



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

*'Being the best that we can be'*

**Friday Note**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**No. 3**

Dear Parents,

What a lovely week we've had...apart from Wednesday – my shoes are still drying out!!

We welcomed some of our new P1 pupils and what a delight they have been. We can't wait to meet the rest of our new St Joseph's pupils next week.

All the pupils have been an absolute credit so far. They have adapted so quickly to our new routines and I have been so impressed by their friendliness and lovely manners each day in the playground.

### **School Fund**

This year we will continue with our School Fund. This has been very successful so far and has allowed us to pay for Mathletics and Lexia on an annual basis as well as to supplement our stationery and book orders across the school. We will keep the school fund at £10 per term per family and again, this is an entirely voluntary payment. It can be paid through Schoolmoney. Thank you in advance.

### **First Holy Communion**

Our Primary 5 classes will belatedly get the opportunity to celebrate their First Holy Communion on the following dates;

- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October @ 10:00am – P5 Miss Smyth
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October @ 10:00am – P5 Ms. Kitt

Further details will be issued to the classes involved in the weeks to come.

### **Adjusting to the 'new normal'**

As you are aware, we have had to make many changes to school routines in line with DENI and PHA guidance. As previously stated, all of these measures are constantly reviewed and openly consulted with all staff. They are not designed to be permanent but they are essential in the immediate future.

I thank you, therefore, for our smooth transitions in the mornings and afternoons at present.

If you have any queries about any of the new arrangements, could you please **contact me directly** and I will attempt to address them as best I can.

### **Seesaw**

Seesaw has become an invaluable resource in many schools. This became particularly obvious during lockdown.

That being said, it is a communication tool for sharing pupil work and class activities.

Discussions around pupil progress or individual incidents should be dealt with via telephone appointment with the class teacher or Principal.

### **Mathletics:**

We are currently updating Mathletics so that your children can access the courses for their new year groups. Usernames and passwords will be sent home soon so that the children can log in and complete the activities on their set courses.

### **MUSIC NEWS**

We are delighted to welcome back our music tutors this year.

Mrs Clare Thompson - Clarinet (**4 places still available P4 - P7**)

Miss Courtney Burns - Violin

Miss Martha Grant - Flute and tin whistle.



**Shared  
Education**

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Please email [nohare525@c2kni.net](mailto:nohare525@c2kni.net) if your child would like to attend clarinet lessons.

We will keep reviewing our Music provision and will let you know when our choir and whole class tin whistle tuition can resume.

Mrs Mary Smyth will not be returning this term, but we do hope to see Mary soon. Mary was the music teacher before Mrs O'Hare arrived in St. Joseph's and has been volunteering every year for the past 21 years. We hope Mary will be able to come back soon.

### **Determinations on pupil ill health**

Parents must take the following steps if their child displays any symptoms of ill health, ➤  
phone their GP or PHA for advice about whether their child should or should not be in school  
➤ contact the school to tell them what they were advised ➤ take the recommended action

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough OR
- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

### **Data collection**

Instead of issuing paper copies of our data collection forms, we are requesting that you email us if any of your details have changed. Please email any changes to [info@stjosephsps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stjosephsps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk)



### **Social Supermarket Project**

<https://lisburncitychurch.churchsuite.co.uk/events/nbahnj7d>

This initiative has been set up to support individuals or families who are living in food poverty.

I wish you all a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing lots of refreshed, smiling faces on Monday morning!

Kind regards,

Barry McMahon



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