

Saint Joseph's Primary School
&
Ederney Community Nursery

Newsletter

Principal: Mr L. Monaghan

Senior Teacher: Mrs A. Hagan

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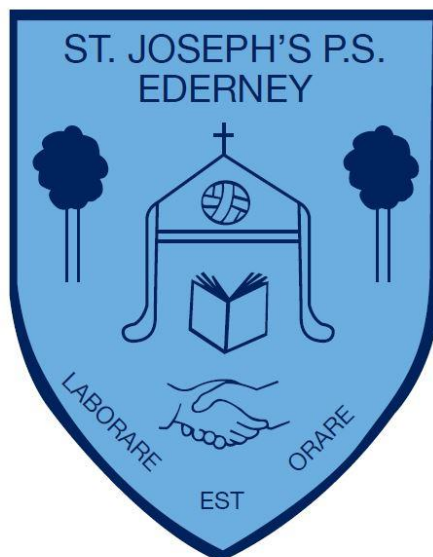
Website: www.stjosephspsederney.com

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BT930HA



2nd October 2020

St. Joseph's G.A.C.

We would like to express our sincere congratulations to our Senior Men's team and our Ladies Minor team, on their tremendous victories in last Sunday's Championship games. These historic victories have provided a tremendous boost to all in our school and parish, in these difficult times, and are of huge significance. Sincere thanks to the players and representatives from the club who brought the New York Gold Cup for all our children to see on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see the sheer joy in the faces of all our pupils and staff. It was great also to hear the players praise the children for their lovely artwork and messages of support, in our little video, prior to the final. Thanks also to Gerry Gallagher who took photographs of the occasion.

PTFA Guess the Score Competition

Sincere thanks to all our parents, carers and members of our wider community, for supporting our '**Guess the Score**' competition. There were 3 lucky winners: Tori-Jean Beacom, Aoibheann Monaghan and Kathleen Gallogley. Prizes will be presented shortly.

School Protocols re Covid-19

Pupils

We are delighted to report that our children have really settled well into school and have adapted to all the measures that have been put in place to keep everyone safe. Special praise goes to our P1 pupils who have been so brave in walking into school themselves from the school gate. Well done boys and girls!

Parents

It is vitally important that parents:

- Report immediately the onset of any Covid-19 related symptoms (parents, pupils, siblings, or other contacts) to the Principal – who acts as the Covid officer, or to Mrs Hagan (Senior Teacher);

- Report the result of a Covid-19 test to the Principal;
- Not enter the school building, other than in exceptional circumstances E.g. when collecting a sick child;
- Telephone the school prior to entering the building;
- Wear a face covering if entering the building out of necessity;
- Sanitise their hands when entering the building;
- Ensure that nothing is taken into school by pupils from home, other than a school bag, water bottle or lunch box. *If availing of violin tuition (P4-7) (from the EA Music Service) violins and their cases should be sanitised prior to being brought to school for lessons;*
- Encourage pupils to wear face coverings on EA transport;
- Act responsibly, when outside school, in relation to following PHA Guidance in interaction with others, hand hygiene, social distancing and the wearing of face coverings.

Pupil drop off and collection

Thank you to all parents and carers for staggering your drop off times. This is working really well and has ensured that pupils do not arrive at once.

It would be greatly appreciated however, if everyone would follow the advice issued, prior to the beginning of term, in relation to the use of the carparks at the MUGA and St. Joseph's Church. Parking here and walking your child to/from the school entrance is a much safer option for everyone concerned. There have been a few near missies in the morning/afternoon, with cars reversing/three-point turning etc. into the school exit, or the entrance to the Church/Fr. McManus' house. Your safety, and that of your child is our paramount concern, so your assistance in relation to parking appropriately is important.

When collecting pupils in the afternoon, it is also vital that we all continue to obey the guidance in relation to social distancing. We know that, in normal circumstances, this can be an important social time for parents/carers. However, given current circumstances it is important that everyone disperses as quickly as possible, once pupils are collected.

New School Website

Hopefully by now, everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy our new school website www.stjosephspsederney.com . This will be a vital communication tool between home and school, as the year progresses. Please also download the **NI Schools App** to your phone, or tablet device. You can access the App by clicking on our website (above). A download button will then be visible at the top of your screen. By downloading the app, you will receive all updates in relation to the school, view calendar events, holiday lists and so on.

Data Collection – Photographic Consent

If you have not yet returned your data collection and photographic consent forms, it is important that these are returned **urgently**. Please also ensure that if you change your mobile, or e-mail address, at any time during the school year, that you inform our school secretary. This is vital in the event of a medical emergency. If we do not have your correct mobile number, you will also not receive messages from our text messaging service.

Flu Vaccination

Consent forms for the flu vaccination have been sent home. Please ensure that they are returned asap. If consent is given, your child will receive the vaccine on **Thursday 8th October**.

EA Music Service

Tuition for pupils who are currently involved in music tuition will begin again on **Friday 9th October**. Those pupils involved will receive a checklist in relation to the protocols to be followed, from their class teacher.

Halloween Holidays

Pupils will be on holiday from **Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October** (inclusive).

If celebrating at home, please take some time to talk to your child with regard to safety around sparklers, fireworks etc. Halloween can be a distressing time for vulnerable people, such as the elderly and it is important that we also remind children to be respectful of the needs of others, especially at this time. More information on staying safe at Halloween can be found on the NI Fire & Rescue Service website:

<https://www.nifrs.org/nifrs-safety-appeal-dont-get-spooked-fire-halloween/>

Holiday List

Please see our school website for our holiday list.

Home Learning

Staff have recently been trained in the use of Microsoft Teams. It is important that your child signs into this App via either the Google Play or App Store (if using a tablet device) or on a Web Browser (if using a laptop, or desktop pc). A help sheet is available in school to support pupils/parents in signing in to this software. If you have not currently received it, please request a copy from your child's teacher.

Parent – Teacher Meetings

Face-to-face Parent-Teacher meeting will unfortunately not be able to be held this year. These will be held either virtually, via Microsoft Teams, or by telephone. If using Microsoft Teams, it will be important that your child downloads the app on a device at home (see above). Meetings will be held throughout the month of

October. Your child's teacher will be in touch shortly with regard to arrangements.

Afterschool Childcare

Due to the current circumstances, afterschool childcare is currently only available for P1-2 children from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. If you are interested in availing of this service, please contact Pauline McGoldrick on 07926752893.