



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.

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!

School dinners are £2.50 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.

### Sacramental Programme

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

#### **P3 Sacrament of Penance (First Confession)**



19 Jan 6.30pm Parent meeting in parish centre

05 Feb 11am Enrolment service in church

TBC Sacrament of First Penance

#### **P4 Sacrament of First Holy Communion**



25 Feb 6.30pm Parent meeting in Parish Centre

26 Feb 11am Enrolment Service in church

From 05 March onward, Special Sunday masses for First Communion children 11am in the church

06 May 11am First Communion



#### **P7 Confirmation**

26 Nov 6.30pm Parent meeting in Parish Centre

29 Jan 11am Commitment Service in Church

Service of Light, Confirmation dates all to be confirmed.

01 June 7pm Pledge Mass in St. Joseph'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 Robbie Meredith- Education Correspondent with the BBC - 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! See some of their photos on the back page of this newsletter!

#### **EXTENDED SCHOOLS PROGRAMME**

Our Extended Schools programme has been approved and we will be introducing a range of afterschools clubs this year including Bricks for Kids, Judo, Drama Club, Youth club, Gaelic, soccer, swimming 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/Homework £4

Parents can select any and all times that suit their needs- please speak to the office if you have any questions. 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 11 October 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 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 1pm 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 the week beginning 24 October 2016. 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 and will be in contact shortly regarding permission forms for a Queens University online survey.

## 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](mailto:rtreacy776@c2kni.net)

Baby News! Congratulations to Jude in P.3 who is delighted with his new baby sister Eloise who arrived during the summer. Congratulations also to Mrs Mulholland who had a baby boy- Eddie in August. Skye in P6 has also been celebrating the arrival of her baby brother Anthony!

A huge thanks to Antrim Credit Union who have sponsored a new kit for our Soccer team. As you can see it looks very smart. Watch this space for our new Gaelic Kit coming soon!



Thank you to all of the families who made a great effort for European day of languages. We had an amazing celebration with children dressed in national colours and costumes. They had a fantastic



time sampling a range of food, playing language games and finding out more about other countries and traditions.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday 5 October** Travelling Book Company Book Fair arriving at school

**Tuesday 11 October** PTA meeting at 6:00pm

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am-** parent/extended family iPad information session. We would love as many people as possible to attend- please come along- you never know what tips you might find useful!

**Wednesday 26 /Thursday 27 October** Parent teacher meetings will be held, individual appointments will be given out. All pupils finish school at 1pm on these days to facilitate the meetings.

**Friday 28 October-** Halloween Harry Potter themed maths super learning day. Come to school dressed as 'wizarding' or 'muggle' (non-magical) folk!



**Monday 31 October –Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November-** School closed for half term, reopens on Monday 7 November for all pupils.



**Thursday 10 November 7pm -** Meeting for all P1-P2 parents interested in supporting maths learning with their children. Hosted by Timothy Doyle.



**Wednesday 30 November –** Open night for prospective P1 Parents (Sep 2017 admission)

## Primary One Gallery

Have a look at some of our new P.1 children settling into school!

