

St James's Jotter

October 2016



FUNDRAISING

As you may be aware, all schools are facing major financial constraints this year and this is likely to get worse in the next financial year. In an effort to continue to provide our children with the most up to date resources and the best possible educational experiences, we will be organising special fundraising events throughout the year. The aim is to have an event approximately once a month when the children will be involved in an activity and will be asked to bring in £1 for school funds. The first event was No Pens Day and the next event will be the Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Parade when we will ask children to bring in £1 to take part.

The Board of Governors are also looking at additional sources of funding such as sponsorship from local businesses. If you know anyone who would be interested in sponsoring our school, please ask them to contact Mrs Cunningham. Some parents/guardians have also expressed willingness to give a voluntary donation of at least £10 towards school funds. This is greatly appreciated and if you would like to make a voluntary donation, please send your donation of £10 to your child's teacher in an envelope clearly labelled with 'voluntary donation'.

If any parents/guardians have any further ideas regarding fundraising, please speak with Mrs Cunningham or Mrs Hinds—all ideas are very welcome. As always, your support is greatly appreciated and together we can continue to provide high quality learning and teaching experiences for all our children.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The safety of all our children is of paramount importance and I would like to remind parents/guardians that children are only supervised in the mornings once they enter the school building at 8.50am unless they go to Breakfast Club. Children are not supervised in the school grounds in the mornings so, if they are in the school grounds before 8.50am and are not attending Breakfast Club, parents/guardians are reminded that this is at their own risk. A much safer option, if you need to leave your child to school early, is to send them to Breakfast Club which is open from 8.00am. Children can receive a breakfast for £1.50 or if they do not want breakfast, the cost is £1 per day.

In the interests of Health and Safety, we are asking parents/guardians of Year 2-7 children to leave their children at the children's entrance foyer in the morning and let the children make their own way to their classroom. This will help to reduce congestion in the mornings in the downstairs classroom area particularly at the Year 2 and 3 classrooms. I would also remind you that 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.

Breakfast Club

I would like to thank St Vincent de Paul for their continued support of our Breakfast Club. The support of St Vincent de Paul is invaluable and enables us to maintain our prices at the very reasonable £1.50 for breakfast and £1.00 for supervision.

SHARED EDUCATION

As part of our STEM programme with Whitehouse PS, the children in Year 5 and Year 6 and their parents/guardians will be participating in Family Science Workshops. The first workshop will take place on Thursday 13 October at 6.30pm in Whitehouse PS. These workshops proved to be very popular last year—they were great fun and we also learned a lot too! I would encourage as many of the Year 5 and 6 parents/guardians to come along and support our programme. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult and only children in Year 5 and Year 6 can attend. There will be an information session explaining our Shared Education programme on Wednesday 9 November at 6.30pm. Further details can be found on page 7.

Earrings

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

Living and Learning Together

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. It is vital that you follow the treatment plan fully as stopping treatment early can result in the headlice returning. 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>

Hallowe'en Disco

The PTA Hallowe'en Disco will take place on Thursday 27 October from 6.30pm—8.00pm. Children can come to the disco in fancy dress. The disco is only for children who attend our school—Nursery Unit and Primary School. We ask that children are accompanied by an adult and they will not be allowed to leave the disco without an adult. There will be tea and coffee in the dining hall for parents/guardians.



Hallowe'en Parade

The annual Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Parade will take place on Friday 28 October. Children are asked to donate £1 towards school funds. As has happened in the last few years, parents are welcome to come to the dining hall and the children will parade around the hall at certain times. The PTA kindly provide a number of prizes which will be awarded at the parade. Please see below the parade times for the classes:

Nursery	9.15am
Year 1 and 2	9.30am
Year 3 and 4	9.45am
Year 5, 6 and 7	10.00am



Firework Safety

At this time of the year, it is important to remind ourselves of the dangers of fireworks. I would encourage to discuss the dangers with your child. Please visit <http://www.nifrs.org/fire-storm/assets/documents/Fireworks/FireworkSafety.pdf> for advice.



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.

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 you inform the office of any change of details immediately.

Beat the Street

We are currently taking part in the Beat the Street initiative which runs until 2 November. The children (and adults!) are encouraged to see how far they can walk, run and cycle around their area. Every journey that is made adds to our total points. We keep a check on the leader board at Assembly to see how we are doing. Children also receive prizes with Johnny (Year 6) and Harry (Year 7) receiving a Beat the Street goodie bag for their efforts. I would encourage everyone to get out walking and help us move up the leader board!



YEAR 3

The children in Year 3 will stay in school until 3.00pm on Monday to Thursday once we return to school after the Hallowe'en break on Monday 7 Nov. They will finish school on a Friday at 2.00pm. Please note that the children in Year 3 can be collected from the children's entrance foyer Monday to Thursday and on a Friday they can be collected from the main door at the bottom of the green corridor. This should help to ease congestion at home time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Heartstart and First Aid Training

On 26 September, teachers and classroom assistants participated in Heartstart training—emergency life saving training for what to do in a life threatening emergency situation. On 27 and 28 September a number of Classroom Assistants and Teachers participated in First Aid training with our colleagues from Whitehouse PS. This means we now have a greater number of First Aiders available in an emergency.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our After School Clubs are now up and running. Most clubs will run for 6 weeks and cost £2 per session or £10 for the full 6 weeks. Some clubs are run by external professionals and vary in price. Many thanks to all those who are organising and facilitating the clubs for our children. If you have any queries about our after school provision, please speak with Mrs Cunning.

VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to those who have offered to help out in the school. We still need volunteers to help us with different tasks such as supervising the ICT suite and library, accompanying teachers to the swimming pool and helping in the garden.

You may also work for a company that is involved in schemes for schools and/or the community. If this is the case, please speak with a member of staff so as we can avail of anything any companies have to offer.

No Nail Polish

Please note that children should not wear nail polish to school. Your cooperation is appreciated.

We greatly value all the support we receive throughout the year—the continued work and dedication of all our volunteers helps to make our school a better place and have a positive impact on learning for all our children. If you could help our school in any way at all, please speak with a member of staff. You don't have to be highly skilled—just willing!

Pupil of the Month

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

Year 1 Miss Mallon	Hubert Pacyga
	Aoife McCormac
Year 2 Mrs Magill	Lucy Finnegan
	Carter Tomilty
Year 2 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Sophie Barrit
	Yeshua Duhaylungsod
Year 3 Mrs Cunning	Patryk Kosiarski
	Sophia Nugent
Year 3/4 Mrs Hinds	Juno Campbell
	Dennis Marin
Year 4 Mr Jones	Michael Teggart
	Aoibheann Mulholland
Year 5 Mr McNamee	Jeff Jazul
	Aimee Green
Year 6 Mr Nolan	Melani Biju
	Rory O'Conallain
Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	Amiel Njarakulathu
	Ciara O'Conallain
Year 7 Mrs Kelly	Jay Montijo
	Joshua Gillespie

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

Amazing the Space

Well done to Anna (Year 6), Lorraine (Year 7) and Ciara (Year 7) who represented our school at the Amazing the Space event in the Maze to celebrate the International Day of Peace.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings will take place the week beginning Monday 17 October. Parents/guardians will have received an appointment time. Teachers will be coordinating interview times to suit families. Please note that interviews are timetabled to last 10 minutes each. If you require additional time with the teacher, I would ask you to make a further appointment.

In order to facilitate these meetings, all children will finish at 2.00pm every day this week from Mon 17 Oct to Fri 21 Oct. During this week, children in Years 4-7 will leave school from the Assembly Hall.

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. We only got an additional two supporters in September. 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 £255.91 since our Easy Fundraising account was opened approximately three years ago and we have 47 supporters (only six more than this time last year). 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.

PARKING

I would appeal to all drivers to please be considerate when parking in King's Walk and Bleach Green and take care not to block driveways. Residents have been advised to report any incidents to the PSNI. I would also remind you that the back car park is for staff parking only and should not be used by parents after 8.30am.

Website

Please remember to regularly check our website to see what is happening in our busy school!

www.stjamesps.co.uk

Shoebox Appeal

It has always been an important element of our school ethos to foster in our children a love for others in both prayer and action. It has come to that time of the year again when we have the opportunity to bring great joy to those less fortunate than ourselves by participating in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal. May, from the Samaritan's Purse, spoke with the children at Assembly on 30 September and reminded them of items that can be packed in the shoeboxes. Please visit <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and click on the links to see suggestions for shoeboxes. We are asking for all shoeboxes to be brought back to school by 12 November. We look forward to seeing all the shoeboxes piled high as always showing the continued generosity and kindness of our school community.



Living and Learning Together

Jump, Jiggle and Jive!

On Thursday 13 October our Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in Jump Jiggle and Jive. This is an interactive dance programme especially designed for 3 to 6 year olds. The children will have great fun dancing to popular music using a variety of colourful and exciting props. We will photograph their efforts and display them on the school website. We ask for a small donation of £1 per child to cover costs.

Pupils' Council

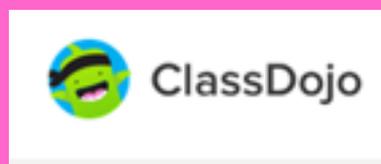
Our Pupils' Council plays a prominent role in the life of the school working with school leadership, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and our pupils. The elections have taken place and the following children have been elected:

Year 4 (Mrs Hinds)	Leon Curry
Year 4 (Mr Jones)	Caoimhe Quinn Ciaran Laverty
Year 5 (Mr McNamee)	Aimee Green Justin Patino
Year 6 (Mr Nolan)	Melani Biju Jovial Gigiy
Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	Ann Sweetnam Jasper Delfinado
Year 7 (Mrs Kelly)	Katie Sloan Anthony McNamara



CLASS DOJO

We continue to use the online behaviour management tool called Class Dojo. Children earn points for displaying agreed behaviours, for example, wearing the correct uniform or being on task during their work. Each child has an avatar, a little character that holds their points which they can customise by logging in with a code provided by their teacher. Children are really engaging with Class Dojo as it is clear for them how they can earn points. It is a fun way for them to manage and become aware of their own behaviour. Following successful trials, we will be giving parents the opportunity to join Class Dojo to see what their children are getting points for. Please note that Class Dojo is not a tool for communicating with teachers and this should continue to happen in the usual way.



STRANGER DANGER

Please remind your child not to approach or talk to strangers even if the stranger wants to give them something or says they know their parents. We continue to teach this very important message in school and would be grateful if you could reinforce this at home.



Safeguarding and Child Protection

This year our Safeguarding Team is as follows:

Mrs Cunningham	Principal
Mrs Dallat	Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Hinds	Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Higgins	Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Nursery)

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

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

All concerns will be dealt with sensitively.

Living and Learning Together

Dates for your diary

Thurs 13 October 2016	Jump Jiggle and Jive—Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2	
17 October—21 October 2016	Parent—Teacher Meetings	
Mon 17 October 2016	Year 2 Dance Workshops Maiden Voyage Dance Company	
Tues 18 October 2016	Year 2 Theatre at the Mill Maiden Voyage Dance Company	
Thurs 20 October 2016	RAFT Autism Information Session 6.30-9.30pm	
Wed 26 October 2016	Special Hallowe'en Breakfast and Lunch in the canteen	
Thurs 27 October 2016	PTA Hallowe'en Disco (Fancy Dress)	
Fri 28 October 2016	Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Parade	
	Half Day	
Mon 7 November 2016	School reopens	
Tues 8 November 2016	6.30pm Year 2 Phonics and Mental Maths Workshop	
	6.30pm Enchanted Evening for the children	
Wed 9 November 2016	6.30pm Shared Education Information Session (Years 1-7)	
14—18 November 2016	Anti Bullying Week	
Tues 15 November 2016	6.30pm Year 1 Phonics and Mental Maths Workshop	
	6.30pm Enchanted Evening for the children	
Thurs 17 November 2016	6.30pm Year 5 and 6 STEM Family Night (held in St James's)	
Tues 22 November 2016	6.30pm Transfer Information Session (Year 6)	
Mon 28 November 2016	School closed for Staff Development	
Wed 7 December 2016	6.30-7.30pm	Open Night
Fri 9 December 2016	9.30am	Nursery Christmas Concert
Tues 13 December 2016	9.30am	Year One Christmas Concert
Wed 14 December 2015	9.30am	Year Two (Mrs Cross/Mrs Dallat and Mrs Magill)
		Christmas Concert
Thurs 15 December 2016	11.00am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert (Mrs Cunning, Mrs Hinds and Mr Jones)
Wed 23 December 2016	Half Day	12 noon finish
Mon 9 January 2017	Children return to school	
Wed 18 January 2017	6.30pm Numicon Parent Workshop (Years 1-3)	
Wed 25 January 2017	6.30pm Accelerated Reader Information Session (Years 4-7)	

Parents as Partners Programme

Last year we organised a very successful series of workshops for parents/guardians to help develop knowledge and understanding of different aspects of the curriculum so that you can, in turn, help your child. I am delighted that we will be offering workshops again this year.

Tuesday 8 November 6.30pm	Year 2 Phonics and Mental Maths
Wednesday 9 November 6.30pm	Shared Education Information Session
Tuesday 15 November 6.30pm	Year 1 Phonics and Mental Maths
Wednesday 16 November 6.30pm	Numicon Workshop (Years 1-3)
Tuesday 22 November 6.30pm	Transfer Information Session (Year 6)
Wednesday 18 January 6.30pm	Numicon Workshop (Years 1-3)
Wednesday 25 January 6.30pm	Accelerated Reader Information Session (Years 4-7)

If you are unable to arrange childminding, you can bring your child and they will be supervised during the workshops.

On Tuesday 8 and Tuesday 15 November, there will be a special Enchanted Evening for the Year 2 and Year 1 children. The children can come to school in the evening in their pyjamas, they will be read stories and they will have cookies and milk. Children can only attend the Enchanted Evening if their parent/guardian is at the workshop.

Shared Education Information Session

As you are aware, we are taking part in the Shared Education Signature Project with Whitehouse Primary School. We would like to provide you with more information about the project and what it means for our school and our children. Therefore, you are invited to attend a Shared Education Information Session on Wednesday 9 November at 6.30pm. This information session is open to all our parents/guardians from Nursery to Year 7. We look forward to seeing you there.



First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 13 May 2017 at 11.00am.

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ST JAMES'S PTA INVITES YOU TO A



HALLOWEEN DISCO

THURSDAY

27TH OCTOBER 2016

6.30-8PM



FANCY DRESS
TEA/COFFEE
SOUP & BREAD
BY ESTABLISHED COFFEE
SNACKS & SOFT DRINKS
CARICATURES

ENTRY FEE:
£1 - TINY TERRORS
£2 GIANT GHOULS