



ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

May/June 2022



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Welcome to our latest newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are only a matter of weeks away from the Summer holidays as we wait in hopeful anticipation of some continuous good weather. Our children and staff have been very busy since Easter and it is that time of year again when we prepare to welcome our new Primary 1 intake, get ready to transition our pupils to their new classes and say goodbye to our Primary 7's. This is always a special time for reflection and memories, coupled with looking forward with excitement to pastures new. Whatever the change, rest assured that our pupils will be supported on this journey by our wonderful, caring staff.

First Communion 2022

Our Primary 4 pupils received the Sacrament of The Eucharist on Saturday 14th May. It was a wonderful day and all of the children looked fantastic. Thank you to Ms Maginnis, Miss Niamh and Fr. Clyne, for preparing our children for this special Sacrament and thank you to Mrs Garvey, Mr Murphy, Miss Niamh, the choir and tin whistlers for all the beautiful music that added to this wonderful occasion.

As is tradition, the Primary 4 pupils are invited to attend mass at St. Joseph's Church Meigh in all their finery on Sunday 19th June to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi.



Party Time for First Communicants

This is probably the only party Boris Johnston wasn't at. A great big THANK YOU to Mary Connolly for organising a party in school for our First Communion Class. Thanks also to Fiona Cromie and Patrick 'Chick Hannaway' for supplying some yummy treats. Lucky them!



School Holiday

School will be closed from Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June for a mixture of school and public holidays. School will re-open on Monday 6th June.



We Miss You Mr. McVerry

We send our best wishes to our Primary 6 teacher Mr McVerry who has suffered a recent farm accident and hope that each new day brings him closer to a full and speedy recovery.

Eco Schools – Green Flag Award



This flag will once again be flying proudly at our school following the successful application and awarding of Green Flag status. This is down to the hard work and enthusiasm of those children who have been members of our ECO Team over the past three years. A sincere word of thanks to Mr Shields who has led this initiative and made it a reality once again. The flag will be presented at a special celebration in Warrenpoint on Friday 17th June. To say we are delighted, is an understatement.

To celebrate this great achievement the Pupil ECO Committee have organised a '**WEAR GREEN, BE GREEN**' day on 17th June which is a great idea by them.

Gardening Club

Staying with the environmental theme, our gardening club have been enhancing our school environment with new planting. Working with Kathleen from An Tobar Wellness Centre, these pupils can be seen in all weathers working away after school on a Friday. Now that is dedication.

We are sure you would agree the front of our school is looking lovely with lots more to come.



Thomas Mallon Memorial Cup

We are delighted and proud once again to be participating in the 5th Thomas Mallon Memorial Cup this coming Friday 27th May. Having been postponed these past two years, this is definitely a highlight in

our sporting calendar when our school team takes to the hallowed turf of Killeavy GAC to compete against Cloughogue and Killeavy Primary Schools in what promises to be feast of skilful and entertaining Gaelic football from our P6/7 gaels. St. Joseph's have won the cup on the last two occasions and will be looking to achieve the hattrick so there is absolutely no pressure whatsoever. As one of the team commented, "Pressure is for tyres." Who can argue with that? We welcome all support on the day.



New Outdoor Play Equipment

Our children are having great fun on the latest addition to our wonderful outdoor play environment. On a recent visit by a representative from Playboard NI to help us develop strategies to improve play, they commented highly on the variety of resources that were in place to engage our pupils in happy, fun playtimes.



Preparing for Change & Pupil Wellbeing

Primary 7 are participating in a 6 week programme entitled, 'Preparing for Change,' with local facilitator Joanne Callan each Thursday. Following an extremely positive meeting with P7 parents back in February and acting on their extremely positive feedback, the pupils are now three weeks into what is proving to be a fantastic transition programme.

Themes being covered are;

Changing Schools: Building Resilience and Growth Mindset at times of Change.

Changing Bodies: Understanding the changes that will take place physically, emotionally and mentally.

Changing Friendships: Building Health Relationships, Healthy Communication, understanding the power of our words and actions.



School Bags

SWIMMING

Our Primary 6 children are absolutely loving their weekly swimming lessons at Newry Swimming Pool.



Science Starz

Our classes welcomed Mary and Jackie from Science Starz to St Joseph's to lead some science workshops. The children from every class put on their lab coats and set about investigating! Great predicting, testing and concluding took place. The children loved these 'hands on' workshops. No doubt we have many future scientists in our midst!

In Primary 3 the children investigated floating and sinking during a pirate themed investigation. The **Primary 6** children worked collaboratively to make boats which could float and hold a cargo. 🚢

In Primary 1 the children made beautiful perfumes from flowers. 🌸

The **Primary 4** children made and tested rockets! 🚀

Primary 2 children turned their classroom into a Fizzy Fun Lab. 🧪

In **Primary 5** the children investigated how electricity could be created from a lemon 🍋. In the final workshop the Science Starz team worked with the **Primary 7** class to create catapults!

Thank you Ms Moley our World Around Us Coordinator for organising these two fully immersive, active, hands-on learning opportunities.

P4 – P7 parents PLEASE DO NOT BUY a SCHOOL BAG. One of the observations learned when implementing Covid mitigations was the usage of and need for school bags.

What we found was;

1. Children do not need to bring cumbersome school bags in and out each day.
2. Traditional School Bags take up lots of space which we simply do not have.
3. The satchels we already use for P1-P3 will also suffice for P4-P7 needs.
4. Up until now the cost has always been below £5 and we envisage it to be in and around that this year. This is a significant saving on traditional school bags.

In light of these findings, this upcoming year we are going to trial a different approach from P4 – P7. We are going to extend the use of the satchels we already use in P1 – P3 throughout the school with different colourings for each Key Stage. The school will purchase these satchels on parents' behalf for all pupils and in late August parents will pay for them via School Money app.

We will review this trial procedure at school year end and seek feedback at that stage from both parents and pupils.



Primary 7 Busy Times

Our Primary 7's are busy rehearsing behind closed doors for their end of year show. Apparently it has something to do with a family of pink coloured animals who have some accommodation issues. The show will be held on Thursday 23rd June at 7pm in the school assembly hall and P7 parents and family members will be welcome to attend.



Carlingford Activity Centre will be hosting our Primary 7 pupils for a two night residential on the 6th & 7th June. We are sure they will have an amazing time.



Having raised £670 at Christmas from their Primary Enterprise Business, the Primary 7s voted to spend some of their profit on bowling at the Sheepbridge on Monday 13th



June as a reward for all their hard work. Who says hard work doesn't pay off?

Leavers mass and last day for our Primary 7s will be on Friday morning 24th June at St. Joseph's Church. Time TBC.



This will be followed by an outdoor tea party back at the school (weather permitting) before they say their goodbyes.

Summer Scheme Places Still Available

The school is running its own Summer Scheme for our pupils this year for two weeks from Monday 4th July to Friday 15th July. Times are 9.30am - 1.30pm at a cost of £15 per day payable in advance. Contact the office for more details.



Sports Day

Sports Day for our children will be on Wednesday 15th June (weather permitting).



Children are asked to wear an item of sportswear/t-shirt/shorts/ depicting their 'School House Colours' as they will be competing both individually and as a 'House Team' as per previous years. *(More details will follow but there is absolutely no reason to buy anything new)* Unfortunately, we are not in a position to host parents at Sports Day again this year but all will be back to normal next year. Sorry!

MAY/JUNE BIRTHDAYS

May - M Taveras, J Fallon, H O'Hanlon, J McParland, C McConville, E O'Hare, G Byrne, H Martin, O Martin, J McAteer, L O'Hare, C O'Malley, J Rice, E Kieran, R Muckian, L Sutkus
June - D Bonner, J McEvoy (P1), C O'Hare, S Goodman, A McCoy, A O'Hare, A Tutlyte, J Donnan, H Kruk, J McArdle, E Toal, C Hollywood, J McEvoy (P5), M McNabb, E Toal, R McMahan, L McPolin Shanley, D Morgan

A BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

School Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher: Joanne Brennan

Deputy Designated Teacher: Lorraine Garvey

Principal: Gary Trainor



Dates for Your Diary

30 th May	School Closed all Week
6 th June	P7 Carlingford Residential
13 th June	P7 Sheepbridge Bowling
15 th June	SPORTS DAY
17 th June	Wear Green, Be Green Day
23 rd June	P7 Leavers' Show
24 th June	P7 Leavers' Mass
28 th June	Last Day for Breakfast & Afterschool Wraparound Care
30 th June	School finishes for summer Holidays at 11.30am