

St James's Jotter

May 2016



FOREST SCHOOL CELEBRATION

On Wednesday 18 May at 10.00am, there will be a special event in Mossley Mill to celebrate our Nursery Unit's participation in the Forest School Project as part of our Shared Education Initiative with Whitehouse Primary School and Nursery Unit. The Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey will present certificates to each Nursery Unit and to the volunteers who selflessly gave up their time to help facilitate the Forest School programme. We look forward to a great day!



WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

Walk to school week takes place from Monday 16 May until Friday 20 May. To encourage the children to walk to school, we will be operating two 'walking buses' - one from the Park and Ride at the train station and one from the bridge on the Glenville Road. Children need to be dropped off at the collection points between 8.20 and 8.30am and the 'walking bus' will leave at 8.35am. We would encourage the children to try to wear something hi vis for safety. If you would like your child to participate, please complete the reply slip on the note that was sent home and return to your child's teacher by Friday 13 May.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion will take place in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse on Saturday 14 May at 11.00am. After Mass, the children and their families are invited to the hall at

Whitehouse for refreshments. In order to help with this, I am asking for donations of tray bakes, buns, cakes, biscuits, etc. Any donations should be left into the school office on Friday 13 May. I look forward to your support in making this a very special celebration for our children and their families.



SPORTS DAY

Weather permitting, Sports Day will take place on Friday 27 May. All children will come to school at the normal time. Sports for children in Years 1—4 will begin at 9.15am and end at 10.45am. The children in these classes may go home after their Sports. Sports for children in Years 5—7 will begin at 11.00am and end at 12.30pm. Again, the children may go home after their Sports. If it is wet, a decision as to whether Sports Day will proceed will be taken as soon as possible that morning and will be communicated to parents via Parent Mail.



ACCESS TO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Over the last few months there has been an increasing number of parents/guardians and children using the main entrance at the office to enter the school building in the morning and at home time. I would like to remind you that this entrance is for visitors, disabled people and for those with buggies/prams only. I would be grateful if everyone could use the children's entrance which is open at 8.50am and at 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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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, the child 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.



Earrings

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

THANK YOU

Many thanks for supporting our 'Wear it Blue' day on Friday 22 April. Your generosity raised £300 for Autism NI.



INSPECTION REPORT

In recognition of our recent Inspection Report, which can be viewed at www.etini.gov.uk, the Board of Governors have granted the children and staff a half day (12 noon finish). This half day will be taken on Tuesday 7 June and the children are off on Wednesday 8 June for staff training. Breakfast Club will be available on Tuesday 7 June.

CINDERELLA COSTUME

As the excitement builds for our May Fair, the PTA will be selling 144 numbered squares for a chance to win a fabulous handmade Cinderella costume (age 4-7) kindly donated by Jim and Imelda McMillan. Simply choose a number and pay £1.00 per square chosen. Squares go on sale in school on Monday 16 May. Winner to be announced at the May Fair. Good luck!

PTA MAY FAIR

The very popular May Fair will take place on Friday 20 May. 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 send them in with your child or leave them in the office. Many thanks in advance.

ASSESSMENT

Over the next few weeks, the children will be completing different assessments. I would be grateful if you could ensure, as far as possible, that your child is in school every day so as they do not miss an assessment.

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CONTACT DETAILS

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

VISION

Over the last few months the staff, Governors and children have been working on revising the Vision for our school. We now have a draft Vision to share with our parents/guardians (you can find it at the end of St James's Jotter). We want our school Vision to be a shared Vision so your input as parents/guardians is of utmost importance. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to read our draft Vision and, if you wish, make some comments. We will look at and consider all comments and, if needed, make amendments to the Vision. I will leave a box in the children's entrance foyer for any comments. Many thanks.

Celebrating the Queen's birthday

On Friday 13 May, two Year Seven children will represent our school at a special reception in Mossley Mill to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The celebration will be hosted by The Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim, Mrs Joan Christie OBE, and the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Thomas Hogg. The children will receive special commemorative medals to bring back to school for all our Year Seven children.

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.

Pupil of the Month

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

Year One Mrs Magill	Maddie Hamilton Mattheo Santos
Year One Miss Morrow	Ciara Maguire Jacob Nycek
Year 2 Mrs Cross	Courtney McCormick Gabriel Gutkowski
Year 2/3 Mrs Cuning	Jonathan Patterson Julia Cherezniak
Year 3 Miss Black	Tee Jay McMurray Arianna McCracken
Year 4 Mr Jones	Nora Campbell Kacper Luzynczyk
Year 5 Mr Tunney	Olina Sunil Corey Russell
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Jasper Delfinado Charlotte McKee
Year 6 Mr Nolan	Maria Raju Rory Moran
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Jamie Montgomery Jennah Fulton
Mrs Dallat	Darcie Robinson Corey Russell

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 17 May to take photographs of the children who made their First Holy Communion and class photographs of the Nursery, Year One and Year Seven. Year One and Year Seven children should ensure they come to school wearing full school uniform including black shoes. Please remember that earrings are not permitted.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 14 May 2016	11.00am	First Holy Communion in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
16 May-20 May		Walk to School Week
Fri 27 May		Sports Day
Mon 30 May		School closed
Tues 7 June		Half day in recognition of ETI Report
Wed 8 June		School closed
Wed 15 June	7.00pm	Year Seven Leavers' Mass, St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Fri 24 June	9.30am	Year Seven Leavers' Assembly

Our Vision (Draft)

At St James's we aspire to provide high quality learning and teaching which is child centred and values the uniqueness of each child. Our Catholic values are at the heart of all that we do and they are reflected in all relationships within our diverse whole school community. We provide opportunities so that each child can achieve success, fulfil their potential and develop their thinking, creativity, enthusiasm and independence. We promote children's rights in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We aim to provide a safe, stimulating, happy and healthy environment where everyone is valued, listened to, cared for and respected. We strive to inspire and ignite a passion for lifelong learning and to develop responsible, confident children who can provide a valuable contribution to society.

CORRYMEELA LEGACY

On Saturday 7 May the parents and children from Year 5, who went to Corrymeela as part of our Shared Education initiative with Whitehouse Primary School, met in Jordanstown Bowling Club for a get together. The event was organised by one of our parents, Cheryl Shaw, who said, "This was the first event continuing on from the success at Corrymeela. The children from both communities, as well as their parents, are strengthening relationships that were first made there. " I would like to thank Mrs Shaw for organising this very successful event and also thank all the parents and children from both schools who attended and made the event such a success.

Read more: <http://www.newtownabbeytoday.co.uk/news/newtownabbey-news/schools-forging-firm-friendships-1-7376486#ixzz48R0GsDnk>

New Menu

The canteen will be starting a new menu from Monday 16 May. Please see the next page for details.

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Education Authority – North Eastern Region Catering Department
St James Primary School Meals Kitchen

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Spaghetti Bolognaise & Crusty Bread Or Stuffed Bacon Rolls, Peas, Sweetcorn, Chips Or Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Swiss Roll, Custard & Fresh Fruit	Chicken Curry, Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetcorn & Diced Carrot Or Filled Baked Potatoes – Tuna & Cheese Fruit Cookie, Milkshake & Fresh Fruit	Roast Gammon, Carrot/Parasnip, Dry Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Chocolate Flavoured Sponge, Pears & Custard	Homemade French Bread Pizza (Ham & Cheese Topping) Or Chicken Pie (potato topping homemade), Salad & Mashed Potato Rice Milk Pudding & Fruit	Salmon Fishcakes & Peas Or Hot Chill Chicken Wraps, Coleslaw, Broccoli, Baked Potatoes & Chips Artic Roll & Fruit
Week 2	Chicken Tikka, Rice & Naan Bread Or Assorted Filled Panini's, Salad & Chips Or Mashed Potatoes Frozen Yoghurt & Fruit	Homemade Chicken Goujons with Garlic Dip, Beans, Coleslaw & Mashed Potatoes Or Sausages, Beans & Mashed Potatoes Biscuits, Strawberry Milkshake & Fresh Fruit	Roast Loins of Pork, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Dry Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Lemon Flavoured Sponge, Custard & Fruit	Savoury Mince, Vegetables & Mashed Potatoes Or Homemade Soup, Crusty Roll & Ham Toasted Fruit Muffin & Custard	Breaded Fish, Sweetcorn, Peas, Chips Or Mashed Potatoes Or Panini, Salad, Chips Or Mashed Potatoes Egg Sponge Flan, Custard & Fruit
Week 3	Sausage & Bean Pie (with potato topping) Or Chicken Wraps, Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Chips Meringue Nest, Fruit & Yoghurt	Chicken Fried Rice, Curry Sauce & Naan Bread Or Chicken Wraps & Salad Cup Cake & Vanilla Flavoured Custard	Roast Chicken, Turnip, Broccoli, Mashed & Oven Roast Potatoes & Gravy Crackers, Cheese, Grapes & Yoghurt	Lasagne, Crusty Bread, Salad & Coleslaw Or Bacon, Turnip & Mashed Potatoes Date Krispie & Custard	Beef Burger in Bap, Grated Cheese, Tomatoes & Side Salad Or Fish Fingers, Peas, Chips Or Mashed Potatoes Jam & Coconut Egg Sponge & Custard
Week 4	Chicken Curry & Rice Or Filled Panini, Tomato, Cucumber, Chips Or Mashed Potatoes Ice-cream, Jelly & Fruit	Fresh Homemade Soup, Crusty Bread & Toastie Or Cottage Pie, Carrots & Peas Flakemeal Biscuit, Strawberry Milkshake & Fruit	Roast Turkey, Turnip, Broccoli, Mashed & Oven Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy Canadian Tart & Custard	Buffet Day: 2 Sandwiches 1 Chicken Goujon 1 Pizza Finger & Carrot Stick Chocolate & Orange Sponge with Custard	Breaded Cod Bites, Beans, Mashed Potatoes Or Chips Or Spaghetti Bolognaise & Crusty Bread Milk Pudding & Fruit

NB: Bread, Milk, Water & Fresh Fruit served alongside every set meal. For further information on allergenic ingredients please contact the school