

# St James's Jotter

November 2016



## SHARED EDUCATION

This year is the second year of our Shared Education project with Whitehouse Primary School. It also marks 25 years of the unique relationship between the two schools. Our Shared Education project involves three strands: STEM workshops (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (Years 5 and 6), Forest Schools (Nursery and Year 1) and Rights Respecting Schools (whole school).

Part of our Shared Education project involves gathering information from parents. We have created a short online survey which takes less than two minutes to complete. The survey is about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Shared Education. I would encourage as many parents as possible to complete the survey as it is very important for our project. The survey can be found on our school website (<http://www.stjamesps.co.uk/news/shared-education/>) and can be accessed by clicking on the link. I appreciate your support and cooperation.

On 9th November the Education Training Inspectorate visited our school and Whitehouse Primary School as part of a monitoring visit regarding our Shared Education project. The Inspector spoke with children and parents from both schools and was very impressed with the work that we are doing. Many thanks to all those who met with the Inspector to share their experiences of Shared Education.

## OPEN NIGHT

Our annual Open Night for the Primary School and Nursery Unit will take place on Wednesday 7th December at 6.30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school to prospective parents and pupils as well as to all our existing parents. I would ask you to promote our Open Night with family and friends and encourage people to attend to see the wonderful work that goes on in our school on a daily basis.



St James's Primary School  
and Nursery Unit



# OPEN NIGHT

Wed 7th December 2016

6.30pm—7.30pm

Everyone Welcome

Living and Learning Together

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### **Presentation of Work**

Children and teachers are working very hard to improve the presentation of work that the children do. This involves setting high standards and encouraging the children to meet these high standards. The children have to write the date and the learning intention (WALT) and set out their work neatly. Any illustrations need to be coloured in carefully and neatly. We want the children to take pride in their work and have beautiful books that they can be proud of. We appreciate your support in encouraging high standards of presentation when the children are completing homework. Many thanks.

### **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.

Please remember to check our website regularly.

[www.stjamesps.co.uk](http://www.stjamesps.co.uk)

### **REMINDER**

Children should not wear earrings or nail polish to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Parents/guardians of Year 2-7 children should 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.

### **FUNDRAISING**

In the October edition of St James's Jotter, we made the suggestion of a voluntary donation of at least £10 for school funds. As you are aware, in these times of austerity, school budgets have been drastically impacted upon and we need to supplement our budget through fundraising. Our PTA do a fantastic job but we also need to look for additional sources of funding. I would like to thank the three sets of parents who made a voluntary donation to the school and thank them for their generosity. I would also appeal to other parents/guardians to consider making a voluntary donation to our school. All money raised will be spent on resources for our children.

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## 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>

## BEAT THE STREET

Many thanks to all those who participated in the Beat the Street initiative. Our school collected a total of 13410 points for walking 666.5 miles! We finished 57th in the leader board out of 122 teams taking part. Well done everyone!



## VIRTUALLY THERE

We are delighted that, following the success of our participation last year, we will be taking part once again in the 'Virtually There' Art programme. Year Two pupils from Mrs Cross and Mrs Dallat's class will be working with an artist for a 10-12 week period. The unique aspect of this collaboration is that the artist comes into the classroom each week via the modern technology of our Interactive Whiteboard! Children will get to explore their own creative expression through this professional partnership.

## Quartet for 15 Chairs

Last month our Year 2 children had the opportunity to participate in a dance workshop provided by Maiden Voyage Dance Company and attend their performance of a Quartet for 15 Chairs in Mossley Mill. The children and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

## Thank You

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal. As always there was exceptional generosity from our school community. Many thanks.



 [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)  
feel good shopping

Help out  
when you  
check out  
this Christmas

Collect FREE donations for

St James's Primary School and  
Nursery Unit with all your online  
Christmas shopping!

 Join easyfundraising

 Shop online

 Raise free donations



Join here today:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjamesps/>

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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 £263.39 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.

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### PTA

Many thanks to all those who supported the Hallowe'en Disco. The amount raised was £749.10. Many thanks.

There will be a PTA Meeting on 29th November in the staff room at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### MOVIE NIGHT

There will be a special Christmas Movie Night on Thursday 1st December from 6.30pm (doors open at 6.15pm). The Movie Night is open to all children from Nursery to Year 7. We ask that parents of Nursery children please stay in the school during the movies. Details of the Movies and ticket sales are on the last page of the Jotter.

### YEAR 6 BUSINESS MASTERCLASS

On Tuesday 15th November. As part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, our Year 6 children participated in a Business Masterclass in Mossley Mill. The event was organised by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in partnership with Young Enterprise Northern Ireland. The children found out about the supply chain and how important it is to work together.

### ICE HOCKEY and W5

Thirty children from Year 5, 6 and 7 have been rewarded for working hard at the Accelerated Reader programme with a trip to the Friendship Four Ice Hockey Event in the SSE Arena. They will watch the University of Vermont take on the University of Massachusetts in an amazing ice hockey tournament. To make their day even more special they will attend the "Big STEM Event" at W5 beforehand, where they will have an opportunity to enjoy all that W5 has to offer, as well as attending a Science demonstration in the lecture theatre. A well-deserved treat for our hard working pupils!

### CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

As last year, in order to raise much needed funds for our school, we will be selling tickets for the Christmas concerts. Further details will be sent home nearer the time.

### Cash for Clobber

Please remember to use the clothes bank in the school car park. Any old or unwanted clothes can be left here and the school gets some money the clothes that are collected. It is another way for us to raise much needed funds.

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### Pupil of the Month

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

Year 1 Miss Mallon	Omayma Chochri
	Kevin Dudek
Year 2 Mrs Magill	Riley King
	Kayla Picken
Year 2 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Ethan Mullan
	Cerys Grant
Year 3 Mrs Cunning	Hollie McMillan
	Conor Houlahan
Year 3/4 Mrs Hinds	Mark Neill
	Julia Cherezniak
Year 4 Mr Jones	Clodagh O'Hara
	Ciaran Laverty
Year 5 Mr McNamee	Anna Ding
	John Tasker-Lynch
Year 6 Mr Nolan	Abigail Neil
	Oliwier Wiczling
Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	Lara Quinn
	Emma Simpson
Year 7 Mrs Kelly	Cleo Mulholland
	Jamie Wang

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

### PARKING

I would appeal to all drivers to please be considerate when parking in King's Walk and Bleach Green. Residents have been advised to report any incidents to the PSNI.

### Anti Bullying Week

During Anti Bullying Week (14th—18th Nov) our children participated in various activities to raise awareness of bullying and the importance of being a good friend. The children took part in a poster competition organised by the Pupils' Council and there was an extremely high standard of entries. The Pupils' Council had the very difficult task of choosing a winner from each Key Stage. The winners were Eile Quinn (Foundation Stage), Lucy Godefroy (Key Stage One) and Calum O'Neill (Key Stage Two). The lucky winners each received a gift card for Toys R Us. Well done to everyone who took part. The Pupils' Council ended Anti Bullying Week with a very thought provoking Assembly.



### Concussion Awareness

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

### 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.



### Edmund Rice College

Congratulations to Harry and Nakita who were both prize winners in a competition to design a new school uniform for Edmund Rice College. Well done!

### DINNER MONEY

I would like to remind parents/guardians that dinner money must be paid on the day that your child gets their dinner. The school is no longer able to pay for dinners for children who forget dinner money.

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## 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 28 November 2016	School closed for Staff Development	
Thurs 1 December 2016	6.15pm	Movie Night
Wed 7 December 2016	6.30-7.30pm	Open Night
Thurs 8 December 2016		Pupils' Christmas Dinner
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)
Fri 23 December 2016	Half Day	12 noon finish
Mon 9 January 2017	Children return to school	
Mon 13 Feb—Fri 17 Feb 2017	School closed	
Sat 13 May 2017	11.00am	First Holy Communion

Please note that there will be no Breakfast Club on Friday 23rd December.

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.

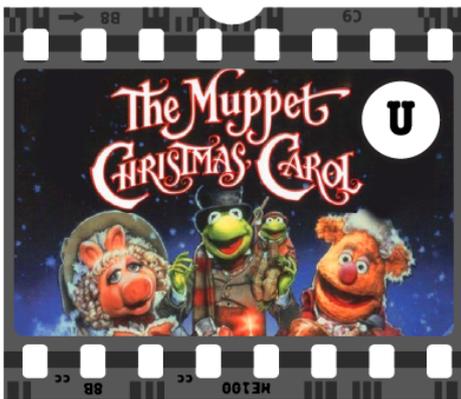
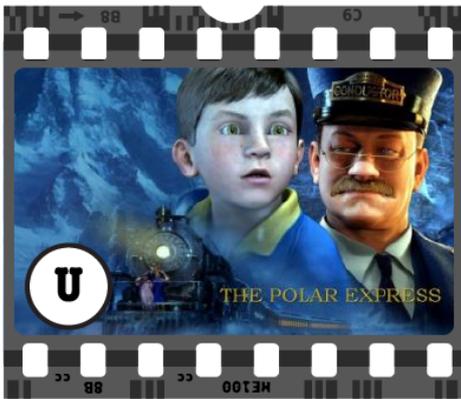
If your child suffers a concussion in school or outside school, it is vitally important that you keep all people/organisations with responsibility for caring for your child informed so that they are aware of the potential dangers and any restrictions that may apply to the activities your child is permitted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



**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016**  
**at 6.30pm**  
**Doors open 6.15pm**

**Price: £3 per child**

**Tickets can be purchased  
each morning from**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
**in the school foyer**

