

Newsletter – May 2019



Welcome to our May Newsletter.

Term 3 is an extremely busy month in school...we are certainly not winding down. We have First Communion, sports days, our summer fair, reports etc so it's a very exciting time.

We hope we will have sunny weather, so we can extend the classroom to our outside spaces in the last two months of term as well.

Have a read to find out what's going on and as usual we will use seesaw, twitter and our texting service for reminders updates etc.

Pauline Fleming, Acting Principal

First Communion 2019

On Saturday 18 May, many of our Primary 4 pupils will receive their First Communion. This is such a special day for our whole school community. We are all looking forward to it immensely. The children are busy preparing for the service, please help them to learn the prayers and the responses and by bringing them along to mass on a Saturday night/Sunday morning.

Choir and folk group will be singing and playing at the service and should be in the church by 9.30am (full uniform please).

We still need some helpers on the day to help with the First Communion breakfast in the Parish hall. If you can help, even for a short time, please let us know in the office.



schoolmoney

Our Cashless System: Schoolmoney

Our new cashless system is going well so far. Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding as we get this up and running.

We hope everyone has been able to set up their account. So far many of you have made payments via the new system and have treported to me how handy it is making payments from the comfort of your own homes.

If you have any queries, please contact us in the office.

Please remember.....

From Monday 29 April.....

Dinners MUST be booked in advance: You have up until midnight of the night before to book.

FREE DINNERS MUST ALSO BE BOOKED.

Primary 1 September 2019

On Thursday 9 May, we will send our Primary 1 placement letters out to parents of pupils who have gained a place in Primary 1 in September 2019. Each letter will have an acceptance slip attached. It is extremely important that these are returned to school as soon as possible. The following meetings have been arranged as part of our induction procedures:

Induction Meeting for Parents only

- Monday 20 May at 6pm

Meet your teacher for parents and pupils

- Tuesday 4 June 12.30pm - 3pm

‘Being the best that we can be’

Standardised Assessments in P3 - P6

In May pupils in Primary 3 to Primary 6 will be taking online standardised assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. These assessments are called PTE (Progress Test English) and PTM (Progress Test Maths) and are supplied by a company called GL Assessment.

Pupils will take each test on our PCs in our ICT Suite.

The results of the tests are given as a standardised score from 69 to 140, with a score of 100 being considered an average score.

The results of the tests will be shared with you on your child's school report which will be sent out in June.

As a school, we use the results of these tests to analyse our whole school data and set targets for improvement in Literacy and Numeracy.

If you have any queries about these assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Sports Days 2019

Sports Days mark the end of the year and are always fun-filled days here in St. Joseph's. Parents are invited along to watch (and maybe even participate) on the following days:

Foundation Stage (P1 & P2)

- Tuesday 28 May at 9.30am

Key Stage 1 (P3 & P4)

- Wednesday 5 June at 9.30am

Key Stage 2 (P5 - P7)

- Tuesday 11 June at 9.30am

PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT

Our PTA will run their annual 'Change for Change Fortnight' this month beginning on Monday 13 May and running until Friday 24 May. Pupils are encouraged to donate small change across the fortnight. There will be prizes for the class with the largest amount of money collected at the end of the fortnight.

So...hold on to all your small change now so that you can send it into school during the 2 weeks. Our PTA are currently raising funds to update our Interactive Whiteboards with state of the art Clevertouch boards, so every penny will help! Thank you.



Forest School

Mrs McManus's class forest school sessions will begin this month. They are all very excited to be involved in this project. There will be 6 sessions in total, all lasting 1 hour. The sessions will take place in Castle Gardens and will begin on Wednesday 1 May.

We look forward to sharing some of the activities and learning via seesaw and twitter.

On completion of the 6 weeks Mrs McManus will complete several assignments and the school will gain Forest School status.



‘Being the best that we can be’

School Survey and Self-Evaluation

As part of our self-evaluation process, we will be sending parents an online survey to complete. This survey will allow us to evaluate the progress we have made this year and set targets for our new School Development Plan for 2019 - 2022. Please take time to complete this survey. Watch out for the link being emailed.

We will also be surveying staff, pupils and governors as part of this process. We will let you know the outcomes before the end of the academic year.



P2 - Shared Education Update

Children from Primary 2 recently met up with their buddies from Harmony Hill as part of their Shared Education 'Fun with Friends' programme. The focus for P2 has been meeting new friends and gaining confidence in talking to and engaging with their buddies through indoor and outdoor play activities. Across 2 days in March, the children took part in a wide variety of topic themed indoor and outdoor play activities - dress up, making sock puppets, small world play, water and sand play, large scale mark making, trikes, bikes and much more...! Miss Gray also hosted a dance-a-thon on both days and the children just loved getting active and 'throwing some shapes' with their new friends! The children will meet up again mid-May for a day of play and nature-based activities at Wallace Park!

Maths Buddies

We are delighted to tell you that we are currently running a 'Maths Buddies Scheme' in P4 to P7 this term. Pupils in P4 have been matched up with a maths buddy in P6 and pupils in P5 with a maths buddy in P7. The idea is that the younger pupils identify areas of maths they may be struggling with or need some help in and the older pupil helps them work through these areas practically. Sessions are going well so far. Have a chat with your child to find out more!



Shrek The Musical

The children in P7 have had a brilliant time preparing for their end of year show 'Shrek'. Rehearsals are sounding amazing and it promises to be a superb night of entertainment through music, song and dance - there are still some tickets left if you would like to bring your child along to the evening performance.



Values of the Month

Our "Value of the Month" for May is **Patience**

"Have patience...all things are difficult before they become easy"

Saadi



Primary 7 Post-Primary School Notification

On Saturday 1 June, our Primary 7 pupils will receive notification of their post-primary school placement. This is an exciting time as new doors open for all of them. Please keep all our primary 7 pupils in your thoughts and prayers at this time.



‘Being the best that we can be’

Term 3 Holidays

The school will be closed on the following days in May:

- Monday 6 May: May Day Bank Holiday
- Monday 27 May: Day Bank Holiday

School will close on early Friday 28 June for the summer holidays.



Creative Voices Exhibition

We are once again delighted to be hosting our annual Creative Voices Exhibition. The exhibition will run from Monday 13 May until Friday 17 May in the school assembly hall. We encourage all parents to come along and view the work created by the pupils who have attended Creative Voices throughout the year. We are extremely proud to be the only school in Northern Ireland offering Creative Voices to pupils in all year groups. Please come along and support the event.

There will be a chance to buy some of the artwork on the day to take home and frame.



School Trips

This term, many classes will have their summer term school trip. You will receive information about this and be able to pay for it through our school money system. Parents can grant permission for your child to attend the school trip via this platform as well.



Lenten Charity Collections

Thank you so much for your generous charity donations of money, gifts, Easter baskets, eggs, sweets, buns and much, much more...

Each class had a brilliant time collecting for charity and watching their pounds grow!

We can't thank you all enough.

P1 - Sponsored Bunny Hop
P2 and P3 - Class raffles
P4 - Sponsored Danceathon
P5 - Fitness for Trocaire
P6 - Bun and Ice Cream Sales.
P7 - Spring Fair

The grand total raised by the school so far is an amazing £1908.35. Well done to everyone.

We will present our charity donations to our chosen charities at our annual Christmas concert in the Island Centre later in the year.



Holidays for 2019/2020

The holidays for 2019/2020 have been emailed to you and will be on the school website.

Please note that school opens on **Thursday 29 August for P2 - P7 pupils**. However, as there are no school meals/supervision, school will close at:

- 12noon for P2 and P3 pupils and
- 12.30pm for P4 - P7 pupils.

Cool Kids Summer scheme closes on Friday 23rd August and reopens again on Monday 2 September with Cool Kids and Homework Club.



‘Being the best that we can be’

London Marathon

Good luck to Mrs Twene who will be completing the London Marathon on Sunday 28 April. This is an amazing achievement..... we are all so proud of her.

Mrs Twene is raising money for two charities close to our school community. The 'Children's Cancer Charity' and 'Friends of the Cancer Centre'. Well done Mrs Twene!

Watch out for Mrs Twene on the TV coverage on the day!



Summer Uniforms

Now that the better weather has arrived, pupils can wear their summer uniforms to school. For girls this is a blue summer dress and for boys it is grey shorts along with their shirt and tie.

When we are out and about we are always complimented on our smart uniform, so it is important to maintain these high standards even in the warmer weather.



Shared Education (Harmony Hill and St. Joseph's)

Something to look forward to...

The children from P3 will meet for five sessions during our first week back for a programme of ICT, Dance / drama, World Around Us and Art. The children will meet in the Lisburn Racquets Club and then carry out activities in Castle Gardens, Harmony Hill and our own school. The is a super programme based on the topic of 'Animals - Big and Small.'

This term sees the introduction of two new Shared Education projects. The P5 children from Harmony Hill and St. Joseph's will meet for two days of PE in the Racquet's Club. Children will sample dance, tennis, table tennis and judo on the 5th and 6th of June.

The P6 children will be working with Sentinus on a new programme of 'Robotics' - the children will use ICT to programme and build a variety of robots. The programme takes place on June 4th



Cool Kids Summer Scheme

Booking for our Cool Kids Summer Scheme will open after Easter and will be completed through Schoolmoney. The summer scheme will operate in July and August except for the July Bank Holidays and the week beginning Monday 26 August. **All bookings MUST be completed by Friday 31 May.** This allows us to ensure adequate staffing throughout the summer months.



Cycling Proficiency

Cycling Proficiency begins this month for our Primary 7 pupils. Sessions will be on Wednesdays from 3pm - 4pm with the first session on Wed 8 May. Participating pupils **MUST** have a road worthy bike as well as a helmet.



‘Being the best that we can be’

Dates for your diary!

Mon 29 Apr	<p>Return to school after Easter break Primary 6 Mrs Gorman's class at Lisburn Library</p> <p>Primary 3 Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School</p> <p>Mrs O'Hare Shared education Planning Day</p> <p>1.30pm Mrs Fleming at Education Authority Finance Meeting</p>
Tues 30 Apr	<p>Primary 3 Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School Hurling tournament at St Aloysius 1.15pm - 3.30pm</p> <p>PTA Meeting at 7pm</p>
Wed 1 May	<p>Primary 3 Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School</p> <p>Forest School Session 1 at 9.30am in Castle Gardens: Mrs McManus's class</p> <p>Mrs Fleming at Education Authority training: All day</p> <p>P1 Miss Hearty's Class RISE Programme 11am - 12noon</p> <p>Ms Kitt at Education Authority Shared Education Thinking Skills Course SUB: Miss Teague</p>
Thurs 2 May	<p>Primary 3 Shared Education Day with Harmony Hill Primary School</p> <p>Awards Assembly P2 Shared Education Day at Wallace Park</p> <p>Mrs O'Hare at Education Authority Shared Education Course</p> <p>Mrs Crilly at Education Authority Shared Education PDMU Course</p>
Fri 3 May	<p>P6 at swimming</p> <p>P5 at badminton</p> <p>Awards Assembly</p>
Mon 6 May	May Day Bank Holiday: School closed
Tues 7 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P6</p> <p>Primary 4 at Mass in St. Patrick's Church at 10am</p> <p>Primary 1 Sprucemeadows Farm Trip</p>

Wed 8 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P6</p> <p>Forest School Session 2 at 9.30am in Castle Gardens: Mrs McManus's class</p> <p>P1 Miss Hearty's Class RISE Programme 11am - 12noon</p> <p>P6 at tennis</p> <p>Ms Kitt at Education Authority Shared Education Thinking Skills Course SUB: Miss Teague</p> <p>P7 Cycling Proficiency 3pm - 4pm</p>
Thurs 9 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P6</p> <p>Primary 7 Show: Shrek at 7pm in Lisburn's Island Hall</p> <p>Primary 1 September 2019: Notification of placement letters are posted to parents today</p>
Fri 10 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P6</p> <p>Swimming Gala</p> <p>P5 at badminton</p>
Mon 13 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P5</p> <p>CREATIVE VOICES EXHIBITION IN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p> <p>Board of Governor Meeting at 6pm</p>
Tues 14 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P5</p> <p>Athletics at Mary Peters Track</p> <p>CREATIVE VOICES EXHIBITION IN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p> <p>School Nurse: Primary 1</p>
Wed 15 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P5</p> <p>CREATIVE VOICES EXHIBITION IN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT School Nurse: Primary 1</p> <p>Primary 7 tennis</p> <p>Primary 7 Mrs O'Hare class at Pottery LAC Primary 3 Miss Clarke's class at Pottery LAC</p>

‘Being the best that we can be’

	<p>Forest School Session 3 at 9.30am in Castle Gardens: Mrs McManus's class</p> <p>P1 Miss Hearty's Class RISE Programme 11am - 12noon</p> <p>Mrs Fleming at Living Church Focus Group Meeting from 12noon</p> <p>P7 Cycling Proficiency 3pm - 4pm</p>
Thurs 16 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P5</p> <p>Mrs Twene's class parent assembly at 9.30am</p> <p>CREATIVE VOICES EXHIBITION IN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p> <p>School Nurse: Primary 1</p>
Fri 17 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P5</p> <p>CREATIVE VOICES EXHIBITION IN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p> <p>School Nurse: Primary 1</p> <p>Primary 5 badminton</p> <p>Primary 6 swimming</p>
Mon 20 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P4</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p> <p>3pm Healthy Planning Session</p> <p>Primary 1 Induction Meeting at 6pm</p>
Tues 21 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P4</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p> <p>P4 - P6: May Mass at 10am in St Patrick's Church</p> <p>2.15pm - 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P4 - P7</p>
Wed 22 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P4</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p> <p>2.15pm - 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P1 - P3</p> <p>Forest School Session 4 in Castle Gardens at 9.30am: Mrs McManus's class</p> <p>P1 Miss Hearty's Class RISE Programme 11am - 12noon</p> <p>Primary 7 Tennis</p>

	<p>Primary 6 School Trip Titanic</p> <p>Primary 7 Mrs O'Hare class at Pottery LAC</p> <p>Primary 3 Miss Clarke's class at Pottery LAC</p> <p>P7 Cycling Proficiency 3pm - 4pm</p>
Thurs 23 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P4</p> <p>Mrs McManus Parent Assembly at 9.30am</p> <p>Interarea cross country final</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p>
Fri 24 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P4</p> <p>Ms Kitt Parent Assembly at 9.30am</p> <p>P5 at badminton</p> <p>P6 at swimming</p> <p>PTA CHANGE FOR CHANGE FORTNIGHT</p>
Mon 27 May	May Bank Holiday: School closed
Tues 28 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P3</p> <p>Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30am</p> <p>Primary 7 School Trip to Tullymore Forest Park</p> <p>2.15pm - 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P4 - P7</p>
Wed 29 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P3</p> <p>Primary 7 tennis</p> <p>Mrs Connolly at EA Course in Teaching Recovery techniques</p> <p>2.15pm - 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P1 - P3</p> <p>Forest School Session 5 in Castle Gardens at 9.30am: Mrs McManus's class</p> <p>P1 Miss Hearty's Class RISE Programme 11am - 12noon</p> <p>Primary 7 Mrs O'Hare class at Pottery LAC</p> <p>Primary 3 Miss Clarke's class at Pottery LAC</p> <p>P7 Cycling Proficiency 3pm - 4pm</p>
Thurs 30 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P3</p> <p>Primary 7 Focus Group Meeting with NUA</p>
Fri 31 May	<p>PTM and PTE in P3</p> <p>Primary 5 badminton</p> <p>Primary 6 swimming</p>

‘Being the best that we can be’