

St Joseph's Primary School

Newsletter - Dec 2015



Dates for your Diary!

Tues 8 th	-School closed for children.
Wed 9 th	-Mr Reid P3 Pottery Workshop -Mrs Connolly P4 “ “
Thurs 10 th	-P1-P3 Christmas Concert
Fri 11 th	-P1-P3 Christmas Concert
Mon 14 th	-P1 Miss Delaney Santa Visit 10.15am -P1 Miss Coleman “ “ 12.45pm
Tues 15 th	-P2 Mrs Crilly “ “ 10.15am -P2 Mrs Gould “ “ 12.45pm P6 and P7 Choir members singing in Thompson House
Wed 16 th	-Grand Opera House Pantomime
Thurs 17 th	-African Children's Choir (Friend's School)
Fri 18 th	-P4 Miss Clarke Santa Visit 10.15am -P4 Mrs Connolly “ “ 12.45pm
Mon 21 st	-P4-P7 Carol Service Island Centre
Tues 22 nd	-School closes at 12 noon
Thurs 7 th Jan	- School reopens – normal day

Christmas Concert Preparations

Choreographer Rebecca Leonard has been in school working with children in preparation for the Christmas Concerts. Rebecca will be working with Mrs O'Hare and the children in preparation for the Carol Service and KS1 Christmas Concert. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to work with a very talented and well known choreographer.

Carol Concert

Tickets go on sale today, Monday 7th December from the Island Centre Booking Office at 9am. These can be bought over the phone, on line or in person.

The front row seats sell fast so get in early! Children involved are,



- Senior Folk Group who practise in school on a Monday
- Choir
- Primary Four Choir
- Two Primary Five classes.
- Members of the Drama Club

Parking – Christmas Concert

As you can imagine with 200+ coming each morning parking will be difficult. If possible park and walk from other car-parks or on street parking in the Low Road area, Wallace Park, etc.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY DRAW.

Your child has received the tickets today. A book costs £5. There are six tickets in each book meaning the seller gets £1 per book sold plus a free ticket.

Best to sell in singles!

The book and payment should be handed into the class teacher. Children/adults can have as many books as they want.

Every penny goes to charity.

PLEASE DONATE A PRIZE IF YOU CAN ANYTHING FROM A BOTTLE OF ADULT JUICE TO A VOUCHER OR IF YOU OWN A BUSINESS A TREATMENT OR VOUCHER.

THANKS SO MUCH - WE WILL NAME YOU ON OUR PROGRAMME OR PUT IN A LITTLE AD ON THE NEWS SHEET IF YOU WANT TO E MAIL

nohare525@stjosephs.lisburn.ni.sch.uk

African Children's Choir

I had the opportunity to meet and work with the African Children's Choir on Sunday 29th November and the concert was amazing. We still have tickets left and would love to sell this event out for these children. Tickets cost £8 for an adult and £5 for a child. Mrs Gartland and Miss McAnearney will sit with the P5 children who would like to attend, but they need a ticket.

The concert starts at 7:15pm and lasts one and a half hours. The harmonies, drumming, dancing and stories the children told were fantastic. This concert is brilliant for children, as they learn about others less fortunate.

I had a group of children aged 11 – 13 years performing with the African Children and at the interval they went and got their own money and donated this to the children.

The concert helped these children realise how lucky they were and when they had the opportunity to watch them rehearse and talked to them it was just fantastic.

The whole audience got involved by singing and clapping and the atmosphere was electric. A lovely way to celebrate Christmas and support the children of Uganda.

Please support this great cause.

Staff Training

January Staff Workshops

Staff will be taking part in Drama workshops with Mr Arthur Webb. This is to promote drama into our classroom teaching through all areas of the curriculum.

I Pads

The PTA have managed to buy the school I pads which will be used within classes to support all areas of the curriculum and at Cool Kids.



All staff including those working at Cool Kids will receive training in the most up to date educational apps. Thank you to the PTA for funding the training and I Pads.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome to the staff of St Joseph's:

- Clare Conlon (who will provide literacy support to children)
- Colette Cushnahan (Classroom Assistant who will be working between P1 and P2)

Confirmation

This year Confirmation will take place on Monday 8th February 2016 in St Patrick's Chapel. At this point the actual time has not been confirmed. As soon as this information is available, we will let you know.

In preparation for Confirmation, there will be a Confirmation Meeting for P7 parents on Thursday 14th January at 7pm in the Assembly Hall & the Confirmation Service of Light after this, date to be confirmed.

***Communion date change from Sunday 14th May to Saturday 14th May.**

Book Fair 2015 Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair last week! We made a staggering **£3133** which means **£1880** to spend on books for our school. Well done to our dedicated P7 Book Fair team who ran the business and helped make it a great success. Books clearly play a very important part in our lives so thanks for supporting this event - it is very much appreciated! Keekeep Reading!

*Congratulations Mrs Awada and Mr Gallagher
Mrs Awada had a baby girl - Georgia
Mrs Gallagher had a baby boy - Conn*

Breakfast/Cool Kids/Homework Club

Any phone calls you wish to make regarding Breakfast Club, Cool Kids or Homework Club please phone Mrs Noblett on the Cool Kids number: 07933721017 between 2pm and 5.30pm

The Laneway in Mornings

There have been a few near misses with parents dropping off and staff arriving from 8am in the mornings. For the safety of all – the laneway is **staff entrance only**. Parents dropping off from 8am **must** do so either at the top of the lane or at the back car-park from now on.

Pick-Up Arrangements

Please tell your child where/when you are picking them up **before they leave you in the mornings**. Some children get upset when they don't know this information. **Only in an emergency** should arrangements change when we will endeavour to pass this information to your child's teacher. Remember if you are late – Cool Kids/Homework Club is available.

Collecting children

In the interests of safety, if you need to collect a child early from school on any day, please report to the Office Staff. This is especially relevant to those parents/grandparents who may be collecting a child from either of our two mobile classrooms. All other doors are entrances/exits for pupils and staff only.



P1 September 2016 (Urgent Information)

P1 application forms are now available. The school has sent home an application form with brothers or sisters in the school – if they have told us!!

If you **did not** get an application form please send in for one immediately.

As our first criteria is having a brother or sister currently enrolled in the school you have the golden ticket to get in!

Please, please return the form with a copy of your child's birth certificate. If you return it after the closing date it is treated as a 'late application' and you won't be allocated a place. **Closing date for applications is Wednesday 13th January 2016 @ 12 noon.**



Boys Gaelic Team

Well done to the boys Gaelic team for finishing in second place at a 5-a-side Gaelic blitz in St John's GAC in Belfast on Wednesday 2nd December. The team were only beaten by Bunscoil Phobal Feirste in a close encounter, with victories coming in their matches against St Kevin's P.S. and St Teresa's P.S. The school thanks the boys for representing the school and is very proud of their achievement.

Car Parking

Please avoid parking in the yellow box in the back Car Park as this causes disruption to the flow of traffic in and out of the car park.

Lost Property

Lost Property will be displayed in the playground on Friday 11th December. Each class will be able to have a look, so remind your child what they have lost. Thank you.

Christmas Bazaar

We had a wonderful night on Thursday at our Bazaar to begin our Christmas celebrations! Thank you to all our parents who supported us in preparing for the Bazaar through donations for stalls and prizes.



Thank you to everyone who came along to support us by joining in the fun.

The iPad ballot was very successful with P6 pupil Jake Brady as the winner. The drinks hamper was won by Oisín Casey in P6 – a great Christmas present for his mum and dad!!

Over £3,000 profit was cleared on the night which was amazing, thank you! This will go towards buying 15 new iPads for the school.

Thank you to the PTA members and staff who organised this very successful event.

Thank you also to all the local businesses who donated prizes for our Big Wheel – we are very grateful for your kindness and generosity!

McCalls Lisburn, Dunmurry Dental Practice, St Killians Candles, Midas Jewellers, Sainsburys, Funtastic Carryduff, Dominos Pizza, Drumbo Races, Belfast Giants, Siobhan Topal Hair-dressing, Wallace Park Tennis Dome, TESCO, Stepping Stones, Millbrook Lodge Hotel, Racquets Club, Hilden Brewery, St Patrick's Parish Centre, Crossfit Varangian Gym, Lisburn, Reybran, Go Safe Som, Kumon Study Centre, Racquets Club Lisburn.

Miniversity

Miniversity Creative Learning Club will resume in St Joseph's PS after school on a Thursday from **14th January 2016** for 8 weeks. The Clubs will run in the Computer Suite 2-3pm (**Juniors P2-P3**) then 3-4pm for (**Seniors P4-P7**). Each session touches on a 'careers theme' and the children are given tasks using a variety of different programs such as Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, SCRATCH Coding or Windows Movie Maker. The cost is £40 per child for the term. If you would like to reserve a place please email study@miniversity.com direct. If you have any queries about the program please contact study@miniversity.com or 07712042222. Please visit www.miniversity.com for further details.

Please remember we close at 12 noon on Tuesday 22nd December. There will be no 'Cool Kids' on that day.

Reminder – Whole School Annual Panto Trip!

- ❖ All children will leave school at 12.20pm.
- ❖ We will travel with Richmond Coaches.
- ❖ Children arrive in the Leisureplex Car Park at approximately 4.15pm.
- ❖ A note will go out with your child at the beginning of next week telling you the number of bus your child will travel on.

This is a most enjoyable experience for our whole school at Christmas.

Review of School Curriculum and Procedures.

We are currently reviewing and striving to make improvements in many areas of life in St. Josephs. These are the immediate areas for review.

- 1. Cool Kids activities**
- 2. The amount of money and regularity of money coming into the school from home.**

We will be beginning a focus of the month where we will ask for your views.

- 3. Homework (A questionnaire will go out to parents at the start of January)**

January Focus – Homework to make this more manageable for parents.

P1- 3 Christmas Colouring Competition

Name: _____

Class: _____

Return to your child's teacher

Happy
Holidays!

