



St. Joseph's Primary School
42 Castle Street
Lisburn
BT274XE

'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 16th October

No. 9

Dear Parents,

We've made it to mid-term and the children have accomplished so much. While we are disappointed to close a week early, we should focus on the positive manner in which they have returned to school. Friendships renewed, good habits recalibrated and a thirst for learning reinvigorated!

First Holy Communion

The last two Saturdays saw our wonderful Primary 5 pupils make their First Holy Communion. Many parents didn't know quite what to expect and nor did we, but the services turned out to be beautiful and intimate celebrations of the sacrament. One mummy described it as akin to baptism, where the parents presented their child at the altar but they were now able to take their own steps.

I wish to extend our thanks to Louis McVeigh who provided the wonderful music on both occasions.

Fr McCaughan played a special role throughout; working alongside staff, visiting the children and delivering two beautiful services. We wish to sincerely thank him for his continued friendship and guidance.

Flu vaccine

With school closed next week, the flu vaccination programme has obviously been cancelled. We have been in contact with the School Nurse service but they haven't been able to provide an alternative date at this stage. With the help of some parents, we are exploring other means of facilitating this programme as a matter of urgency. We will keep you updated on any progress in this regard.

Engage Programme

The Department of Education has recently launched a programme of support called Engage, which will allow us to employ a qualified teacher to provide support for literacy and numeracy from P3-P6. Further details of this programme will follow as soon as we identify key areas to target.

The teacher undertaking this exciting project is Mrs Clíodhna Craig.

Free Dinners

We are aware that some families may be eligible for free school meals but perhaps haven't applied yet. The link is provided below if you feel that you are in this eligible group.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

8 Weekly Assessments

We have now completed our 8 weekly assessment. Feedback on these will now be provided in the week we return (2nd November). Assessments will be sent home to be signed along with a teacher feedback cover page highlighting areas of strength and areas for improvement.

Next week was due to be our Refresher Week. Teachers will be sending revision ideas home as already stated in Wednesday's letter.

PTA Christmas Card Fundraiser:

Christmas Card design templates were sent home with each child this week. Completed designs should be returned to your child's teacher by Monday 2nd November, after the Halloween holidays.

Accessing the My School Website:

Some pupils are having difficulties accessing the C2k My School website (www.c2kschools.net) on a mobile device or when using Google Chrome. This is due to an issue with security settings. If the message **'Your Connection is not fully secure'** appears, click on the **'Advanced'** button and then on the next screen click, **'Proceed to**



**Shared
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www.c2kschools.net'. This will bring up the My School login box. Pupils can then enter their C2k username and password. This process may need to be completed 2 or 3 times. C2k are currently working on the issue. The My School website is used to access Google Classroom and the C2k NewsDesk.

Charlie's Garden

As you have seen, Charlie's Garden is progressing...there are still a few more treats in store for it and we hope they will be in place soon. Thank you so much to a Primary 7 parent who made a very kind donation to the school this week. We have used it to go towards Charlie's Garden. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

The week in review

Another hugely busy week in St. Joseph's.

Our Primary 7s had a very enjoyable outing to the Linen Museum for a Victorian themed morning. The staff there were fantastic and the children had a brilliant time.

Our Primary 1 classes had a really enjoyable nature walk at Castle Gardens during the week, where we spotted squirrels and autumn leaves and lots more. We didn't see the Gruffalo on this occasion so I think we'll have to go back soon!!

All of our classes really enjoyed taking part in Maths Week. There was tremendous creativity on show and we loved some of the Maths Eyes photos from home.

Mid-term break

As we approach mid-term, I would like to pay tribute to every member of staff who has helped St. Joseph's to reopen, to stay open and to provide a safe and happy environment for every child.

Thank you.

All at St Joseph's wish you a restful mid-term. We dearly hope to see everyone back on the 2nd November. In the meantime, take care, follow the guidelines and stay safe.

Barry McMahon
Acting Principal

'Even if the hopes you started out with are dashed, hope has to be maintained.'
Seamus Heaney



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