



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

'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 9th October

No. 8

Dear Parents,

Slowly but surely, we are starting to become more visible again in the community! We have visited the Racquets Club for Basketball this week and next week, we return to the Linen Museum. Little chinks of normality that we are all grateful for and which are hugely beneficial for the children.

First Holy Communion

Ms Kitt's Primary 5 class have been looking forward all week (year!!) to making their First Communion. The big day finally arrives on Saturday and we send them our warmest blessings for this wonderful occasion.

Flu vaccine

This week, flu vaccination forms were sent home. The vaccination programme is due to take place on Thursday 22nd October. Please return any outstanding forms as soon as possible.

Parent survey

Many thanks to everyone who completed our parent survey on blended learning experiences. Fingers crossed we won't be returning to that scenario anytime soon!!

Halloween Dress Up Day

While many regular activities can't take place, we feel that our Halloween Dress up day can still proceed. This will take place on our last day before mid-term, Friday 23rd October.

We ask for a £1 donation and the children will receive a small treat donated by the PTA.

8 Weekly Assessment Week

Next week is the first of our 8 weekly assessment weeks. Literacy and Numeracy assessments will be carried out in P3 – P6 classes. These assessments are teacher created assessments and their purpose is to assess how well pupils are doing in the areas covered so far the first 8 weeks of term. Children should not be worried or anxious about completing these assessments so please reassure your children over the weekend. The assessments will be shared with you after completion. The week after our 8 weekly assessment week is known as our "Refresher Week" and this gives teachers and pupils the opportunity to revise areas which have been identified through the assessments. We have found these weeks to be extremely beneficial for the teaching, learning and assessment process.

P7 and P1 Buddies

Today is a big day in Primary 1 and Primary 7 as the pupils will get to meet their buddy for the first time. The children are so excited. Obviously, these meetings will be a little different from previously as they must be socially distant and they will be outside but we couldn't hold off any longer. Keep a look out for some photos on our Twitter feed.

Maths Week, Ireland:

Next week we will celebrate Maths Week Ireland in St Joseph's. Throughout the week, pupils will be taking part in lots of fun activities to celebrate all things mathematical. Follow the links below to find some ideas, resources and puzzles that you could try at home during the week:

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2020/primary-schools/>

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2020/maths-in-everyday-household-tasks/>

Why not take some photos of your child doing some practical maths activities at home and SeeSaw them to your child's teacher or send us the photo via our school Twitter account **@stjosephlisburn**



**Shared
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PTA

Next meeting of the PTA will take place on Thursday 15th October at 7:00pm via Zoom. If any new members would like to join, simply contact one of the PTA members or send a private message to the PTA Facebook page.

PTA Christmas Card Fundraiser:

The PTA will be running their annual Christmas Card fundraiser again this year. Information and templates will be sent home with each child next week. Please return all completed designs by Friday 23rd October. Please **do not** send in any orders or money with your child's design. Orders can be placed when you receive a sample card after Halloween.

Barnardo's

Barnardo's in conjunction with EA have launched a brand new emotional wellbeing service – 'See, Hear, Respond.' This service will work with children and young people in Northern Ireland who might need additional support to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic, offering practical and therapeutic support. It will also offer advice and guidance to any adults who are concerned about a child's mental health and wellbeing.

Families in Northern Ireland can now self-refer online at <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/northern-ireland-see-hear-respond> or call 0800 157 7015 available from noon until 7pm, Monday to Friday

School Fund

There is now an option within School Money to make a voluntary contribution towards our school funds. COVID-19 has brought increased financial burden on many households, therefore I stress that this is a voluntary contribution. We thank you in advance for any contribution.

Linen Museum and World Around Us

The Linen Museum is open for classes to visit. We are delighted to once again be able to take part in the education programmes they offer. We work closely with the Linen Museum and try to tailor all workshops to our class topics. Next Tuesday and Wednesday the P7 pupils will be attending workshops based on 'The Victorians' as well as taking part in a Lisburn Walking tour which will focus on 'Victorian Lisburn'. The P4 pupils as part of their 'Ireland' topic will take part in a town trail next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Our up and coming projects will include:

- Science Workshops - We will work with the Linen Museum to design science investigations and technology workshops based on 'Crest Awards'.
- The Seasons (P1)
- Fairytales and Castles (P2)
- Weather Watchers (P3)
- World War II (P4)
- Reduce, reuse and Recycle (P5)
- The Egyptians and Linen Lisburn (P6)

Technology Challenges (The Marble Run and Spaghetti Towers)

Fantastic News!

19 pupils from P5 have passed their Art Award.

Discover Arts Award is a very prestigious certification from the world-renowned Trinity College, London.

The pupils will be presented with their certificates soon. We are the only primary school in Ireland to offer our pupils this opportunity. It leads to a higher award in P7 and then the bronze, silver, and gold in post primary.

These Arts awards equate with The Duke of Edinburgh awards and contribute towards UCAS points for university. So, a very big deal for the P5s.

Well done Guys!, Ms Gorman is so proud of you.



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The week ahead – 12/10/20

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
IFA coaching P5-7	P2CMcA Art & Wellbeing Day with Mrs Gorman Music tuition – clarinet P7PF @ Linen Museum	Music tuition – violin P7NOH @ Linen Museum	P2SC Art & Wellbeing Day with Mrs Gorman Music tuition – flute P5/6 – Basketball at Lisburn Racquets Club	
Maths Week Ireland				

Best wishes once again to Ms Kitt's P5 class on making their First Communion tomorrow. A special thank you, also, for all of your kind words of support and appreciation over the last week or two. I have shared your sentiments with the staff and I can only say that there is mutual appreciation for your continued efforts.

*Barry McMahon
Acting Principal*

“He who sows courtesy reaps friendship.”

Saint Basil



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