

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

October/November 2021

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



Charity Donations

Due to the kind generosity of our families, we raised £300 from our Halloween Disco and Fancy Dress Parade which will be donated to Head Injury Support, Newry. Thank you very much to all who donated.

Pupil Leadership Team 2021

Following an application and interview process the following pupils have been successful in attaining the positions of Head Girl/Boy; Deputy Head Girls/Boys and Shining Lights within our school Pupil Leadership Team. These pupils will assist in a variety of activities and events throughout the school year. We also give huge respect to the many other P7 pupils who put themselves forward. This experience will stand by them and they can be justifiably proud of themselves. Congratulations to them all.

Halloween Fun



So much fun was had by pupils and staff at our Halloween Fancy Dress Parade and Monster Mash Disco. Thank you to parent Duane Keiran for organising the music and lighting. Many more pictures can be viewed on our Facebook page and website. www.stjosephspsmeigh.org

Primary 1 Admissions

Do you or anyone you know have a child who is ready to start Primary 1 in September 2022 and would very much like to join our family here at St. Joseph's? Normally we would have Open Afternoons in November/ December but due to the present COVID 19 Restrictions we have to make slight adjustments. If anyone would like to have a tour of the school and a talk with the Principal about the arrangements for starting school in September 2022, we will arrange a SOCIALLY DISTANCED APPOINTMENT and TOUR for you! To arrange this please email Mr G. Trainor (Principal) at his email address gtrainor426@c2kni.net and this can be arranged. A School Prospectus link will also be sent via text to all our current parents to let you know more about our lovely school (so spread the word!!)

We have a Welcome Video on our website which you can watch to learn a little more about our Primary School. Link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZQTr80XxLs&t=316s>





COVID & Attendance

Communication between home and school has never been more important than it is now. If your child is sick or has COVID 19 Symptoms or if someone in the family has symptoms or has tested positive....PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY and keep your child at home for the correct isolation period as guided by Medical Staff.

If your child has Covid Symptoms **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.**

Keep them at home and seek to get a PCR COVID TEST. Note that there is a difference between a PCR Test and a Lateral Flow Test . A Lateral Flow Test is only an INDICATOR of possible Covid 19 and if a lateral flow test is positive you are asked to then go book and take a PCR test. The Public Health Agency only deals with PCR Test results. Please keep the school informed at all times as we can record a child's absence with the correct code when we know what is happening.

If someone in the household has tested positive the guidance is that everyone else in the house can go about their daily business even though it is statistically and factually correct to say most transmission occurs within a household. We are finding in our school that children who attend school after being a close contact to a positive case either at home or in school are testing positive anywhere from 5-10 days later. It is true in our school to date that children who have tested positive do not experience severe symptoms (if any) however it is not true to say they do not transmit the virus to other children or adults. To that end, and for reasons of trying to protect our whole school community and beyond – if there are positive cases within your household we ask you to be mindful, thoughtful and considerate before sending children to school. If in any doubt do not hesitate to contact the Principal, Mr Trainor by phoning the school or via e-mail @gtrainor426@c2kni.net.

Your understanding, patience and support is greatly appreciated regarding this delicate and sensitive matter.

Parent Events in School

We have had some queries regarding school events and parental attendance. Unfortunately, at this time we are not in a position to welcome large numbers of people outside of our bubbles into our school. Once safe to do so, we gladly look forward to the day when parents and family members can once again return inside.

Parent Survey

Thank you so, so much for the tremendous response to our parent survey for our School Development Plan 2021/24. The information you have provided gives us great parental insight into how you perceive



we are doing and areas we can strengthen or develop. For this we are very grateful as working in partnership with you

is how we as a school seek to evolve for the benefit of our pupils now and in the future. We always welcome your ideas and suggestions so please do get in touch. Below is a link to the survey summary which will also be available on our school website under the Parents tab.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqMoGCCnwxJ5JpV7D3Tthe5ZUN1ZOVE5GVTRGNENXMU1HU1I2Q09aNTIVVS4u&AnalyzerToken=XVA73CpFmt4fcDivL2DRwRvT9cONKND8>

After School Clubs



The participants at Coding Club with Christopher on Tuesday afternoons are learning so many new skills and having fun at the same time.

Soccer and Hip Hop with Burns Skills School providers have a few more weeks to run yet but we are already looking for activities for term 2. Below is a list of what they can offer. We will send out a survey link to gage opinion shortly.

Soccer/Football
Gaelic Football
Dance (Hip Hop)
Gymnastics (Selected Areas)
Hockey
Basketball
Tag Rugby
Snag Golf
Multi-Sport

Some of our parent survey responses mentioned introducing an Irish language speaking class a traditional music class or Irish dancing class. If you or someone you knew is interested in introducing any of the above or indeed any other club to our school community, please contact Mr Trainor to discuss.



Film Club

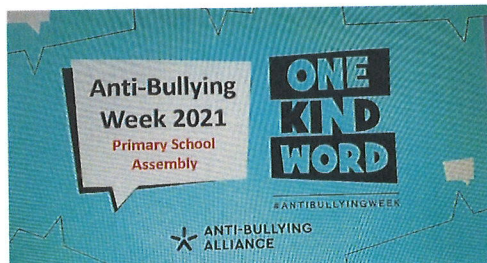


Mr Shields and quite a few of his P7 class began their Film Club Experience in partnership with INTO Film NI on Monday evening by watching this animated movie all about the Book of Kells. They will undertake the role of film critics and submit reviews for each movie they watch developing their digital literacy skills, opinions, observations and much more besides.

Flu Vaccinations

The School Nursing Team will be in school on Friday 26th November to administer Flu droplets to those children whose parents/carers indicated this on return of form.

Anti-Bullying Week 15th - 19th November



The theme this year is "ONE KIND WORD".

Ask if someone's OK. Say you're sorry. Just say hey. In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying. Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. So, from the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, together, our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. It starts with one kind word. It starts today.

Please see below a link to a video that you can watch with your child to promote this theme.

<https://youtu.be/oJQg2JyQ3mM>

All children will complete various activities in school linked to this theme for Anti Bullying week.

Roots of Empathy

As part of our Roots of Empathy programme which runs in our Primary 4 classes a baby or 'Tiny Teacher' visits our class, with his/ her parent, once a month during the school year for around 30 minutes. The children observe how the baby grows, develops and the bond between baby and parent. It is an exciting programme for the children and the Roots of Empathy Family. We are delighted to announce that this year's baby teacher and new addition to our staff is Miss Croía Fearon, sister of our pupils Senan and Roise.



Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie

Prayer of the Month November

*During November we remember and pray for the dead.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetually shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Amen



Pupils can bring in memoriam cards of deceased family members and friends which will be lovingly displayed in our foyer. Our classes will pray for all those whom we fondly remember throughout the month of November. Memoriam cards will be carefully looked after and returned afterwards.

Online Digital Learning Platforms

When choosing online digital learning platforms we do so on sound research based on the educational benefits to our children. Accelerated Reader (P4-P7), Mathletics (P1-P7) and Purple Mash (P1-P7) cost a significant amount for pupil subscriptions all of which the school pays for. They are for in-school use and home learning. Please ensure your children are completing teacher tasks when set and possibly some independent activities to improve literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.

Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner - £ 1000

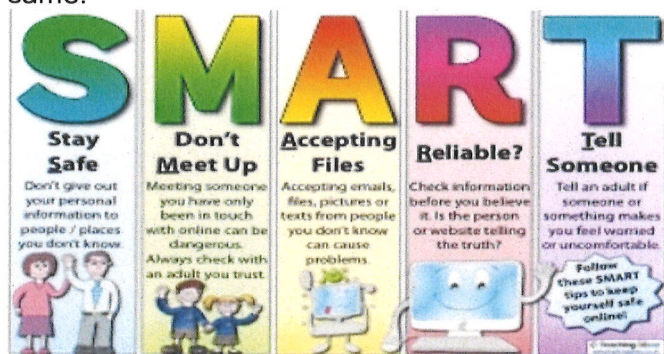


Woohoo!!! We were absolutely delighted to get a phone call from Kelly at Mulkeys EuroSpar informing us that in their recent Cash for Schools initiative St. Joseph's P.S., Meigh secured the top prize of £1000. While we are the recipients of this fantastic amount this is all thanks to each and every customer of Mulkeys who spent over £40 in their stores and who placed their receipt in our school designated box. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Every penny will be spent on resources to enhance the educational opportunities of all our wonderful pupils. Thank you everyone at Mulkeys who go the extra mile for the whole community. Remember to Shop Local at Mulkeys.



E-Safety

As a school we promote and use ICT technology on a daily basis for all the obvious positive benefits it adds to teaching and learning. E-safety is a key part of our digital and pastoral care curriculum and pupils are taught in an age appropriate way how to stay safe online. One of the ways we do this is by constantly reinforcing the SMART rules and we would encourage parents and carers to do the same.



Technology is ever changing and it is hard to keep up to date with all these new social media apps, games and online threats to our children and young peoples' safety.

As a school we have recently teamed up with Knowsley City Learning Centre who will provide us with a monthly E-Safety newsletter to keep us adults informed about online safety with a focus on new and emerging issues. These newsletters will



be placed on our website as well as being text/emailed to you monthly. We are sure you will find them very useful and hugely informative.

Christmas Dinner Heads Up - It's Never Too Early

One of the
our school
pupil



highlights of
year is our
Christmas

dinner. This is a non-uniform day and pupils are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper and hat (if they have one) or something festive.



Early Closure

School will close for P1-P4 pupils at 12.45pm and P5-P7 pupils at 1pm on Friday 3rd December following Christmas Dinner. Breakfast Club will operate as normal but there will be **NO AFTER SCHOOLS WRAPAROUND CARE AVAILABLE** on this date or on FRIDAY 10th December.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



A very Happy Birthday to all our children who had their birthdays in October

Donnacha O'Hare, Caoimhe Coburn, James Larkin, Conor Winters, Joseph Kelly, Oisin Morgan, Seamus Carville, Lilly Keiran, Heidi Yeates, Cara Armstrong, Cara Jackson, Oliver Jackson, Chloe Carr, Megan Carr, Cara McCaffrey, Katie Hannaway, Jack McDonnell, Pdraig McParland, Noah Madigan, Pollyanna Yeates

Dates for Your Diary

Fri. 3rd Dec. - Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day - **EARLY CLOSING @ 12.45pm (P1-P4) & 1pm (P5-P7)**

Fri. 10th Dec - NO Wraparound 2pm-5pm

Wed. 22nd Dec. - **EARLY CLOSING @11:45am**
Christmas Holidays (no dinners or after school wraparound)

Thur. 6th January - Term 2 begins