



ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

May/June 2025



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



Tel: 30848331



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 2025

Our Primary 4 pupils received the Sacrament of The Eucharist on Saturday 10th May. It was a wonderful day and all of the children looked fantastic. Thank you to Ms Maginnis, Miss Warner, Miss Fiona and Fr. Clyne, for preparing our children for this special Sacrament and thank you to Mrs Garvey, Mr Murphy, Miss Niamh, the choir and instrumentalists 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 22nd June to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi.



Party Time for First Communicants



What a great school community we have. Our generous Primary 3 parents provided a multitude of treats to be enjoyed back in the school after the communion mass. Our hall was looking spectacular thanks to all our staff. A special thanks to Mrs Ciara McArdle, Mrs Bronagh McArdle and Mrs Amanda Reel our parent volunteers, who ensured all went super smooth. And as always we are indebted to Mary Connolly for being the link that pulls everything together.

School Holiday Closure

School will be closed from Friday 23rd May to Tuesday 27th May inclusive for a mixture of school and public holidays. School will re-open on Wednesday 28th May.



New PE Uniform

We are delighted to showcase to you our agreed new school PE uniform. A letter will follow very soon outlining details for sizing, ordering and delivery. A point to note is that this year will be a transition year. If families have current PE items in good wearable condition then that will be totally acceptable.



Sponsored Walk



Our annual Sponsored Walk will take place on Friday 6th June. We will begin the walk at approx. 9.40am. The walk will follow the route along Seafin Road with the older pupils walking to the crossroads with Seaver's Road.

This is one of our major fundraisers during the school year and every penny raised will be greatly appreciated and put to optimum use to purchase resources for all our children.

Children wear their PE/Summer Uniform on that day.

This is always one of our highlights of the year and family members are welcome to come along and participate.

One sponsor card per family will be allocated closer to the time.

Thank you in advance for your kind support and generosity.

Sports Day



Sports Day for our children will be on Thursday 12th 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)*

P2&P4 parent, Marcus Winters (Fiships) has kindly agreed once again to man the BBQ station. As in previous years, we will be kindly asking P1, 2, 4, 5 & 6 parents for donations to our cake stall which is always a popular attraction. Let's hope the current good weather stays with us until then.

Parent Survey

As part of our School Development Planning process for the next three years, we will once again be asking parents to complete a digital survey over the next few weeks to give us their opinions, thoughts, suggestions and evaluation of all the many components that make up the life



of our school here at St. Joseph's. We would encourage every household to use their parent voice to participate in this survey as it is very important for us to gather a Big Picture from our whole school community including governors, staff, pupils and parents. Mr Trainor is forever saying, 'Nothing changes if nothing changes.'

School Councillor

Thankfully our school has once again received notification of Extended School funding for 2025/26. While it is never enough to provide all that we would desire to implement, it is never the less very welcome. One of the key services that this funding enables us to provide is a school councillor for 1 hour a week. We have one of the best in Edel Quinn. You can contact Mrs Brennan at any stage to discuss availing of this much needed provision.

Gardening

We are sure you would agree that our school grounds are in immaculate condition. This is partly down to Mary Connolly who gives of her time and expertise to ensure that our entrance area is always looking its best. Here she is passing on her knowledge to some of our green fingered P6 pupils.



Summer Uniform



The good weather has arrived and hopefully is here to stay. Children are allowed to wear navy and white summer dresses or navy shorts with white poloshirt if they wish. Be mindful of suncare and please apply sun cream/sun hats to your child during these times.

Primary 3 – 7 GL Assessments

We will be carrying out our end of year digital assessments, Progress Tests in English (PTE) & Progress Tests in Maths (PTM) over the next few weeks beginning. It is very important that all children are in attendance as these assessments are primarily used to;

- Highlight strengths and gaps in core subjects of Literacy & Numeracy

- Reveal barriers to learning
- Identify and support children with additional educational needs
- Provide evidence of progress
- Deliver evidence of whole school improvement
- Directly inform teaching strategies
- Benchmark and target set

Thomas Mallon Memorial Cup

We are delighted and proud once again to be participating in the Thomas Mallon Memorial Cup on Friday 30th May. This is a highlight in our sporting calendar when our school team takes to the hallowed turf of Killeavy GAC to compete against Cloughogue and Killean Primary Schools in what promises to be feast of skilful and entertaining Gaelic football from our P6/7 gael. We welcome all support on the day.



Other Upcoming Tournaments

St. Colman's P5/6 Boys on Thursday 29th May

Bridie O'Rourke Memorial Tournament for P6/7 Boys & Girls at Dromintee on Friday 13th June.

New Outdoor Learning Equipment

One cannot overestimate the value in learning outdoors. Over the past few months we have been developing our Foundation Stage area with new resources that allow for investigation and critical thinking in relation to water, construction and sand play. Thank you to Stephen Blair and Keggall Construction for providing our lovely new bollards and the promise of more construction equipment.



Summer Scheme

The school is anticipating running its own Summer Scheme for our pupils again this year for two weeks from Monday 30th June to Friday 11th July. Times are 9.00am – 2.00pm at a cost of £15 per day payable in advance. This has proved quite popular in the past which might have something to do with it's wonderful facilitator, Miss Patrice. A letter of interest will be sent soon to see if uptake and numbers will make it viable.



Preparing for Change & Pupil Wellbeing

Primary 7 are participating in a 4 week programme entitled, 'Preparing for Change,' with local facilitator Joanne Callan each Thursday. Yet again it is proving to be a fantastic transition programme as our children prepare to leave primary school. 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.

Newry Musical/Poetry Feis

We are very proud of all our pupils who participated at the Newry Musical Feis recently. Classes from P4 - P6 performed in the recorder competition while our P7 pupils performed in the band section. P4 & P5 both came out winners, with P6 gaining a 3rd place and our P7's narrowly pipped into 2nd.

While standing on stage as part of a group would be daunting enough for many, we had lots of pupils from P1 - P7 who took on the challenge of entering the Poetry Feis and going it solo. This is a fantastic measure of courage and confidence to undertake public recitation; Each and every one of our pupils were brilliant!



(Some pupils absent for photo)

Special Commendation



This young P7 pupil only joined our school during P5 having come from South Africa. His first language is Afrikaans, but not to be deterred, Wade Sanson entered the poetry feis with positivity and enthusiasm. The adjudicator was so impressed that Wade got a 'call back' to a special Friday evening award ceremony where he was presented with a 'Most Promising' trophy. This young boy's willingness to get involved in every aspect of school life can only be admired. He really does 'Let his Light Shine.'

Line Dancing Success



Most of us have two left feet when it comes to dancing but this very talented young man, Alex Daly (P4) could teach us many a good line dancing step having been very successful in a recent competition in Belfast. Alex came first in both his individual and pro-am competition.

Primary 7 Busy Times

Our Primary 7's are busy rehearsing for their end of year show called, 'Do You Remember' which will take us on a trip down memory lane.

The show will be held on Tuesday 17th 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 day, one night residential on the 2nd & 3rd June. We are sure they will have an amazing time.



Leavers mass and last day for our Primary 7's will be on Friday morning 20th 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 last goodbyes.

New P1 Intake Stay & Play

While we might be bidding a fond farewell to our P7 Leaver's we are excited to be welcoming our new P1 intake for a Stay & Play on Tuesday 17th June at 1.30pm. This year was an exceptional year for P1 applications with 39 first place applications for 30 places. This was a tremendous vote of recognition for our school as we continue to go from strength to strength in what we offer in terms of educational excellence and pastoral care.

Dates for Your Diary

23 rd May	Staff Development Day
26 th May	Late May Bank Holiday
27 th May	Staff Development Day
2 nd June	P7 Carlingford Residential
6 th June	Sponsored Walk
12 th June	SPORTS DAY
17 th June	P7 Leavers' Show
20 th June	P7 Leavers' Mass
24 th June	Last Day for Breakfast & Afterschool Wraparound Care
27 th June	School finishes for summer Holidays at 11.00am

School Holidays 2025-2026

Month	Proposed Pupil Holidays (Inclusive Dates)
September 2025	Staff Development Day Monday 29 th September
October 2025	Autumn Mid-Term Mon 27 th October – Fri 31 st October (1 week)
December 2025	Christmas Holidays Mon 22 nd December – Fri 2 nd January (2 weeks)
January 2026	Parent/Teacher Consultations Fri 30 th January
February 2026	Spring Mid-Term Mon 9 th Feb – Fri 13 th Feb (1 week)
March 2026	St Patrick's Day Tues 17 th Mar
April 2026	Easter Holidays Fri 3 rd Apr – Fri 10 th April
May 2026	Mon 4 th May Fri 22 nd May – Tues 26 th May
End of Year	FRIDAY 26th JUNE 2026

Early finish at 11am for pupils on Friday 19th December 2025; Thursday 2nd April 2026 & Friday 26th June 2026

Primary 2 – Primary 7 pupils will start back to school on Friday 29th August from 9.05am – 12.00noon.

Parents/Guardians can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time.