

St James's Jotter

November 2015



Find us on Facebook and Twitter



You can now find us on Facebook and Twitter. We will be using these pages to provide information but will continue to keep you informed through ParentMail, Newsletters, our



website and, if required, notes. At the moment we will not be putting any children's photographs on Facebook or Twitter but I will be contacting you in the near future for your permission to do so. Our Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesps> and our Twitter account can be found by searching for St James's PS and NU or @StJamesPSandNU. Please go to these sites and show your support by liking and following!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

On Saturday 7 November from 9.00am—2.00pm we are looking for volunteers to come into school to help us with different tasks — tidying the library, working in the garden, painting equipment, etc.

If you could help in any way please give your name to one of the teachers—you will be made very welcome! You can choose a time that suits you. Refreshments will be provided.

We would be very grateful for any help on this day.



PARENTS AS PARTNERS

'Parents as Partners' is the name of our new programme of workshops for parents/guardians to help develop your knowledge and understanding of different aspects of the curriculum so that you can, in turn, help your child.

iTeach will be running a course of three iPad classes for parents/guardians in our school beginning on Wednesday 11 November at 6.30pm and continuing on 18 and 25 November at the same time. The classes will involve:

Week 1: Wednesday 11th Nov - eSafety and Numeracy content apps

Week 2: Wednesday 18th Nov - Getting creative with the camera roll and *iMovie*

Week 3: Wednesday 25th Nov - Supporting your child's literacy skills and developing creativity through *Book Creator*

If you would like to attend, please complete the reply slip on the note that went home or leave your name with the office. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. We hope that as many parents as possible will register for these iPad classes and support us in this initiative.

Other workshops and information sessions have also been planned:

Year 1	Phonics Workshop	Monday 23 November	6.30pm
Year 2	Phonics Workshop	Tuesday 24 November	6.30pm
Year 4– 7	Accelerated Reader Information Session	Wednesday 2 December	6.30pm

If you are unable to arrange child minding, you can bring your child and they will be supervised.

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SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The school photographer will be here on Monday 9 November to take individual photographs and family photographs of children who attend our school. Please ensure that all children are wearing their full school uniform.



OPEN EVENING

Our annual Open Evening will take place on Wednesday 9 December from 6.30pm—7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

NURSERY COFFEE MORNING/AFTERNOON

We will be having a Coffee morning and afternoon for all parents/guardians of children in our Nursery Unit on Friday 13 November from 9.00—9.45am and 12.30—1.15pm. This will give the parents and guardians a chance to meet for a chat and see some wonderful work on display from throughout the school.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

In order to continue to raise standards in our school, we are trying to improve punctuality and attendance. If your child is absent for any reason, a written note must be given to the class teacher to explain the absence. You may phone the office to inform us that your child will not be present but we would also ask for a written note to be sent in once your child returns to school. Teachers will be recording reasons for absences and, along with the Senior Leadership Team, will be monitoring children's attendance. Please note that children's poor attendance will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer.

It is also very important that all children are in class at 9.00am and this will also be monitored by the class teacher. Any child who is late three times in one month will receive a letter indicating that they have been late and reminding the parents/guardians of the importance of the child being in class at 9.00am. When a child is late for class, not only does it disrupt the class but the child can feel flustered and upset. Please try to ensure that your child is in class ready to begin their day at 9.00am.

Label your uniform!

I would appeal to you to please label all your child's uniform and belongings. We have an increasing amount of lost property which would be easily returned if the child's name was on the items.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Mrs Fiona Magill and her husband on the birth of their son Odhran.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Thank you for your cooperation in implementing our new procedures for leaving children to school. The downstairs classroom areas are now much calmer for the children where the children feel safer. It also helps us to promote the children's independence. For those of you who are not sure of the new arrangements, we are asking parents/guardians of Year 2-7 children to leave their children at the front door or in the children's entrance foyer in the morning and let the children make their own way to their classroom.

I would also remind you that all teachers supervise the children from 8.50am and it can be very difficult for them to talk to parents at this time. If you need to inform the teacher of something, please send a note with your child or contact the office and a message can be given to the teacher. If you need to speak with the teacher, please phone the office to arrange an appointment. Please remember that parents should not go up the stairs in the morning.

LATE ARRIVALS

If your child is late arriving at school, please report to the office. Children will then make their own way to the classroom or, if necessary, a Classroom Assistant will meet them at the office and take them to their classroom.

PARKING

I would appeal to all drivers to please be considerate when parking in King's Walk and Bleach Green. I have had complaints from a number of residents about people blocking their driveways. Residents have been advised to report any incidents to the PSNI.

CHILDREN IN NEED

The Pupils' Council have organised a **CRAZY HAIR DAY** on Friday 13 November to raise money for Children in Need. Children will wear their school uniform to school but can do something weird and wonderful with their hair or even wear a wig! Please remember it's only for one day so we don't want any crazy hair that is permanent! The Pupils' Council have decided to ask everyone for a £1 donation which they will collect on the day. It's great to see our Pupils' Council being proactive and thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves. We look forward to seeing lots of interesting hairstyles on Friday 13th!



SHOEBOX APPEAL

The date for the return of shoeboxes has been extended until Tuesday 10 November. I would be grateful if all shoeboxes could be returned by this date as The Samaritan's Purse will be calling to collect the shoeboxes shortly after this. Many thanks to all those who have brought in a shoe box. We look forward to seeing all the shoeboxes piled high as always showing the generosity and kindness of our school community.



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Collect FREE donations for

St James's Primary School and
Nursery Unit with all your online
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AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Monday | Street Dance Years 1 and 2 2-3pm
Street Dance Years 3-7 3-4pm
Tommy Jackson Soccer School 3-4pm |
| Tuesday | Hockey Years 3-7 3-4pm |
| Wednesday | Drama Years 5-7 3-4pm |
| Thursday | Gardening and Eco Club
Years 3-7 3-4pm
Football Years 4-5 3-4pm
Outdoor Art Years 4-7 3-4pm |
| Friday | Football Years 6-7 2-3pm |



I would like to thank the teachers and external facilitators who provide the after school clubs for our children.

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CONTACT DETAILS

It is vitally important that we have current contact details for all parents/guardians so as you can be contacted in the case of an emergency. Please ensure that if your contact details change, you inform the office immediately.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

We are currently undergoing a review of all policies and a number of policies have now been ratified by the Board of Governors. The following policies are available in the school: Safeguarding and Child Protection, Parental Complaints, World Around Us, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Newcomer and Code of Conduct (Safeguarding). In the next few months we will be sending draft policies home and asking you to comment on the draft policy. Your comments will then be considered in the final draft of the policy which will then go to the Board of Governors to be ratified. I look forward to your cooperation in this very important process.

Pupil of the Month

The following children were awarded Pupil of the Month for October:

Year One Miss McCarthy	Rosa McKinley Luke Quinn
Year One Miss Morrow	Joshua Montijo Eile Quinn
Year 2 Mrs Cross	Maeve Lennon Nathan Burns
Year 2/3 Mrs Cunning	Raisa Dita Igor Kubieniec
Year 3 Miss Black	Poppy Reid Michael Teggart
Year 4 Mr Jones	Emma Brown Jeff Jazul
Year 5 Mr Tunney	Ruairi Magee Darcie Robinson
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Aaron Dickson Aimee Kerr
Year 6 Mr Nolan	Daniel Armstrong Joshua Gillespie
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Hannah Muckian DJ McCourt
Mrs Dallat	Janelle Flanagan Hannah Muckian

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

Board of Governors' Annual Report

I hope that everyone received a copy of the Board of Governors' Annual Report to Parents which was sent out via email and hard copy to those not yet receiving emails. If you did not get a copy, please contact the office.

Attendance Awards

Children with full attendance until 21 October were recognised at Assembly on 22 October. Every half term, children will be recognised for full attendance at school in that half term. Children who maintain full attendance for a full term and longer will also be given special recognition.

The names of the children who had full attendance can be found on the back page.

Goodbye

We recently said goodbye to Mr Javier Solano Rosas, one of our Special Educational Needs Classroom Assistants. We thank him for all he has done in St James's and wish him good luck as he takes up his new position as a teacher in his native Spain.

ASD Support Group

Last year we held a support group for parents/guardians of children who have been diagnosed or are awaiting a diagnosis of ASD. We would like to begin this again and we will meet on Friday 27 November at 9.00am in the staff room for tea and coffee. Please come along - you may get some useful advice from other parents/guardians or you might be able to provide some advice to others in a similar situation.

WEBSITE

Please remember to check our website regularly.

www.stjamesps.co.uk

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Newtownabbey Food Bank

St James's Primary School and Nursery Unit is a registered referral agent for Newtownabbey Food Bank.

Vouchers are available in school. Mrs Dallat is the contact person for these vouchers. The voucher entitles an individual or family in crisis to receive food sufficient for three days.

There is no gathering of personal information by school.

The vouchers can be handed in at the local food bank at Abbots Cross Presbyterian Church or in Carnmoney.

At the food bank there are refreshments available and toys for young children to play with whilst waiting for the food pack.

Volunteers will also be present to direct individuals to social services/citizens advice if needed.

Easy Fundraising

I am appealing for all parents/guardians and friends of St James's to please register for Easy Fundraising. Easy Fundraising is a very simple way for our school to make money particularly at this time of the year when people are shopping online for Christmas. When you are buying anything online if you access the site you are buying from through Easy Fundraising, the school will get a percentage of what you spend at no cost to you. It really is simple to do.

We have raised £199.10 since our Easy Fundraising account was opened approximately two years ago and we have 43 supporters. I would like to thank those who have signed up and have been able to raise these much needed funds for our school. The money raised is used to buy resources for the children.

Please log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk, create an account and support the good cause St James's Primary School and Nursery Unit, Newtownabbey.



Thank You

In this edition of St James's Jotter, I would like to thank our volunteers who help us implement the Toe by Toe programme—Mrs Julie Kelly, Mrs Diane Moore and Mrs Michelle Grant. Toe by Toe is a highly structured reading programme which helps children who may find reading difficult.

I would also like to thank Mrs Carolina Santos Guerra who is working with some classes to help develop their Spanish language skills.

The commitment, dedication and enthusiasm of all our volunteers help to promote and enrich the learning of our children.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 9 November 2015	All day	School photographer
Wed 11 November 2015	6.30—7.30pm	Parent iPad class
Fri 13 November	All day	Crazy Hair Day for Children in Need
Wed 18 November 2015	6.30-7.30pm	Parent iPad class
Mon 23 November 2015	6.30pm	Year 1 Phonics Workshop
Tues 24 November 2015	6.30pm	Year 2 Phonics Workshop
Wed 25 November 2015	6.30-7.30pm	Parent iPad class
Wed 2 December 2015	6.30pm	Year 4-7 Accelerated Reader Information Session
Wed 9 December 2015	6.30-7.30pm	Open Night
Fri 11 December 2015	9.30am	Nursery Christmas Concert
Tues 15 December 2015	9.30am	Year One Christmas Concert
Tues 15 December 2015	11.00am	Year Three (Miss Black) and Year Four (Mr Jones) Christmas Concert
Wed 16 December 2015	9.30am	Year Two (Mrs Cross) and Year Two/Three (Mrs Cunning) Christmas Concert
Thurs 17 December 2015	Lunch time	Children's Christmas Dinner
Wed 23 December 2015	Half Day	12 noon finish

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PARENTMAIL

We are currently undergoing transition to a new version of ParentMail. Unfortunately this means that our Year One and Nursery parents/guardians will not be able to avail of ParentMail for another couple of weeks. We hope to have the transition to the upgraded system completed as soon as possible and thank you for your continued patience.

PUPILS' COUNCIL

The following children have been elected to the Pupils' Council:

Year 4	Toby Sayers
	Abbie Lawlor
Year 5	Tristan Curry
	Darcie Robinson
Year 6	Daniel Armstrong
	Cleo Mulholland
	Amiel Njarakulathu
	Ciara O'Conallain
Year 7	Una Collins
	To be confirmed

I look forward to working closely with the Pupils' Council during the year and I'm sure they will do a wonderful job representing all our children and our school.



No dogs allowed

Please note, that in the interests of health and safety, dogs are not permitted in the school or in the school grounds. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Donaghy who was recently awarded her Professional Qualification in Headship (PQH) at a graduation ceremony in Hazelwood Integrated College.



GOOD LUCK

Good luck to our Year 5 pupil Anna Gordon who will be representing our school at the Northern Ireland Schools' Trampolining Competition later this month.



Earrings

I would like to remind you that children are not permitted to wear earrings in school.

PTA

I would like to thank the PTA and all who supported the Halloween Disco. The fantastic amount of £811.13 was raised. I would also like to thank those who donated prizes for the ballot including Simply Class Gym, Taaj Restaurant and Funky Monkeys. The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday 1 December at 5.45pm. I would encourage as many to attend as possible.

Year Six Business Masterclass

On Tuesday 17 November, as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, our Year Six children will be learning about business and the local economy. The Business Masterclass organised by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in partnership with Young Enterprise Northern Ireland will goie the children the opportunity to gain an insight into the business world and will help develop teamwork, enterprise and entrepreneurial skills. Watch out Alan Sugar!

Concussion Awareness

Please see the letter attached to St James's Jotter about concussion.

Half Term Attendance Awards

Year One Miss Morrow	Year One Miss McCarthy	Year Two Mrs Cross	Year Two/Three Mrs Cunning	Year Three Miss Black
Daisy Arkins-Flood	Elizabeth Bamidele	Nathan Burns	Leon Curry	Luna Banasik Michael Teggart
Sophie Barit	Ethan Blair	Gabriel Gutkowski	Adam Dudek	Mateusz Ianowski Louie Venner
Hubert Dziedziak	Zuzanna Dagiel	Kevin Hoyne	Igor Kubieniec	Amelia Grajek
Sophie Goodfellow	Tom Dench	Zuzanna Keating	Flynn Markey	Caitlin Grant
Ameila Gutkowska	Maddie Hamilton	Maeve Lennon	Michael McCourt	Krish Gupta
Liam Magill	Elizabeth Hill	Courtney McCormick	Joshua Montgomery-Allen	Natan Jankowski
Thomas McAllister	Kyle Jankowski	Hollie McMillen	Mark Neill	Ciaran Laverty
Rosa McKinley	Olivia Lee	Jacob Montijo	Jonathan Patterson	Arianna McCracken
Luke Quinn	Tayana McGuinness			Nathaniel McCracken
Alexander Ross	Hannah McMillen			Aoibheann Mulholland
James Snoddy	Joshua Montijo			Conor O'Conallain
	Abiel Njarakulathu			Cate O'Dowd
	Eile Quinn			Clodagh O'Hara
	Harvey William			Caoimhe Quinn
	Stuart Snoddy			Poppy Reid
	Carter Tomilty			Ieuan Russell
Year Four Mr Jones	Year Five Mr Tunney	Year Six Mrs Kelly	Year Six Mr Nolan	Year Seven Mrs Donaghy
Cain Armstrong Quigley	Steven Barnes	Jasper Delfinado	Daniel Armstrong	LJ Barit
Eve Blair	Janelle Flanagan	Aaron Dickson	Keith Calungsod	Zeigan Barrido
Emma Brown	Callum Grant	Aimee Kerr	Katie Fulton	Jennah Fulton
Nora Campbell	Ciara Green	Sasha McComb	Manuel Jacob	Ewan Gracey
Chi Chi Chiwaka	Cara Hamilton	Charlotte McKee	Daniel McAuley	Matthew Green
Sasha Gracey	Rebecca McKee	Max McKee	Chloe McKinley	Megan Heffron
Manas Jacob	Grace McKinley	Aoife McKeown	Jessica McKinley	Sophie Lee
Shera Jaise	Abbie McNamara	Jamie Louise McLaverty	Cleo Mulholland	Bradley Maguire
Abbie Lawlor	Niamh McWilliams	Ruairi Mulholland	Callum O'Neill	Declan McAteer
Aisling Lennon	Cian Morgan	Harry Nicholson	Maria Raju	Declan McAuley
Kasper Luzynczyk	Johnny Nicholson	Ciara O'Conallain	Alfie Selestine	DJ McCourt
Shannon Magee	Lara Quinn	Emma Simpson	Katie Sloan-Hill	Ellen McNamara
Bradley McComb	Scarlett Reid	Ann Sweetnam	Jamie Wang	Abbie Moore
Shannon McCourt	Darcie Robinson			Sarah Quinn
Mia McCullough	Corey Russell			Dylan Russell
Justin Patino	Diana Saji			Sahar Syeda
Toby Sayers	Caitlin Shaw			Ainara Tasker-Lynch
Oliver Simpson	Olina Sunil			Owen Todd
Kosma Siwecki	Jovial Vincent Gigiy			Thomas Tomlinson
Sarah Syeda				
John Tasker-Lynch				

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Dear Parent/Guardian

CONCUSSION AWARENESS – WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

The Department of Education has requested that all schools should write to parents/guardians to highlight the need for you to keep all organisations informed if your child receives a concussion injury.

Concussion is a brain injury which is usually caused by hitting the head or a fall. It can happen at any time, anywhere: for example during sports, in the school playground, or at home.

Concussion must always be taken seriously and it is vitally important that any child/young person suspected of having concussion should **immediately** be stopped from continuing whatever activity they are doing and be assessed by a medical professional for diagnosis and guidance.

A second injury when a child has concussion can be extremely serious and may even be fatal. It is vitally important therefore that medical clearance is sought before your child returns to school/play. Children should not resume physical activities such as Physical Education (PE), sports or games until permitted to do so by a medical professional.

Concussion may also affect your child's ability to learn at school. This must be considered and medical clearance should be sought before the child returns to school. As symptoms vary from child to child, a graduated return to school programme may be needed.

If your child suffers a concussion in school or outside school, it is vitally important that you keep all people/organisations with responsibility for caring for your child informed so that they are aware of the potential dangers and any restrictions that may apply to the activities your child is permitted to do.

The '**Recognise and Remove**' leaflet produced by the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is available on the Department of Education's website <http://www.deni.gov.uk> and provides guidance on the signs to look out for.

Keeping everyone informed about concussion is in your child's best interests and parents/guardians have a key role in making sure that information is passed on to their child's teacher, sports coach, youth leader or other care provider.

Yours faithfully

Paula Cunningham