

St James's Jotter

March 2016



FUN AND FRIENDSHIP AT CORRYMEELA

On Wednesday 2 March, 11 of our Year Five children and their parents set off for Corrymeela in Ballycastle for a residential with children and parents from Whitehouse Primary School. The trip was funded by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, the Family Holiday Association, CRIS (Community Relations in Schools) and the Shared Education Signature Project.

The parents, children and staff worked along with *Community Relations In Schools (CRIS)*, exploring friendship, identity, story telling and community building. Throughout the residential there was a lovely relaxed atmosphere and everyone had a chance to get to know each other and have a great time. Over the few days there were lots of fun activities such as a treasure hunt in the dark, mask making and cricket on the beach.

The adults and children all had a wonderful experience together and have made lasting friendships. I would like to thank Mr Tunney and Mrs Doyle for participating in the residential, the volunteers at Corrymeela for ensuring everyone had a wonderful time and a special thanks to Catherine and David from CRIS who facilitated the residential and made the experience one to be cherished for all involved.

PEACE PROMS

Congratulations to the children in our Choir who participated in the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland Peace Proms in the SSE Arena on Sunday 28 February. The children had a unique experience and thoroughly enjoyed participating in the wonderful concert. I would like to thank Mr Nolan and Mrs Simpson who accompanied the children to the Arena and thanks also to all the parents who supported the children on the day.

HEALTHY EATING

As a health promoting school, I would remind you that children should bring a healthy break to school. Information regarding healthy breaks can be found in the September St James's Jotter which can be downloaded from our website. I would also remind you that we are a nut free school and children should not bring nut products to school. Due to being a health promoting school and in the interest of children with allergies, we are unable to give the children cakes or treats sent in by parents/guardians when it is their birthday. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Morning Arrangements

I would like to remind parents/guardians that children in Years 2-7 should be left in the children's entrance foyer from where they can make their own way to their classroom. Only parents/guardians of Year One children should accompany their child to the classroom unless an arrangement has been made with Mrs Cunningham. In the interests of Safeguarding and Child Protection, parents should not enter the children's toilets. If a young child needs to use the toilet, please use the toilets at the office.

Living and Learning Together

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Our Safeguarding team is:

Mrs Dallat	Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Kelly	Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Heaney	Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Nursery)
Mrs Cunningham	Principal

If you have any concerns about a child in the Primary School, please speak with Mrs Dallat or, in her absence, Mrs Kelly.

If you have any concerns about a child in the Nursery Unit, please speak with Mrs Heaney.

All concerns will be dealt with sensitively.

CAR PARKING

Please remember that, following advice from the Education Authority, the back car park is for staff parking only. As always, I would appeal to all drivers to please be considerate when parking in King's Walk and Bleach Green. I would also suggest that you could drop your children off on Fernagh Road at the entrance to King's Walk and they could walk the short distance to school. In a recent meeting with DRD, this was also suggested as a way to help address our traffic issues. Please note that residents have been advised to contact the PSNI to report any incidents. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

TAKE CARE!

It is great to see some of our children coming to school on their bicycles. However, I would like to remind you that, in the interests of your child's safety, when riding a bicycle, they should always wear a helmet. Children should also get off their bicycle at the school gate and walk their bicycle round to the bicycle stands.



FIRST CONFESSION

Best wishes to our Year Three children who will be making their First Confession on Tuesday 15 March in St James's Church. We look forward to this special occasion.

POETRY IN MOTION

This week our Year Seven children attended the launch of the Community Arts Project anthology of poems which they worked on last term. A special congratulations to Sophie and LJ who were chosen to read their poems to the audience in a packed Ulster Hall. We were very proud of their confident performances.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

As you are aware, work is beginning on the roof of our Nursery Unit. There will be scaffolding erected and there may be increased traffic with lorries delivering materials etc. I would ask you to please take care when walking past the Nursery although we are assured that the scaffolding and any materials will be fenced off and very secure. We hope that there will be minimal disruption while the work is carried out.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Monday	Street Dance Years 1-3
	Street Dance Years 4-7
	Music Theory
	Drums with Adam
Tuesday	Hockey
Wednesday	Drama
Thursday	Gardening and Eco
	Football
	Speech and Drama Years 1 and 2
	Speech and Drama Years 3-7

Living and Learning Together

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.

PTA

Many thanks to our PTA who recently funded the purchase of IZAK 9 for our school. IZAK 9 is an innovative Maths active learning resource and will be mainly used in Key Stage Two. The PTA also funded the outdoor clothing for our Nursery which will enable the children to enjoy their outdoor learning and participate in our Forest School Programme no matter what the weather!

TWITTER

If you have requested to follow us on Twitter but haven't yet been accepted, please let me know as it can be difficult to determine who is a parent from the twitter name.

Pupil of the Month

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

Year One Miss Milner	Yumnaa Rasool Tom Dench
Year One Miss Morrow	Cerys Grant Hubert Dziedziak
Year 2 Mrs Cross	Alys Green Zuzanna Keating
Year 2/3 Mrs Cunning	Joshua Montgomery Aoife Cochrane
Year 3 Miss Black	Caitlin Grant Emmanuel Leyva Garcia
Year 4 Mr Jones	Chi Chi Chiwaka Shannon McCourt
Year 5 Mr Tunney	Grace McKinley Callum Grant
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Sasha Patterson Harry Nicholson
Year 6 Mr Nolan	Katie Fulton Callum O'Neill
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Megan Heffron Thomas Tomlinson
Mrs Dallat	Beccie Campbell Jamie-Louise McLaverty

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

I would encourage you to regularly check your child's hair for headlice. If you find that your child has headlice or nits, please seek treatment from your pharmacy. I would also be grateful if you could let the class teacher know. Please note that having headlice or nits is not a reason for your child to be absent from school. Further information can be found at <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/head-lice>

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. Please note that when a child is late for class it is recorded on their attendance record.

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will be visiting us during the week beginning 14 March. It will be open in the morning from 8.50am until 9.15am and in the afternoon from 2.10pm until 2.30pm and again at 3.00pm until 3.20pm. The children will also have an opportunity to buy books when their class visits the Book Fair. The Book Fair is always well supported and the sales help us to purchase additional books for our school.

Living and Learning Together

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 15 March	11.00am	First Confession, St James's Church
Thurs 17 March		School closed for St Patrick's Day
Thurs 24 March	12 noon	School closes for Easter Holidays
Mon 4 April	9.00am	School reopens
Mon 2– Fri 6 May		School closed
Sat 14 May 2016	11.00am	First Holy Communion in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Mon 30 May		School closed
Wed 8 June		School closed

MORNING ARRANGEMENTS

I would like to remind you that, in the morning, we ask 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. Please note that when a child is late for class it is recorded on their attendance record.

WEBSITE

Please remember to check our website regularly.

www.stjamesps.co.uk

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is proving to be increasingly popular and provides a valuable service for our parents/guardians. If your child goes to Breakfast Club and has money that they need to give to the teacher, I would be grateful if you could ensure the money is put in a labelled envelope in the child's bag which they can then give to their teacher. Mrs Brown and Mrs Thompson can no longer accept money other than that for Breakfast Club. Thank you for your cooperation.

ACCELERATED READER HOME CONNECT

We are pleased that parents and carers now have the opportunity to use Renaissance Home Connect. This is a means of monitoring children's reading practice by allowing access to Accelerated Reader at home. Renaissance Home Connect provides a snapshot of each child's reading progress including average percentage correct on quizzes, number of points earned and results of the last quiz taken (reading quizzes can only be taken in school). Parents and carers can also see all of the books read by their own child. We are sure that Renaissance Home Connect will prove to be a valuable tool in helping parents to encourage their child to read and in helping to monitor progress towards reaching reading targets. The children in Years 4 to 7 have already been given the website address and their login details. If you have any questions about Home Connect please feel free to ask the class teacher or Mrs Kelly (Coordinator).



Living and Learning Together

ACCELERATED READER

The following children reached their target points in February.

Year Four	Year Five	Year Six RK	Year Six TN	Year Seven
Cain Armstrong	Melani Biju	Mebin Babu	Daniel Armstrong	LJ Barit
Eve Blair	Kacper Dabrowski	Jasper Delfinado	Keith Calungsod	Zeigan Barrido
Emma Brown	Marianna Garvin	Aimee Kerr	Katie Fulton	Una Collins
Nora Campbell	Anna Gordon	Aoife McKeown	Joshua Gillespie	Jennah Fulton
Olivia Dubanowska	Ciara Green	Jamie-Louise McLaverty	Manuel Jacob	Declan McAuley
Sasha Gracey	Ciara Hamilton	Ruairi Mulholland	Olivia McDermott	Hannah Muckian
Aimee Green	Ruairi Magee	Harry Nicholson	Jessica McKinley	Sarah Quinn
Manus Jacob	Grace McKinley	Amiel Njarakulathu	Anthony Armstrong	Sahar Syeda
Ross Jazul	Abigail McNamara	Ciara O'Conallain	Jay Montijo	Ainara Tasker Lynch
Grace Law	Niamh McWilliams	Ann Sweetnam	Bailey Nicholson	Owen Todd
Abigail Lawlor	Johnny Nicholson		Callum O'Neill	Thomas Tomlinson
Aisling Lennon	Rory O'Conallain		Melissa Pauley	
Shannon Magee	Anna O'Dowd		Maria Raju	
Shannon McCourt	Calum O'Neill		Katie Sloan-Hill	
Tobias Sayers	Darcie Robinson		Jamie Wang	
Sarah Syeda	Corey Russell			
	Olina Sunil			
	Oiliwier Wiczling			

Congratulations to all the boys and girls on reaching their target.

A special congratulations to Ciara O'Conallain who has joined our Millionaires' Club along with Harry Nicholson and Declan McAuley. These avid readers have now read over one million words!

Fundraising for Trocaire

From Monday 14 March, our Year Seven children will be selling water droplets in the children's entrance foyer before school starts to raise funds for Trocaire. The water droplets cost 50p and all money will be donated to Trocaire's Lenten campaign.

Unwanted Gifts

The PTA would be extremely grateful if you would donate any unopened/unwanted gifts for the May Fair. Such gifts could include chocolates, alcohol, perfume, books, photo frames, CDs, DVDs, candles or toiletries. **UNUSED ITEMS ONLY PLEASE.** If you have any such items, please leave them with your child's teacher. Many thanks in advance.

Facebook

We have now over 200 likes on our Facebook page. We try to post regularly on the Facebook page and it is a great way to stay up to date with events. Please have a look and 'like' our page!

Earrings

I would like to remind you that, in the interests of health and safety, children are not permitted to wear earrings in school.

Happy Easter

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to wish all our parents, guardians and friends a very happy Easter. We hope you enjoy the well deserved break!

