



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

A Happy New Year to you all! Welcome back to school after the Christmas Break, it feels like a long time ago now! Congratulations to all who took part in the Christmas programme of events- you made our preparations really special.

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
- 2nd April at 3.00pm Sacrament of First Penance

P4 Sacrament of First Holy Communion



- 23 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 January 6.30pm Parent meeting in Parish Centre
- 29 Jan 11am Commitment Service in Church
- Tuesday 7th March 7.00pm in St Joseph's Church - Service of Light
- Confirmation 22nd March 2017 at 1pm in St Joseph's Church (**Please note change of time**)

01 June 7pm Pledge Mass in St. Joseph's Church

WRAPAROUND

Wraparound care is still operating for morning and afternoon sessions- please see below for details.

- 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. Please book at the school office in advance for mid-term or we cannot guarantee places.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week from Monday 30th January. This year we are inviting all of you to attend mass with us on Wednesday 1st February to celebrate the Feast day of St Brigid and to attend our Grandparents Day celebration on Friday 3rd February at 10:00 in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you on this very special occasion. If any Grandparents cannot attend or you wish to remember them in a special way, you can send in a flower with your child which we will display in the school hall during the celebration and send over to the church on Friday afternoon for the weekend masses.

A huge congratulations to Mrs McGarry (RE Coordinator), Miss Duggan (ICT Coordinator) and all of the children who made our imovie presentation to enter the Catholic Schools Week Ethos competition. We came an amazing 3rd place and win £500 which will be supporting the development of a special sacred space in our front hall and additional resources for classrooms- well done to all!



AFTERSCHOOLS SPORTS

Please note the following times for after schools sports this term:

- Gaelic - Wednesday 3-4pm Soccer - Friday 2-3pm
- Swimming Club – Thursdays 2.45 - 3.45pm (parents to collect at the school office)
- Netball will hopefully be starting this term but we are waiting on confirmation of a start date- we will keep you posted!

We are also hoping to start an after school fitness class for adults possibly on Mondays around 4.30- again when we have confirmation we will let you know- watch out for the texts!!

PTA

Thank you to all who attended the PTA meeting.
REMINDER: The office are selling the individual class shopping bags- they make a great gift for

Grandparents, birthdays etc. Only £5.00



The PTA will be hosting the first ever 'Strictly Kids' in June. To help us prepare the group dances we would ask that you **complete a register of interest attached to the back of this newsletter**. A specialist dance tutor will work with the children who wish to be involved to prepare their dance for the night. All of the dancers will perform as part of a group so no one will have to perform on their own or as a couple!

The PTA will also be hosting a 'Bring and Buy' Sale during the Sports Day in May. To help us to prepare we welcome donations of any of the following; books and DVDs, toys and games and any uniforms in good condition that parents can use for a change- this comes in very handy when jumpers get left behind!!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 March at 6pm.

SHARED EDUCATION

P5 are now working on their shared education project with the P5s from Greystone on the theme of Robots. They have had great fun on their junk art day!

SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to our community PSNI officer Constable Cully who came to talk tour P5-P6 pupils on internet safety. We would advise all parents to be sure that they know who their children are talking to online and to monitor social media to keep their children safe. As you will know the use of social media is not permitted in school and if a child has to bring a phone to school it should be stored at the school office until it is collected at home time. This will be strictly enforced.

We were recognised at the Action MS Celebration for being the second highest fundraising school in the

Northern Area- well done everyone. A big congratulations to Caitlin from P4 who was the highest fundraiser and was invited to a special lunch with her mum. Well done!



Fundraising

Our past pupil Eoin Lynott will be travelling to Zambia in June with Habitat for Humanity to build homes for people in need. It would be wonderful to support him and we are asking if you can help us with a brown money collection next week during Catholic Schools Week. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

REMINDER!



We have 2 more information days for parents with guest speaker Timothy Doyle.

If you find that the way we teach maths is different to how you learnt yourself or if you would like some tips and games on helping your child at home then these are the sessions for you! All parents can attend any of the sessions- you child does not have to be in that year group.

Thursday 2nd February at 7.00pm for P5-P7

Thursday 2nd March at 7.00pm for P3-P4

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

See Maths dates and Sacramental dates above.

Mon 30th - Tues 31st January- Transfer meetings for parents of P7 pupils.

Fri 3rd Feb- Grandparents day in the school hall at 11.00am.

Mon 13 Feb- Friday 17 Feb – School closed for mid-term break

Sat 25 Feb- Choir singing at Peace Proms in the SSE Arena, bus leaves church car park at 12.15 and will not be able to wait for latecomers! All choir members need a packed lunch and parents are welcome to attend the concert at 3pm. Tickets are available from the SSE Arena. The bus will be returning at 6.45pm but children may be taken home from the venue if you wish. Further information will be sent home from Miss Cooke.