

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

September 2021

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Dear Parents and pupils,

It is with great pleasure that I, the entire staff and Governors, welcome you and your child(ren) to St. Joseph's Primary School. We value your child and we will work so hard to ensure that your child's educational experience at St. Joseph's will indeed be a valuable and beneficial one preparing them for the future. Thank you for entrusting your child to us. We are very proud of all our children and look forward to this year with much excitement, hope and enthusiasm. Thank you for your support to date and we appreciate your continued patience, understanding and dedication as we embark on this year! The impact of Covid 19 has meant that we continue to have to make some adjustments at school however we continue to do our very best to ensure your child's safety at all times. We really appreciate your support, understanding and patience when we are directed by the Department of Education and the Public Health Agency to pass on their advice in the event of Covid Cases. Communication with each other therefore remains vital going forward so please keep in touch!


G. Trainor

School Closure



School will be closed this Friday 1st October for a Staff Development Day.

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 are increasing it is preferable and advisable to book in advance via School Money to avoid disappointment. If a child is booked in but then being collected beforehand, please make sure to let us know.

Parent Consultations

Final call for parent consultations to be completed. Big thank you to those received already. It is your opportunity to voice your opinions on our school and offer any suggestions that may help us improve our practice. Questionnaires are anonymous and all information received will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The link is <https://forms.office.com/r/HJcSyykHQ>

Nut Allergy/ Healthy Breaks



In the interests of Health & Safety we ask our parents/ carers/ pupils not to allow any break/ lunch items that may contain nuts.

We do have children in the school who have a nut allergy and as you may be aware if there are any foods with nuts at all, this may prove very serious for them. Therefore any food item which has a chocolate trace to it is unacceptable as there can often be nut traces contained therein.

Children should only bring a healthy break to school eg. Sandwich, pancake, cheese strings, fruit, yoghurt, plain biscuit etc. No crisps/chocolate bars allowed as we are a HealthyEating School. Snack should be minimal, simple and quick to eat as we want our pupils to enjoy ample play time.

We really appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

Once a Week - Take a Peek

- Reminder to all parents to tie long hair back every day in plaits or ponytails.
- Check once a week or at the weekend for signs of head lice.



Assemblies/Events

Unfortunately we are still unable to invite parents to class assemblies/events at the moment but as soon as it is safe to do so we certainly look forward to welcoming you all back.

Updating our School Records

As I am sure you will appreciate, it is vitally important that we hold accurate records, contact numbers and details of any health/medical issues about all our pupils in the event of an emergency. Thank you to those who have sent back the "Data Capture Form" to date. Even if there are no changes to be made please send the form back with a signature to verify.

Sometimes parents do not receive text messages and this can be because parents mobile numbers may have been changed. If your mobile phone number, address or any of your contact details have changed please let us know immediately.

Administration of Medicine

If your child has specific needs e.g., reading glasses, inhalers etc., please inform the class teacher. The school will only hold and administer medication for children with very specific medical needs e.g. Auto-Injector Pens for those at risk from anaphylaxis, inhalers for asthma and hypo kits for diabetes. Over the counter medication/throat lozenges etc. **will not** be administered. Only up to date prescriptions with name and dosage on the label will be accommodated in school following an induction procedure involving written permission. Contact office for details.

Please ensure asthma inhalers are sent into school to be kept in child's classroom.



Halloween Disco

Our annual Fancy Dress will be held on Tuesday 26th October. Pupils may bring in treats for class and skelebrations. A donation of £2 is kindly requested for Head Injury Support (Newry Branch).



After School Clubs Term 1

In addition to our Wraparound Clubs, Burns Skills School have begun their after school sports programme for P1-P7. Soccer is on a Monday and Hip-Hop Dance is on a Thursday. Both are running for nine weeks. Pupils attending to wear their PE uniform.

We are delighted to be able to offer a STEM Coding Club this term for P4 - P7 pupils. A local provider (Glow Group) are facilitating the 8 week programme which are fully immersive and engaging with lots of problem solving.



School Dinners

Children may bring their own lunch or they may have a school dinner prepared by our expert kitchen staff.

The cost of school dinner this year will be £ 2.60 per day. For any child who is entitled to Free School Meals ... parents should apply to the Education Authority (EA), Armagh. Phone 02837512200. If you haven't applied or your



application has not yet been processed please ring EA immediately.

The Education Authority has advised us that it should be noted that if you have not applied for Free School Meals yet the application if approved will NOT be backdated. If your child's application has not been approved yet parents can either send a packed lunch or alternatively pay for school dinner until the application has been approved

School Lunches

As mentioned earlier we are a "Healthy Eating School" and in keeping with our Food in Schools Policy we would ask you to provide a healthy break for your child and a healthy lunchbox.

Friday is the **only** day designated for a small treat (crisps, small bar) and **only** for children who take a packed lunch on this day. Children taking diners get a small treat in the form of cookies/ice-cream as part of their nutritionally balanced meal.



School Council 21-22

Here is our wonderful School Council for 2021/22.

Each pupil from P4-P7 is a member of their class council and they have regular opportunities to raise issues with their elected representatives to bring at whole school council level. This year they will be deliberating/instigating canteen & playground codes of conduct and our school house system. A busy year ahead.



School Rules and Guides to making school life a happy experience for everyone!

Our whole school Code of Conduct consists of the following principles:

- We are gentle. We Don't Hurt Others
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen. We Don't Interrupt.
- We are honest. We Tell the Truth.
- We work hard. We Don't Waste or Own or Other People's Time
- We look after property. We Don't Waste or Damage Things.



Music

Thankfully we are able to re-introduce music back into our curriculum under the direction of our music coordinator Mrs

Garvey. The school has purchased a highly recommended digital music scheme called Charanga and all classes will be using this to enhance class based music lessons.

The school have also continued in partnership with EA Music Service and are privileged to have Mr B. Murphy as our tutor once again. He will be tutoring P4&5 in learning the recorder; P6 using i-pad technology and new for this year is 'Garageband' with P7 where the whole class have been given individual clarinets to practice on. Mrs Garvey will once again take whole school singing with P4-P7 and Miss Niamh will be teaching tin whistle to P6/7 pupils.

We have decided not to participate in Peace Proms this year with the focus being music within school this year but rest assured we will return in the near future.

Spanish

Ola! Buenos Dias. Coma esta!

Delighted to have Miss Patricia return for Spanish lessons every Thursday. The children absolutely love her lively and enthusiastic

approach which makes learning Spanish fun and engaging for all. If you haven't done so already please go to School Money to make payment for the year. It actually only amounts to approx. 40p per week. Many thanks.



Primary 4 & 7 Sacraments



First Communion for P4 pupils will be Saturday 14th May 2022 at 11am in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh. Hopefully by that stage we will be able to once again host our tea party back in the school.

Confirmation for P7 pupils will be Saturday 2nd April (Time TBC) in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh. It will be officiated by Bishop Michael Router and we are very much looking forward to welcoming him to our part of the parish.



Child Safeguarding Team



Please be familiar with our Child Safeguarding Team.

Mrs Brennan – Designated Teacher for SG

Mrs Garvey – Deputy Designated Teacher for SG

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.)

All staff in our school received their bi-annual safeguarding training in August. We held our pastoral care assembly last week and all children were acquainted with procedures for seeking help with any concerns or worries they may have. Maybe you could ask them/help them to remember who could be on their Helping Hand should they want to talk to somebody.



Time is running out for Mulkearns EuroSpar Cash for Schools promotion
Here's how it works...

- ✓ Spend £40 or more In Store
 - ✓ Get a 'Voting' Voucher from Cashier
 - ✓ Vote for Your chosen school in our Voting Boxes
- Get Voting Folks

Complaints Policy and Procedures

We welcome comments, suggestions and compliments at any time! You can also contact the Principal or Senior Member of staff by phoning the school and making a socially distanced appointment at any time. You may also email the principal at the email address above

Thank you!

Back to School Prayer

Dear Lord

Please put a hand of protection this school year on all the children, teachers, staff and parents. Watch over them, protect them, love them. We thank You for all that you do.

Amen

A prayer that we say at every assembly is our prayer to our guardian angel. Maybe this could be said at home, especially with our younger children.

O Angel of God,
My guardian dear.
To whom God's love,
Entrusts me here.
Ever this day,
Be at my side.
To light to guard,
To rule and guide.

Amen



Coronavirus Advice

People are talking about Coronavirus because it is a new type of flu.

Just like with other colds and flu, it is important to look after ourselves and keep healthy

Children and adults are very good at fighting flu

Just like all colds and flus, it can be harder for older people or people with illnesses to stay healthy from the flu

I can stay healthy by:

Washing my hands in soap;



After preparing food

After sneezing or blowing your nose

Before eating

After using the bathroom

After playtime



I can keep others healthy by:



- ✓ Coughing and sneezing into my elbow
- ✓ Putting used tissues in the bin
- ✓ Staying at home if I feel sick



- Just like all colds and flu it will go away, we have to be patient and safe until it goes away.
- I do not need to worry as adults will look after me
- If I am unsure about anything I can talk to my parents and teachers.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

A very Happy Birthday to all our children who have their birthday during September. Birthday buns for everyone are on their way tomorrow.

Ethan Corless Alex Daly Grace Matthews
Oisín O'Hare Ava Brady Kieran Downey
Laura Garvey Jennifer Murphy Ella-Mae Henning
Dylan Maguire Conan McDonagh
Sophie McGuigan Emilija Bogdanova
Daniel Loughran Quinn Walsh Blake Price
Anna-Rose Johnston Conor Hanlon
Abbie Hanratty Katie-Lee O'Hare



Dates for Your Diary

Fri. 1st October - School Closed (SDD)

Tues. 26th October - Halloween Fancy Dress Disco

Wed. 27th October - Friday 29th October - Mid Term Break

Wed. 22nd December - Early Closing @11:45am Christmas Holidays (no dinners or after school wraparound)

Thur. 6th January - Term 2 begins