

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

December 2022



St. Joseph's P.S., 1 Seafin Rd., Meigh, BT358LA
www.stjosephspsmeigh.org Email: info@stjo.meigh.ni.sch.uk



Tel: 30848331



Christmas Greetings

Here we are entering the Christmas period already. It seems as if we are going at warp speed and September, October and November have gone by in a flash. Our staff have been very busy getting our whole school decorated and it is looking lovely and festive. Here are a few pictures:



On behalf of our Principal, Staff and Board of Governors we hope you have a peaceful, safe, and HAPPY CHRISTMAS

St Joseph's Primary School Tableau and Carol Service

The children at St Joseph's PS are proud to present to you our beautiful Tableau and Carol Service which will tell the Christmas Story of the Nativity through song and drama. Every class will participate in this festive re-enactment. This will take place in St Joseph's Church on Tuesday 20th December at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.



Primary 1 and 2 Christmas Plays

Primary 1 will perform their Christmas play 'I Spy Christmas' on Thursday 15th December in the school assembly hall @ 10am.

Primary 2 will perform their play 'Magical Journey Christmas' on Wednesday 14th December in the school assembly hall @ 10am. Parents and family members are invited to attend.

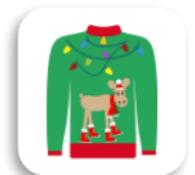
SVP Collection

As we begin our preparations for Christmas in school this year, we are mindful of our need to help others less fortunate in our community. This year the National SVP have requested that we fundraise to provide food vouchers and fuel vouchers to families instead of our usual food hampers. On Friday 9th December we are having a non-uniform/Christmas Jumper Day and are asking you to make a monetary contribution to SVP. Donations can be sent in the envelope attached to the SVP letter. From previous appeals, we know we can depend on the kind generosity of our whole school community to support this local charity.



Pupil Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day

One of the highlights of our school year is the children's Christmas dinner party. It will be held this coming Friday 9th December. All children are encouraged to wear their own clothes with a Christmas/festive jumper/hat etc. to add to this festive occasion. (Please do not buy anything new) If you haven't done so already, we ask that you book online (both paying and free school meals) via School Money to avoid disappointment.



Pupils will have an **EARLY FINISH** after Christmas dinner.

P1 – P4 collection 12.20 - 12.30pm
P5 – P7 collection 12.30 - 12.40pm

Advent

Advent marks the start of the Christian year. It is the four weeks before Christmas, beginning this year on November 27th. 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



Primary 7 Young Enterprise

On Thursday 15th December from 10am- 1pm our Primary 7 pupils along with Mr McVerry and Miss Niamh will be at the Quays Shopping Centre in Newry selling their crafts for Christmas. The Young Enterprise programme teaches the children how to set up and run a small business. Their classroom is like a scene from Santa's Workshop, but their hard work and effort will pay off. Make sure to call to the Quays and see them and you can purchase their beautiful crafts.



Newry Hospice

£200 was raised for Newry Hospice during our Halloween celebrations. Thank you so much for your kind donations.



Music

Our School Choir is up and going again and meets after school on a Thursday from 3-4pm. It was lovely to hear our School Choir perform at our recent mass in November. Thank you to Mrs Garvey, Miss Kearney, and Miss Niamh for your continuous hard work with our choir. The choir will resume in the New Year on Tuesday 17th January – Tuesday 28th January (6 weeks) from 3-4pm. We have made the decision to change afterschool choir to a Tuesday to facilitate Aileen's afterschool Gaelic session, which occur on Thursdays.

Primary 3 Assembly

The Primary 3 class recently performed in front of their parents a wonderful assembly called 'Go Fish'. The parents were amazed at the beautiful artwork and amazing performance by their children.

Well done Primary 3!



Firemen Visit Primary 5

Primary 5 recently had a visit from the local Fire Service. The Firemen gave an educational talk about Fire Safety and they received a wonderful pack from the Fire Service. They even had an opportunity to explore the fire engine and learned all about the safety equipment onboard. Some children even got to try on some of the safety equipment.

IN CASE OF FIRE



Anti-Bullying Week

This year's Theme was : Reach Out

Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But it doesn't have to be this way. If we challenge it, we can change it. And it starts by reaching out. Whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, let's reach out and show each other the support we need. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone you know is being bullied. Reach out and consider a new approach. And it doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a responsibility to help each other reach out. Together, let's be the change we want to see. Reflect on our own behaviour, set positive examples and create kinder communities. It takes courage, but it can change lives. So let's come together and reach out to stop bullying. All children completed various activities in class during anti-bullying week (14th-20th November 2022).



Child Safeguarding Team

Please be familiar with our Child Safeguarding Team.

Mrs Brennan – Designated Teacher

Ms S Moley– is our new Deputy Designated Teacher

Mr Trainor – Principal SG

Fr. Clyne – Chairperson Board of Governors

Mr D. Carbery – Designated Governor for SG

(Full Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy available on school website.)



Coding Club

Our very successful Coding Club came to an end after eight weeks of critical thinking and problem solving. Thank you to Glow Group who tutored the boys and girls and ignited their passion for coding.



Starting Primary School in September 2023

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 Day on Monday 9th January @ 1pm. 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

Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 12noon:

Applications open via online portal:

www.eani.org.uk. (Admissions)

Friday 27th January 2023 at noon Applications close.

Friday 28th April 2023

Parents receive notification of the outcome of their application via online portal.

Applications for Admission to Post-Primary School

Wednesday 1st February 2023:

Post-primary applications open at 12 noon via online portal www.eani.org.uk (Admissions)

Wednesday 23rd February 2023 Post-Primary applications close at 4 p.m.

Saturday 21st May 2023

Parents receive notification of the outcome of their application via online portal.

More information and support will be available in due course.

Wraparound Provision



8 - 9	Breakfast Club	£1.25
2 - 3	1,2,3 Club	£1.25
3 - 4	Homework & Activities	£2.25
4 - 5	Late Class & Activities (snack)	£3.25

Our Wraparound Club is going from strength to strength. As numbers have increased it is preferable and advisable to book in advance via School Money to avoid disappointment.

PLEASE NOTE – BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE WILL FINISH ON FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER to enable a deep clean of the room for re-opening safely in January. We are sorry if this causes any inconvenience for the last few days of term.

New Signage

We have a beautiful new sign which can be seen at the front of our school. This started last year when the children came up with ideas for this sign and with collaboration from one of our Primary 6 parents Dawn Walsh this sign came to fruition. We are all delighted with the finished piece.



Sensory Floor Markings

We recently got some new sensory floor markings. The children are loving exploring these and are constantly stopping and looking and playing with them. These will be a great addition to some children with sensory difficulties.



Newry Panto

All roads will lead to Newry Town Hall on Thursday 19th January for all pupils P1-P7. Showtime is 9.45am



sharp so all pupils will need to be in school by 8.50am on that day. Cost will be £7 per pupil which will include entrance and transport. "He's behind you!" "Oh No he isn't!" "Oh Yes he is!"

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

A very Happy Birthday to all our children who have their birthday during November and December.
NOV. Lily-Mae McArdle, Jamie Mongan, Caitlin Downey, Kieran Mongan, Eva McGowan, Rebecca Rice, Adam Carr, Jenna Kane, Jayden McCabe, Eoin MCGovern,
DEC. Tadhg Burns, Miceal Carr, Alfie & Polly McArdle, Kate McArdle, Lexie McCarthy, Holly McShane, Grace Dillon, Oisín O'Hanlon, Oliver Winters, Grace McArdle, Holly O'Hare, Lilly-Anna Crilly, Lily Dennison, Grace Kane, Hannah O'Hare, James Brady, Ava O'Hare, Molly Dennison, Paddy Keenan, Kayla Mallon, Oliver Quinn, Megan Downey,



Dates for Your Diary

Fri. 9th Dec - Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
EARLY CLOSURE P1-4 12.20 -12.30
P5-7 12.30 - 12.40

Fri. 9th Dec - Non-uniform & Christmas Jumper Day for SVP (Monetary donations please)

Fri. 16th Dec - Last day for Breakfast Club and After School Care (closes at 3pm)

Wed. 21st Dec - Early Closing @11:30am
Christmas Holidays (no dinners or after school wraparound)

Friday 6th Jan - Term 2 begins (There will be no breakfast club or Afterschool Care on this day)

Tuesday 17th January -Choir resumes for P4-P7 for 6 weeks from 3-4pm

Thursday 19th January - Wizard of Oz Pantomime in Newry Primary 1 -7(more details to follow).