

## GL and AQE Assessment Registration

Thank you to our P6 parents who attended our recent P6 Transfer Meeting. We would like to remind parents of P6 pupils of the dates for registration for GL and AQE tests:

### GL Assessment

Registration opens on Monday 15 May – Friday 22 September 2017. Please see [www.pptcni.com](http://www.pptcni.com) for further details or contact GL Assessment Grammar schools directly/through their website.

### AQE

Tuesday 2 May – Friday 8 September 2017. Please see [www.aqe.org.uk](http://www.aqe.org.uk) for registration forms and further details.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

### P6 Transfer Club

Mrs McCambridge and I have been holding a 'Transfer Club' for P6 pupils on Wednesday afternoons from 3pm – 4.15pm and this will continue this term on the following dates:

- Wednesday 26 April 2017
- Wednesday 3 May 2017
- Wednesday 10 May 2017
- Wednesday 24 May 2017
- Wednesday 31 May 2017

Please note there will **be no transfer club on Wednesday 17 May as both Mrs McCambridge and I will be on the P7 residential trip.**



## Summertime in Cool Kids

Once again we will be offering this very worthwhile service to parents during the summer months of July and August. The summer scheme will run throughout July (Closing on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 July) and in August up until Friday 18 August. Mrs Noblett and Miss Manson are currently sending out booking forms for the scheme to all current users of Cool Kids. If you would like to book a place(S) for your child(ren) please contact them to complete a booking form and return to them as soon as possible so that we can begin to arrange staffing etc.

### Primary 7 Leavers' Mass and Presentation

Our Leavers' Mass and Presentation for Primary 7 will take place on **Friday 23 June**. The Mass will begin at 10am here in the school assembly hall and will be followed by the presentation ceremony and by a buffet lunch. We will say goodbye to our Primary 7 pupils on that day as they make their way to their post-primary schools in September. Primary 7 pupils do not come into school the following week.

In preparation for their transition to post-primary school both Primary 7 classes will enjoy a 'Transition Retreat' in De La Salle Pastoral Centre. This is a lovely experience for all of our Primary 7 pupils as it gives them time away from school to reflect on their time in St. Joseph's, their happy memories and the friends they have made as well as look forward to their new schools and talk about their hopes and fears at this time. The dates are as follows:

- Mrs O'Hare's Primary 7 Tuesday 6 June
- Mrs Adair's Primary 7 Wednesday 7 June

Primary 7 will also participate in the 'Inside Out' programme along with Primary 7 pupils from St. Aloysius Primary School in the Parish centre. This programme will take place on Wednesday 14 June. More details will be sent to parents directly closer to the time.

### CASE Citizen and Safety Education

Primary 7 pupils will participate in this community initiative organised by the PSNI in the next few weeks. They will enjoy a morning fishing at 'Angling First'. They will be divided into 3 groups with the dates as follows:

- Group 1: Wednesday 31 May 9am - 1pm
- Group 2 Friday 16 June 9am - 12.30pm
- Group 3 Friday 16 June 12.30pm - 3.30pm

More details and permission slips will be sent out closer to the time.

## Progress Test English (PTE) and Progress Test Maths (PTM)

In the coming weeks we will be carrying out these tests with pupils in Primary 3 – Primary 7. These tests will give us a measure of progress and attainment for each pupil in English and Maths. The results allow us to set targets for improvement at a whole school, year group, class and individual level.

You may recall that these tests were also carried out in September of this year. In line with our post-inspection improvement we have changed the date of testing to May of each year. The results will be shared with you in your child's annual school report which you will receive on Friday 23 June. You will also receive a parent information leaflet about PTE and PTM tests which will explain how to interpret the scores.

### Let us know what you think?

As you know this year has been a busy year in St. Joseph's. There has been a lot of school improvement work on-going throughout the year. We surveyed all of our stakeholders in October of this year to help inform our School Development Plan for this year. We would now like to survey again to help identify the improvements but also to help us plan for the 2017/2018 School Development Plan. We will survey parents, pupils staff and governors in the coming weeks. Please look out for your survey which we will send out with your eldest child. We would appreciate you taking the time to complete and return.

### P7 Residential to Gartan, Donegal

It's getting closer and closer.....and we just can't wait! Primary 7 pupils will enjoy this residential trip from Monday 15 May – Wednesday 17 May. Miss Manson, Mrs McCambridge, Mr Reid, Miss Gray and myself will all be accompanying the pupils on this trip so it will be a quieter school.....we think! Mrs O'Hare will be in charge here in school while we are away.



### Reduce Reuse Recycle

If you have any old CLEAN polystyrene pizza bases can you send them in for Ms Gorman. We need them to do printing with and the proper art tiles are very expensive.

P3 made some out of this world Aliens in Pottery this month and P6 created Titanic tiles.

P1s are so excited to be going next to Pottery, Don't forget your £2

### Primary 1 September 2017

As part of our induction process for our new Primary 1 pupils and their parents, we will hold a series of meetings for parents and pupils as follows:

- **Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 6pm Induction meeting for parents only**
- Wednesday 7 June 2017 from 12.30onwards Meet your new teacher and see your classroom for parents and pupils
- Saturday 10 June 2017 Come along and visit our Summer Fair 11am – 2pm
- We are so looking forward to meeting our new primary 1 pupils and welcoming them and their parents to the St. Joseph's family.

In order to facilitate our new Primary 1 pupils meeting their new teacher we would ask that our current primary 1 pupils are picked up at 11.30am on Wednesday 7 June.



## Walk to School Week 2017

15 – 19 May

Walk to school week and Travelwise NI is calling on all schools to get involved. Please try and walk to and from school this week, or part walk. If you can take a picture of you walking to or from school, please send it to Mrs Gartland at [sgartlando44@c2kni.net](mailto:sgartlando44@c2kni.net) and we

will upload the pictures to twitter. A prize will be awarded for the best photograph.



### Swimming Success for Moya O'Kane!

Huge congratulations to Moya O'Kane on her recent swimming successes! She was swimming in the Ulster Long Course (in the 50m pool) Championships – competing in the Under 11 category. Moya qualified for the finals in each of her events and finished the weekend with lots of medals:

100m Freestyle – Gold – Ulster Champion

200m Medley Relay – Gold – Ulster Team Champions

100m Breast stroke – Silver

100m Backstroke – Silver

100m Butterfly – Silver

200m Individual Medley – Silver

400m Freestyle – 4<sup>th</sup> (only 2 seconds behind the gold medal time).

Well done Moya as she shows commitment and resilience in her approach to swimming.

### Indoor Athletics

Congratulations to the 4 P7 ladies who participated in the Indoor Athletics Regionals Finals. We are still awaiting confirmation of their placings as on the day only first place was awarded, we will keep you updated. The girls representing the school having won the Lisburn and Castlereagh finals were Hannah Gartland, Moya O'Kane, Enya Daye and Kamile Ramanauskaite. These girls, in their first year of Post Primary, will be invited to represent a group of "Rising Stars" athletes from Lisburn and given coaching to enhance not only their performance in Athletics but in their own individual sports.



### Cross Country

Congratulations to Conor Broderick and Enya Daye who have progressed to the regional Cross Country Finals to be held in Ormeau Park on 25th May. Conor finished 6th out of 122 competitors in the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council heats whilst Enya finished 14th out of 125. We wish them every success.

### Swimming Gala

All the children who were selected for Gala have received notes about this event, Please note that if you decide not to attend, having confirmed previously that you wished to attend, we cannot send anyone in your place at

this stage. A few permission notes are outstanding, please return these as soon as possible as Mrs Gartland needs to know arrangements for collection.



### Olympic Handball

We wish the P6 boys team every success in their upcoming final at Lesiureplex on the 5th May. Could all P6 boys and P7 boys and girls Handballers come to school with trainers each day as training will be on selected lunchtimes. The P7 blitz will take place at Leisureplex on Friday 19th May.

## Physical Education and Sports Day

The current discipline which all children are practising is Athletics. Please make sure sports gear is in school and that children have a hoodie or similar as much of this activity is done outside.



### Sports days have been scheduled as follows:

Foundation Stage(P1 & 2): Wednesday 17 May 9.30-12.00

Key Stage 1 (P3 & 4): Wednesday 24 May 9.30 -12.00

Key stage 2 (P5-7): Thursday 1 June 9.30 - 12.00

### Netball

Well done to the Netball Team who represented the school at the McCalls' Netball Tournament at the Lisburn Leisureplex on the 6th of April. Many schools were in attendance at this event and, although they played with determination and team work, the girls were unlucky not to advance to the semi-finals. The team on the day was Enya Daye (Captain), Katrina Visomirskyte, Rihanna Lawler, Sian Rooney, Shannon Johnson, Katie Magee, Moya O'Kane, Hannah Gartland, Mia Law, Ella Maloret and Isabel Barrett. This was also the final tournament for this year's P7 pupils who have represented the school brilliantly during their time as part of the team, their coaches would like to congratulate them on all of their success and effort!

**'The best kept classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky'**

Margaret McMillan

### Cash for Clobber'

We are delighted that this term funds raised by our 'Cash for Clobber' incentive will help us resource our various outdoor learning areas around the school. Lots of exciting and new equipment will be purchased over the coming weeks, further enhancing the 'outdoor classroom' for use by all children. Within Foundation Stage particularly, the benefits and importance of outdoor learning cannot be underestimated. Our newly resourced outdoor play experiences will allow for progression in children's thinking and understanding. We hope to observe the joy and excitement children will experience as they learn new skills and make fresh discoveries in their natural environment. Have a look out for the following:

- A mud kitchen
- Large, wooden construction blocks
- Story circle
- Large sand pit
- Water wall

### 8th May

#### Big School Clean Up

Mrs Hunter has organised a Big School Clean Up - we will be working with the Ulster Conservation Volunteers to clear two main areas to install our new outdoor play equipment and butterfly garden. The area directly behind the Cool Kids cabin and the area outside the P2 classrooms need cleared in order for our new equipment to be installed.

**IF YOU CAN GIVE UP ANY SMALL AMOUNT OF TIME TO HELP WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL.**

### Butterfly Garden

Mrs Hunter will be working with Primary Four who are working on the topic 'Minibeasts' to design this area.

St. Joseph's Link with Fr Charles in Malawi Continues  
We are very pleased that we have maintained our close link with Fr Charles in Malawi. We recently sent him £300 from our Lenten fundraising campaign and we received his heartfelt thanks....

"Dear Pauline and All Dear Friends at St Joseph Primary School, I am sending this email to you all to acknowledge receiving the money you sent to help me in my pastoral work as I minister to the flock under my care. I would like to register my profound thanks to you all for the sacrifice that you have all made. With the financial assistance that you have sent so many souls will be saved and served too. Only God the Almighty knows how very grateful we are all to you and ask Him to continue blessing you all as you too serve Him. We can only promise you all our most abundant prayers so that God gives you all personal good health so as to continue doing his Will. Please receive our million thanks for your financial assistance to us. What remains now is Easter Obligation and this is a very big exercise that takes more than six weeks. We go to the 84 small Christian communities of our parish to give Mass and Sacraments to the sick and elderly and most of them are far distant places so among others the money will help to visit these in terms of buying fuel and helping some very needy people so thank you really so much.

Our blessings on you all."

Sincerely yours,  
Fr Charles Manyenje

### Eco Schools



We have applied for our Eco School flag. Our Eco team have been working very hard over the past number of years to develop areas in our school, to plant fruit, vegetables and herbs and to make savings with energy across the school.

Have look at our Pupil Council news sheet to find out more.

### June

We have registered for the Outdoor Learning Month when each class will do something outdoors everyday

### After School Activities Collection Arrangements

A reminder that all our after school activities have commenced for Term 3. Please see below for an overview of collection arrangements for P1-3 children. Tutors will bring children to their relevant collection points at approximately 2.55pm or they will be brought to Cool Kids if attending for the afternoon.



### Collection at Top of the Lane (Castle Street entrance):

- Spanish (Monday)
- Dance (Tuesday)
- Monkeynastix (Wednesday)
- Soccer (Thursday)
- Miniversity (Thursday)
- Gaelic (Friday)
- Go Media Academy (Friday)

### Collection at Back Car Park (Queen's Road Entrance beside canteen):

- Art Club (Monday and Wednesday)
- Children's Music Academy (Friday)

P4-7 pupils will be responsible for going to their relevant collection points independently at 4pm. Please ensure they know where they are being collected and an adult is waiting. All children are asked to return to school if there is no adult to collect them.

### Parent Assemblies in May in June

Parents of the children in the following classes are invited to join us for Assembly:

25<sup>th</sup> May: P1 Mrs Crilly

26<sup>th</sup> May: P6 Mrs McCambridge

9<sup>th</sup> June: P6 Mrs Gorman

**All Parent Assemblies begin at 9.30am**

### PTA News

#### Easter Bonnet Day:

Thank you to everyone for supporting the PTA's Easter Bonnet Day. It was a lovely day to end the school term for all our children. The Easter Bonnets were amazing!

A great total of £294.27 was raised for PTA Funds.

The PTA really appreciate all your support .

Have a look at some of the photographs from the day on our school website.

<http://stjosephsschool.org/news/pta-easter-bonnet-day/>



#### Small Change for a Big Difference Fortnight

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

During this fortnight each child is encouraged to bring in loose change and throw it in a bucket in their classroom. By the end of the fortnight the class who has collected the most money will win a prize!

Please help the PTA to continue to support our school and raise funds for your child's education. Every penny counts!

#### Fun Run:

The PTA are entering a team into the Lisburn Fun Run this year on 21<sup>st</sup> June. If you are interested in taking part with your child please leave your name in to the office or leave a comment on the PTA's Facebook page.

Application Forms will be sent home within the next 2 weeks with further details.

It will be a great community event for St Joseph's so come and join in the fun!



**School Closures in May**  
**Don't forget the school will be closed for pupils on Monday 29 May.**