



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

We hope you had a lovely Halloween break- it's hard to believe we are now in the run up to Christmas. Please look out for texts and on our website, facebook and twitter pages for updates on our Christmas events!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Please find below the dates we have so far for the sacramental programme this year as agreed with the Parish. These will be in every newsletter for your information and any changes will be sent immediately by text.

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

WORKING TOGETHER

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our Parent Teacher meetings before Halloween. We hope you found them helpful and informative.

Thank you also to all of the P.1 parents who attended the Phonics information session, please speak to your teachers if you have any further questions.

WRAPAROUND CARE

Please contact the school office and book a place if you require it for Christmas. As usual, if there are not enough children to run on any particular day we will not be able to operate.

Please see the attached information regarding places for after schools. All parents must return a signed copy if you wish your child/children to attend in the future.

PTA

Thank-you to all the parents who helped out with our disco, Asda bag pack and Starbucks quiz.

We currently have raised enough funds for half of a new smartboard for the classrooms so well done to everyone!

Our next meeting will be on 21 November at 6pm in school. We look forward to seeing you then.

FLU VACCINE

The Public Health Agency will be administering the flu vaccine for all children P1-P7. This will happen on Thursday 30th November.

Consent forms have all been given out and 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

Congratulations to the P6 classes who have finished their main topic work with Greystone this year. We had a lovely celebration event with the parents who were able to try out some of the activities that the children had been doing! Well done and thank you to all who attended.

Primary 3 classes have started their topic- Celebrations, they had a wonderful session at a chocolate workshop and came back to schools with lovely treats- we hope they shared their creations with you! Teachers will continue to keep you updated through seesaw! If you have not signed up, please see your child's teacher about how to join.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

The Article 12 Society have been elected by their classmates- These pupils will have an important job to do- considering changes in school or giving their opinions on arrangements in school that affect them and have had their first meeting with Mr McGinley. Congratulations to all!

GOOD NEWS rtreacy776@c2kni.net



Congratulations to Noah Balmer from P4 who is starring in the Movie 'Zoo!' It had its world premiere in Chicago at the end of October- we can't wait to see it Noah!!



Congratulations also to our cross country team who all came in the top 50 out of 200 children- Great job!



A sincere thank you to Ellie who represented the school at the Remembrance Sunday Service in Antrim- well done Ellie, it was a very cold day!

Congratulations to Ethan who has made the gymnastics Northern Ireland FIG squad. What an achievement Ethan! We are very proud of you.



Congratulations also to Josh who has won both the Ulster and Ireland Youth Motocross Championship- another star in the making!!

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Many thanks to all who have been collecting sponsorship for the Workout for Lepra which took place on the 17th November. We are hoping you will continue to send in your sponsorship envelopes over the next few weeks. Remember no amount is too small as every little bit can make a difference!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Thursday 23rd November - Due to costs of attending the pantomime last year we have decided to bring the pantomime to us to keep costs for families down. We will have Peter Pan in our school hall during the day and collection from school will be at the usual time. Please complete the permission slip for your child to attend as we cannot let them attend without your permission- we know that some children just do not like it!

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

Thursday 30 November- Flu vaccination- please return permission slips.

Tuesday 12 December- P1 Nativity at 9.30, school hall

P2-P3 show at 11.00, parish centre

Thursday 14 December –P5-P7 Christmas show, 7pm parish hall.

Tuesday 19 December – P4 Carol Service

Friday 22 December 12.30 finish for Christmas holidays, return on **Monday 8th January 2018**

After Schools Agreement

Dear Parents,

As our numbers are increasing at after schools it has become necessary to streamline our policies and procedures to ensure all children are safe while in attendance.

From Monday 20th November 2017 the following procedures will apply.

1. All children must be booked into after schools by midday of the day they are attending. We appreciate that emergencies may arise and parents need to phone late in the afternoon to book children in. However, we will only be able to accept children in emergencies provided we have spaces left.
2. All payments for after schools should be settled by Friday of the week they are attending or further bookings cannot be taken. (This does not apply to those paying by voucher)
3. Children must be collected promptly at their agreed time as staff are being taken away from children still in attendance to wait on parents.
4. After schools closes at 5.30 sharp. Caretaking staff are sometimes being delayed in the evening and this has a cost implication to the school.
5. After schools will follow the same good choices behaviour policy as during school time. After school's staff will inform parents at collection time of any incidents or accidents. Any child not following good choice rules may end up losing their stamp (P4-P7). For P1-P3 records will be monitored and if behaviour is consistently concerning, children may be asked to take a week off after schools.

All parents who avail of the after school's service need to return a signed copy of this form to say you agree with the procedures detailed above. This should be done before your child is registered to attend from 20th November 2017 onwards.

Many thanks for your understanding,

Yours sincerely,

Roisin Treacy

Mrs R. Treacy, Principal

I wish to my child/Children

To be enrolled to attend the after school's facility at St Joseph's P.S. and agree to work within the procedures as outlined above.

Signed _____

