or to volunteer to support our

programmes. All new parents are most welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you all then.

PARENT MEETINGS

Parent teacher meetings will be scheduled for Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th October to enable you to catch up with your child's teacher before the Halloween break. Please let your teacher know in advance if you cannot make any appointment and we will happily reschedule you. **Please note- all children finish at 12.30pm after dinner to facilitate the meetings.**

FLU VACCINE

We will be facilitating the Public Health Agency in the administration of the flu vaccine for all children P1-P7. This will happen on Thursday 30th November. Please speak to your child's teacher if there is a reason why your child should not be vaccinated.

Consent forms should be returned to school as the nursing service are clear that any child who does not have a signed consent form **WILL NOT** receive the vaccine at school.

SHARED EDUCATION

Well done to P.6 who have started working on a shared programme on their topic Titanic with the P.6 class from Greystone Primary School. They have enjoyed their joint sessions so far and showing off their learning with each other. All classes this year will have an opportunity to work with pupils from Greystone in the Shared Education Programme. Teachers will inform you of the arrangements.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

We are working to gain Rights Respecting Schools Status with UNICEF. Children have worked on their class charters and will be learning about the first 42 rights. These are available online or speak to Mr McGinley if you would like to know more. We will keep you updated on our progress.

GOOD NEWS

We will use this section of the newsletter to share good news from our families. This could be after schools clubs successes, new babies or competition winners. If you would like to share anything at any time of the year, please email us

rtreacy776@c2kni.net

We are delighted to welcome 2 new teaching members of staff to our staff team this year- Mrs Balmer in P5 and Mr McArdle in P4. I am sure you will make them feel very welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please look out for our regular texts for reminders and notifications of new events as the term progresses.

Friday 29th September We are celebrating European Day of Languages. Each year group can come dressed in costumes or colours of their nominated country for a day of language learning and fun. Please do not buy additional outfits- if you are unsure, a simple t-shirt in one of the colours of that country's flag will be enough.

- P1-France
- P2-Spain
- P3-Italy
- P4-Poland
- P5-Ireland
- P6-Germany
- P7-Sweden



Wednesday 4th October We have been able to avail of an additional programme of training for staff. This means that we will need to close at 12.30 after lunch for staff training. Wraparound will be available at the usual prices.



Wednesday 25 /Thursday 26 October Parent teacher meetings will be held, individual appointments will be given out. All pupils finish school at 12.30pm on these days to facilitate the meetings.



Friday 27 October- Halloween celebration day! Come to school dressed in your Halloween costumes!



Monday 30 October –Friday 3 November- School closed for half term, reopens on Monday 6 November for all pupils.

Wednesday 29 November 7pm– Open night for prospective P1 Parents (Sep 2018 admission)

Thursday 30 November- Flu vaccination- please return permission slips when they go out.

Tuesday 12 December- P1 Nativity at 9.30, P2-P3 show at 11.00



