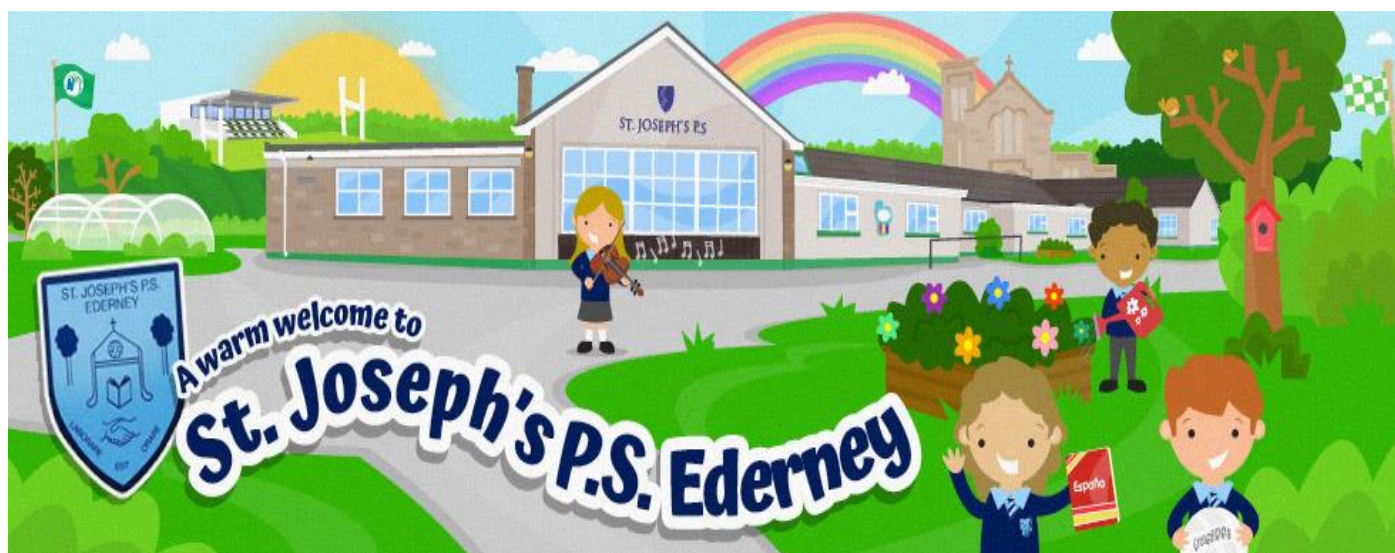


**Saint Joseph's Primary School**  
**&**  
**Ederney Community Nursery**

***Newsletter***

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**8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

### **Catholic Schools' Week**

Congratulations to our P7 pupils on their fantastic Coffee/Tea morning for Grandparents' Day, which was held to mark Catholic Schools' Week. This was our first Coffee/Tea morning for Grandparents' Day since Covid and it was wonderful to welcome so many grandparents into our school again. Special thanks to Mrs Hagan and her assistants for organising the event, to Mrs McCusker for assisting Mrs Hagan with the lovely music and to our P7 pupils, for their wonderful singing, violin and tin whistle accompaniment. Thanks also to our school kitchen for providing the tasty refreshments.

### **Credit Union Quiz**

We hosted the Credit Union Quiz on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January with our U11 winning their section and qualifying for the Chapter final. Well done to all those who took part.

### **Boys & Girls Five-a-Side Football**

Well done to our boys' and girls' teams who recently participated in the Cumann na mBunscol Five-a-Side Indoor Football competitions. Both teams competed very well with St Paul's P.S., Irvinestown winning the boys competition and St. Mary's P.S., Tempo the girls competition.

### **Shared Education**

Shared Education continues for our P1/2 class in Kesh on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **Safer Internet Day**

A huge thank you to Mrs. Hagan for preparing resources for each class for Safer Internet Day. Of real concern for children at present, is unfiltered access to YouTube, so please ensure your child's device has enabled the 'Restricted Mode' setting.

Please remember to check your child's online activity regularly - many children are using Snapchat, WhatsApp, Tik Tok and Instagram in Primary Schools - the legal age for Snapchat is 13 and for WhatsApp 16. However, we know children are using these platforms to communicate so we have advised them to ensure their accounts are private. As we are concerned that chat online after school may cause hurt, we have discussed in school how to do so respectfully and how to keep safe online.

The Education Authority have launched a Tik Tok safety guide for parents and carers and is available on <https://www.eani.org.uk>

## **Children's Mental Health Week**

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and next week is Valentines' Day, so we are having a non-uniform day this Friday 10th February reflecting the theme 'Everyone has a heart, everyone is valued'. All pupils are asked to wear something red and to bring in £1 which will be donated to Action Mental Health MensSana. AMH MensSana have already delivered a workshop to all staff and they will be working with the pupils in March.

## **Yoga**

Yoga with Frances Armstrong will continue this Friday afternoon for all classes.

## **Temperance Sunday and Confirmation Pledge**

Confirmation Pledge will take place on Temperance Sunday **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February** in St. Joseph's Church Ederney, at 11.00am.

## **Attendance**

Our attendance is completed by 9.30am each morning. Reasons for absences must be noted on our computer system and is accessible by the Education Welfare Officer. The Education Welfare Officer monitors absences and so we have to notify the Education Welfare Officer if a pupil's attendance falls below 85%.

We will be implementing a link to 'Report Pupil Absence' on our school website. It would be very much appreciated if this system was used to report your child's absence. Reasons for Absence can be completed on the school website via the '**Reporting School Absence**' link.' We acknowledge that not everyone is comfortable using the internet so notes for absences can still be given to the class teacher.

## **World Book Day**

We will celebrate World Book Day on **Wednesday 1st March**.

Children are encouraged to come to school dressed as a character from a book, story, myth or nursery rhyme of their choice. Please note that it is not necessary to purchase outfits. Pupils will be involved in a variety of activities on the day.

## **Post-primary Application Process**

If you are applying for a place at a post-primary school for your child, starting in September 2023, you can apply online between **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**. Applications must be made through the EA website:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

### **Industrial Action**

At this point due to industrial action being taken nationally by teachers on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**, the school will be closed to all teachers in the morning.

School will open its doors at 12 noon when teachers will be back in class. The day will continue as normal with dinners, After Schools, home-time buses etc.

If your child cannot attend school on this day due to childcare arrangements, he/she will be marked present.

We apologise for any inconvenience and will keep you informed if there are any further changes in relation to this.

### **Mid-Term Break**

School will be closed from **13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February (inclusive)** for Mid-Term Break.

### **After School Football**

After School Football (3.00 -4.00pm) continues each Monday for all P4/5 pupils, and each Wednesday (3.00- 4.00pm) for all P6 and 7 pupils.

### **Cookery Club**

Cookery with Rhonda Archer, Josephine McGrath and Monica Morris will begin on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** for 5 weeks with Group 1 of P7 children, followed by a second 5-week block for Group 2 - cost £2 per week to cover the cost of ingredients.