



*'Being the best that we can be'*

**Friday Note**

**Friday 22nd January**

**No. 19**

Dear Parents,

This week we received a Spirit of Catholic Education Award from the Diocese. This has given us great pleasure as it recognises the role our staff, our pupils and our parents play in creating and developing an ethos of welcome and care even in the most difficult of circumstances.

**P1 admissions**

There is now one week left to register your child for nursery or P1. The EA admissions portal will close on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

The registration portal for registering your child for nursery or primary school is now open on the EA website – <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>

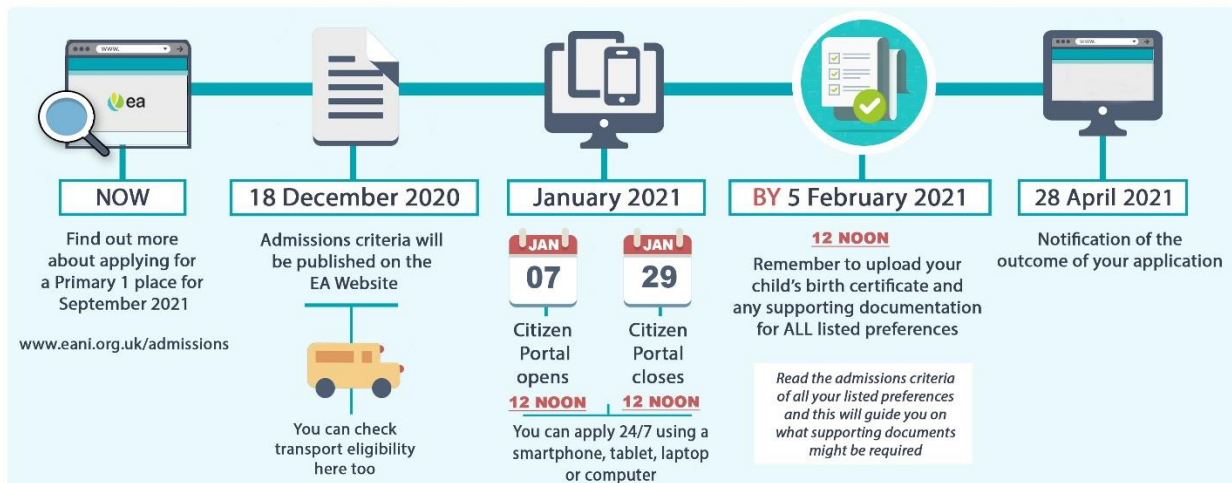
All information and links can also be found on our website - <https://www.stjosephsschool.org/p1/>



**KEY DATES FOR PARENTS : Admissions Process for Primary One Places 2021**

Children born on or between 2 July 2016 and 1 July 2017 will have reached compulsory school age in September 2021

Children born on or between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 can apply for a place in a reception class



The following link will also talk you through the process.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

**Key worker provision**

I make no apologies for appealing and repeating the message, stay at home to stay safe.

**If an adult is available at home, children should not be in school.**

**Reporting to Parents in P1 – P6**

This term our annual reporting to parents will go ahead, albeit in a very different format to previous years. Teachers will report on pupil progress in Primary 1 to Primary 6 by telephone this year. These telephone meetings will take place on **Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 February**. Your child's teacher will provide you with a time for the telephone call by See Saw in the coming week. This telephone meeting is designed to give you verbal feedback on your child's progress in



**Shared Education**

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Literacy and Numeracy in the first term. Teachers will also have a brief chat with you about your child's remote learning experience so far. These meetings can only last 10 minutes so please be considerate of this timeframe when speaking to the teacher. If you have children in different year groups, your telephone meetings may be at different times and different days. While teachers are reporting to parents on Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 February, remote learning work will be set, however teachers will be unable to respond or provide feedback on these days. Normal remote learning procedures will resume on Wednesday 10 February. If you have any further queries, please contact Mrs Fleming.

\*\*Please note, Primary 7 parents have already had their verbal report meeting in the first term.

### Eco Schools

Mrs O'Hare and Mrs Hunter have been working on a shared Google Classroom for the 'Eco Council' this link will appear on their Google Drive. If your child is a member of the Eco Council tell them to look out for this link next week. There will be the opportunity to look back on what we have done in term one and to discuss and share ideas for the term ahead. Our topic this term is 'Litter' so this is something we can work on at home and in our local area. In term 3, we will focus on 'Outdoor Learning'. Look out for our new Eco Flag flying high beside Cool Kids. In the next couple of weeks Harmony Hill Eco Team will be joining our group discussions and sharing ideas.

### Performer of the Week

Our performance this week is by Ruby Lavery from Mrs O'Hare's class. Ruby is playing 'A Walk by the Sea' on the flute and is working towards her Grade 3. Her performance can be viewed on our website. Ruby's teacher is Martha Grant here in school. Thank you, Ruby.

### Engage Programme– DENI initiative continues

In term 1, DENI announced a financial package to support pupils on their return to school. In St Joseph's, Mrs Cliodhna Craig had been running this programme and it was proving very successful. The current lockdown has caused a rethink about how we can continue to provide literacy and numeracy support. As such, Mrs Craig is in the process of creating teaching videos which can be shared with P3-P6 pupils. Teachers will share relevant Engage videos on a weekly basis and we hope that you find these useful.

### Help Kids Talk

Help Kids Talk is a local initiative aiming to raise awareness of speech, language and communication for everyone who has any responsibility for a child.

They are providing a webinar for anyone who might be interested. The webinar is suitable for parents and staff.

*'We offer both afternoon and evening sessions so that people can choose to join us at a time that is convenient for them. In the webinar, we discuss infant mental health and brain development and some top tips for supporting language and communication skills in children aged 0-6 years.'*

To see the available dates and register click on this link <https://view.pagetiger.com/basic-awareness-webinar-training-dates/basic-awareness-training-dates>

### The Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2021

This week the school received recognition from Down and Connor Schools' Support Service in promoting and developing Catholic Ethos and Values. This reflects so well on the efforts we have all made as a school community in the face of this pandemic and challenges it has brought.

Thank you to Miss Clarke for her efforts in submitting our self-reflection document.

### Catholic Schools Week

Next week is Catholic Schools Week and if we were in school, we would be carrying out various activities, exploring our faith and celebrating our Catholic ethos. This year it will be slightly different and as part of this special week, teachers will send the children some activities via Seesaw and Google Classroom.



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We will celebrate **Grandparents Day** on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

We have also been invited to attend a special Mass on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 12:00**. Fr Edward McGee will celebrate this Mass with a particular focus on Catholic Schools as Communities of Faith, Learning, Love, Resilience and Hope. Here is the link;

<https://churchmedia.tv/camera/st-marys-university>

### Message from Lisburn Foodbank

Hi all,  
I hope you are keeping well amongst the new restrictions.  
We just want to remind you that the Foodbank is still open and able to support your families. Our criteria is very simple, anyone who is struggling to make ends meet financially can contact us and get a food parcel.  
Our opening hours are 11am - 1pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday but they can phone any morning between 930am - 12pm to speak to one of our team and ask for support. We are fortunate to also have been offered some fresh fruit & veg and potentially even some fresh meat over the current lockdown period to ensure families are able to get access to healthy meal choices especially with the kids being home (this is limited to end of March).  
Please feel free to put our details in your weekly newsletters or on your social media pages so families know how to access a food parcel.  
Foodbank contact details:  
Phone 07756965868 between 930am - 12pm Monday - Friday to find out how to access a food parcel or email : [team@lisburnfoodbank.org](mailto:team@lisburnfoodbank.org)  
Criteria for accessing support: Anyone who is struggling financially can access a one off food parcel. (Longer term support options are available)  
Many Thanks  
Lynsey & team

*It's been a newsworthy week in a year of newsworthy weeks!! I have to say that I found one moment uplifting; the sight of 22-year-old Amanda Gorman recite her poem at this week's Presidential Inauguration. What confidence, conviction, empathy and intelligence! Here is the link if you haven't had the pleasure - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-us-canada-55739805>*

*Have a lovely weekend,*

*Barry McMahon  
Acting Principal*



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