

# ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

## December 2025

### *Christmas Greetings*

*On behalf of the Principal, Staff and Board of Governors*

As the Christmas holiday approaches, We want to extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May your Christmas be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments. May the spirit of the season bring you peace and happiness, and may the new year be bright with hope and prosperity. Here's to a wonderful holiday season and a fantastic year ahead. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### **St Joseph's Primary School Tableau and Carol Service - You are Invited!**

The children at St Joseph's Primary School are proud to present our beautiful Tableau and Carol Service, which will tell the Christmas Story of the Nativity through music, song and drama. Every class will participate in this traditional re-enactment reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

**Date:** Thursday, 18th December

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Location:** St Joseph's Church



Everyone is welcome to join us for this special event. We look forward to celebrating the true spirit of Christmas with you!

### **SVP Collection**

We are incredibly grateful to our school community for the generous donations to date amounting to **£550** and the numerous food items contributed to our annual SVP charity collection. Your kindness and support make a significant difference in the lives of those in need within our community. Thanks to your generosity, SVP can continue to provide essential assistance and bring hope to many families during this festive season. We deeply appreciate your commitment to helping others and making our charity drive a success. Thank you for your unwavering support and compassion. Last date for donations is Tues 16<sup>th</sup>



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

### **A Wiggly Nativity**

We are so proud of our wonderful Primary 1 pupils who gave a fantastic performance of *The Wiggly Nativity*! Their enthusiasm, confidence, and festive spirit lit up the stage and brought smiles to everyone in the audience. From the joyful singing to the charming wiggly moves, each child played their part beautifully and reminded us all of the magic of Christmas. It was a truly heartwarming experience that showcased their talent and teamwork. A huge thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive families for helping make this special event possible. Well done, Primary 1—you were amazing!



### **Primary 6 Navan Fort Viking Educational Visit**

Our Primary 6 pupils had a fantastic day exploring the world of the Vikings at the Navan Centre in Armagh. They learned how to write runes using a quill, examined fascinating Viking artefacts, and even tried their hand at sword, shield, and axe practice! It was an unforgettable experience bringing history to life.



### **P2 Outdoor Learning**

Look at our outdoor learning experiences through Structured Play and Numeracy. P2 built forts using amazing resources from our outdoor learning shed and created addition sums using blocks and hoops. We also put out some roaring chalk fires using the water squirty bottles as hoses and raced up and down the ladders to be the first to put out the fire. Super learning

memories and friendship bonds strengthened as we worked as a team.





## Advent

Advent marks the start of the Christian year. It is the four weeks before Christmas which began on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. This is the time for Christians to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and look forward to the time that Jesus will come again.

### *PRAYER FOR ADVENT*

*Jesus, we are waiting with joyful hearts to remember and celebrate the wonder of your birth. You came into the world as a helpless baby, but already you were holding within your tiny, beating heart a beautiful hope for mankind: a sacred dream in which we live together in peace, love, and truth. Throughout this time of waiting, may we do our very best to turn your sacred dream for us into reality, so that at Christmas, we can offer you a present for your birthday, fashioned out of peace and perfect love, Amen*



## Guess Who's Coming to Visit



We are reliably informed from our fairy friends in our Fairy Garden who are related to the elves in the North Pole who work alongside a very 'special person' that all the boys and girls from St. Joseph's P.S., will get to meet this VIP guest when he visits our

wonderful school on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December to deliver a small present to everyone. The fairies have also told us to have plenty of hot chocolate and marshmallows on offer and to arrange some Christmas movies and art and craft activities for the whole school to enjoy.

On top of all these requests, the school cooks have also received a separate **Elf-Mail** to prepare a special takeaway box style meal of chicken nuggets, cocktail sausages, skinny chips & ice cream for dessert.

So, if all pupils could wear their Christmas/festive jumpers, hats etc once again this would add so much colour to this Santa Fun Day.

## Anti-Bullying Week 2025

As a main event during Anti-Bullying Week, our wonderful Primary 4 pupils led our whole school community of pupils, staff and parents by inspiring us all to show kindness at every turn. Kindness certainly is a super power that we promote on a daily basis through our excellent relationships at all levels within St. Joseph's. Have a look at their heartwarming performance and live their message of being kind for the power of good.

<https://www.stjosephspsmeigh.org/news/primary-4-kindness-assembly-/?p=18>

## Punctuality

Please be reminded that all pupils must be in school and seated at their desks before 9.05am. While we understand that there may be the odd occasion when folks can run late, this should not be the norm. Let's make a conscious effort in the New Year to have every child in school on time. Thank you!



## Safer Schools App

If you haven't done so already. Please download the Safer School App.



**Safer Schools NI app**, is a valuable resource designed to enhance the safety and well-being of our school community. This app provides essential online safety advice, school information sharing tools, and safeguarding guidance tailored for parents, pupils, and staff.

## Why Download the Safer Schools NI App?

- **Stay Informed:** Receive important updates and notifications directly from the school.



- **Online Safety Tips:** Access expert advice on how to keep your children safe online.
- **Resources:** Find helpful guides and information on various safeguarding topics.

Details on how to download can be found on the school website (Parent Area-E-Safety) <https://www.stjosephspsmeigh.org/parent-area/e-safety/>

We highly encourage all parents and guardians to download the app to stay connected and informed. Your participation is crucial in ensuring a safe and supportive environment for our pupils.

## Starting Primary School in September 2026

Do you have or do you know anyone who has a little child who wants to join our family in St Joseph's PS? Let them know we at St Joseph's will be having an Open Afternoon on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December @ 1.30pm. All prospective P1 entrants welcome to come and tour the school.



### Timeline for new P1 and P7 to Post Primary Admissions

Applications for Admission to Primary One Sept 26  
Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 12noon  
Applications open via online portal:  
<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/admissions>  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at noon Applications close.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Deadline for submitting verification/supporting documents via EA Connect & final date for late applications.  
Parents notification on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026



### Applications for Admission to Post-Primary School

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026:  
Post-primary applications open at 12 noon via <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/admissions>  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Post-Primary applications close at 12 noon.  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Parents receive notification of the outcome of their application via online portal.

### Being Well Doing Well

The Being Well Doing Well (BWDW) programme is part of The Children & Young People's Emotional Health & Wellbeing in Education Framework. The Well-being Champion for St Joseph's Primary School is Mrs Brennan and below are our new BWDW team to help implement the programme. If you want to find out any more information you can visit the BWDW website [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk).





## School Singing Programme Advent Mass

Our Primary 6 class have been involved in a ten week singing programme which culminated in them attending Newry Cathedral on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December to participate in the most beautiful and uplifting mass celebrated by Arch Bishop Eamon Martin. It was a privilege to be there and it was great to see so many family members there to show their support.

Next up for another ten week singing programme will be our Primary 5 class who will participate in a special mass at Easter.



## PATHS Programme in St. Joseph's

(Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

PATHS Quote of the Month December

Sharing is Caring, share your toys, share you crayons, share a smile, share your kindness, share your love.

Let's find lots of ways that we can share to show we care.



## IZAK 9 Problem Solving

Some serious head scratching going on here in Primary to solve mathematical problems using our IZAK 9 cubes.



## Christmas Holidays

School will close for the Christmas Holidays on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 11am** and will **reopen again for all pupils on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026.**

We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, it means so much.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year 2026.



### Dates for Your Diary

**Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Santa Fun Day - Non Uniform Christmas clothes (No 2pm-4pm Wraparound Care)

**Tues. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Last day for Breakfast & Wraparound Care

**Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Last day for Breakfast Club and After School Care

**Thur. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Whole School Nativity Tableau and Carol Service 1pm (St. Joseph's Church)

**Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Early Closing @11:00am Christmas Holidays (no dinners)

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Term 2 begins (Breakfast club & Afterschool Care re-opens)