

Saint Joseph's Primary School
&
Ederney Community Nursery

Newsletter

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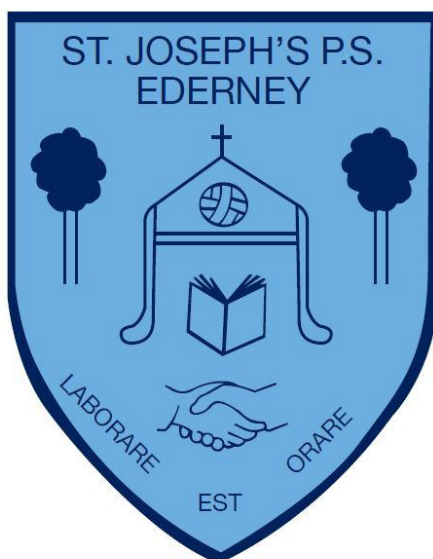
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BT930HA



4th November 2020

Covid-19 Protocols

Please ensure that you contact the school immediately, if you, or any member of your household, develops symptoms of Covid-19. If you develop symptoms, you must arrange to be tested as soon as possible. You must also inform either Mr Monaghan, Mrs Hagan (Senior Teacher) or Mrs Karen McLaren (Secretary), once you receive your result. **Where an individual has had a negative result and everyone with symptoms who was tested in their household receive a negative result, your child can return to school, providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours.** School contact details are on the front of this newsletter and on our school website.

Friends of St. Joseph's PTFA

Sincere thanks to our PTFA for supporting our appeal to replace our old interactive whiteboards with new, cutting edge, Promethean Activpanels. Many of our old boards and projectors have been breaking down on a regular basis and their repair no longer supported by Capita (the organisation which maintains ICT equipment in schools). The installation of new boards in every classroom, will be of tremendous benefit to all our pupils and staff. The total cost of the boards (not including fitting) is £12,380. Our PTFA have kindly agreed to contribute £4,000. The remainder will be met from our school funds. We appreciate that these are very difficult times financially, for many in our school community, but If you feel that you are able to contribute in some way to the fundraising effort, you can do so at :
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Whiteboards4StJosephsPS?invite=true>
Please pass on this link to anyone you think might be interested in supporting our fundraising efforts.

Fermanagh Club All-Star Awards

Congratulations to St. Joseph's senior players: Sean Cassidy, Christopher Snow, Mark McCauley, Declan McCusker, Paul McCusker and Martin McGrath, who received their Fermanagh Club All-Star awards yesterday evening. It was fantastic to see so many past pupils receiving an award like this.

Anti-Bullying Week

The **16th – 20th November**, is Anti-bullying week. This year's theme is 'United Against Bullying'. Our pupils will explore this topic through a variety of age-appropriate activities in each classroom. We will mark Anti-Bullying Week by having an 'Odd Socks Day' on **Monday 16th November**.

P.E.

The Department of Education has thankfully remitted their instruction to schools to limit participation numbers, in relation to Physical Education. This is greatly welcomed, given that we have been trying to ensure that our children avail of as much physical activity as possible in recent times, especially through our coaching sessions and activities such as The Daily Mile. As we begin these winter months, it is important that, when going outside, your child has the necessary outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear to school, on days when there may be inclement weather. Light but warm/waterproof items will therefore be best on days when your child has P.E.

Mathletics November Numeracy Challenge

We are participating again this year in the annual Mathletics November Numeracy Challenge, which takes place on **16th – 22nd of November**. The competition is open to schools in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. All pupils in the school are registered for the competition. Please encourage your child to participate online, both in school and at home. Mathletics can be accessed through our school website/Home Learning/Links.

Credit Union

Many thanks to our local Credit Union for promoting and providing prizes for their annual Credit Union Art Competition. This year's theme was 'Imagine More'. The winners were: Riona Brown, Brenna McGrath, Riley Cadden, Kayden Moss, Bella-Rose Cadden, Holly McManus, Leila Laporionok, Davin McGrath, Eva Donnelly, Charlie Daly, Tori-Jean Beacom and Daniel McCarron. Their beautiful artwork will be on display shortly on our school website.

Unfortunately, we are unable to facilitate the weekly collection of pupil savings, this year. If you would like to continue to do so, or would like to open a new account for your child, please visit the local office at 33, Main Street, Ederney (Tel. No. 028 6863 2160).

Encouraging your child to save is an important life skill and benefits their number sense, understanding of money and budgeting ability – all skills that they will need in the future! Opening hours are as follows:

Tuesday: 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm – 8.30pm

Saturday: 10.00am – 2.00pm

Parent/Carer/Teacher Meetings

Our staff are continuing to meet with parents/carers, either by phone, or online. Thank you for your patience, if you are awaiting an appointment. We will be in touch with you shortly. When allocated an appointment, we would be grateful if you could stick to the allocated time slot provided by your child's teacher. It is important that meetings don't overrun, as this has a knock on effect on those awaiting a telephone call/online meeting.

Parent NI App

We have now developed the private messaging facility via the Parent NI App. 96% of parents have downloaded the app and verified their account. We ask those who have not yet verified their account to do so urgently. You will have received either a text message, or e-mail, with regard to this. **All numbers/emails registered with the school need to verify. All further school communications will be issued either via the app, or by the school text messaging service, so it is vital to do so.** Please note that it is also essential to inform us throughout the year, should you change your mobile phone number, or registered e-mail. Instructions on how to download the app are available from our school website www.stjosephspsederney.com, in the Parents/Newsletters section.

Parenting NI courses

Parenting NI, in conjunction with the Public Health Agency (PHA), are providing free online workshops on the following topics:

- Children's emotional health;
- Parenting in the pandemic;
- Helping children to manage change during the pandemic.

To register click on:

www.parentingni.org/programme-calendar

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. The aim of this service is to provide the immediate support that children and young people need, to help them overcome their challenges and prevent problems escalating to crisis level.

The types of issues children and young people may need support for include:

- Anxiety around Covid restrictions and lockdown
- Being back at school
- Concerns for health of parents/ grandparents/ family members
- Help with isolation
- Relationships with parents & family
- Dealing with bereavement

Families in Northern Ireland can now self-refer for See, Hear, Respond 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.

Christmas Celebrations

Despite the current restrictions, Christmas celebrations will definitely not be cancelled in St. Joseph's! We may not be able to host our annual pageant, in the church, but this year we intend to record a special video to share with you. Each class will dress up in costume and perform a Christmas carol or poem, for your enjoyment. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you shortly with regard to

anything that needs to be brought in from home. We would appreciate that, when requested, this is brought in as soon as possible, as anything brought in from home needs to be quarantined in school, for a period of time.

We also will produce a St. Joseph's 2021 school calendar, which will feature a variety of children's artwork and some positive messages for the year ahead. We hope that this prove to be an ideal Christmas gift for friends and family! We will be in touch shortly with regard to availability/cost.

St. Vincent de Paul

The local St. Vincent de Paul Society has asked us not to put hampers together this year, to avoid any issues in relation to bringing items into school from home. Obviously the need to support St. Vincent de Paul has never been greater and it is vital that we continue to do all that we can to support their annual Christmas Appeal. Local members of St. Vincent de Paul conduct their weekly collection at the steps of St. Joseph's Church, every Sunday morning, before 11.00am Mass, so rather than sending items into school this year, we urge you to drop your contribution off with them at this time.

Alternatively, you can donate online at : <https://www.svp.ie/get-involved/donate/single-donation.aspx>

School Photographer

Given current restrictions, in relation to Covid-19, we have postponed the annual visit of our school photographer until later in the school year.

Diary Dates

Confirmation

The Clogher Diocese has allocated **Friday, 12th of March, at 6.00pm, in St. Joseph's Church, Ederney**, as the date for the sacrament of Confirmation. **Please note that this date is provisional and will be subject to change, if current arrangements in relation to the Covid-19, remain in place.**

First Holy Communion

The sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Saturday 22nd May, at 11.00am**, in St. Joseph's Church, Ederney. **Please note that this date is provisional and will be subject to change, if current arrangements in relation to the Covid-19, remain in place.**