

St James's Jotter

October 2017



SHARED EDUCATION

Our Year Five and Six children along with their friends from Whitehouse Primary School have been participating in STEM modules. The Year Five STEM modules take place in St James's with our Year Six children travelling to Whitehouse Primary School. The Year Five children and their parents have also had the chance to take part in a Family Science night. Our boys and girls along with their parents/guardians are developing friendships with children from Whitehouse Primary School and they are developing their knowledge and understanding of STEM. They are also doing all of this while having a great time!

11 families from Year Five have been selected to take part in our Shared Education Residential programme in Corrymeela. We are looking forward to our third residential and we know, from our past experiences, that all the children and their parents/guardians will have a wonderful time! There will be a pre-residential meeting for parents and children on Wednesday 18th October in our school at 7.00pm.



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.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Thank you to those parents/guardians who attended our Numicon and Accelerated Reader workshops. We are delighted that you found the information beneficial. Based on your feedback, we will be planning further workshops to help you support your child's learning. If there is anything in particular you feel would be useful, please let us know.

E-Safety

I would appeal to all parents/guardians to please ensure you are aware of what your child is looking at or engaging with online. While the internet is an extremely valuable resource, it has to be used carefully. In order to help our parents/guardians develop greater understanding of e-safety, Mrs Donaghy, our ICT Coordinator, has added advice on our website—select the 'Parents' tab to access this very important information. If you have any concerns about your child, please speak with a member of staff.



Earrings

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

Living and Learning Together

Supervisory Assistant

We are currently seeking to recruit a temporary Supervisory Assistant to work from 12.15pm until 1.15pm every day. If you would be interested in this post, please contact the school office.

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 Parade

The annual Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Parade will take place on Friday 27 October. Children are asked to donate £1 towards school funds. This year, due to new flooring being laid, the parade will take place in the Assembly Hall. This means that we have less space and would ask you to kindly stick to the times below. 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



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.

Hallowe'en Disco

The PTA Hallowe'en Disco will take place on Thursday 26 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. There will be tea and coffee in the downstairs

classrooms for adults. If you can help us out on the night, please leave your name in the office.



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://](http://www.nifrs.org/fire-storm/assets/documents/Fireworks/FireworkSafety.pdf)

[www.nifrs.org/fire-storm/assets/documents/](http://www.nifrs.org/fire-storm/assets/documents/Fireworks/FireworkSafety.pdf)

[Fireworks/FireworkSafety.pdf](http://www.nifrs.org/fire-storm/assets/documents/Fireworks/FireworkSafety.pdf) for advice.



Beat the Street

We are currently taking part in the Beat the Street initiative. 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. 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 6 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There is a Children's Liturgy every Sunday in term time at 11.30am Mass in St James's Church, Whiteabbey. The group is open to all children in Years 1 - 7 inclusive. Children should be brought to the parish hall for 11.25am.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Thank you for submitting your choices for our After School Clubs. You will be notified as soon as possible which after school clubs your child is able to attend.



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.

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!

No Nail Polish

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

Pupil of the Month

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

Year 1 Miss Morrow	Iona Sweetnam
	Matthew Taylor
Year 1 Mrs Magill	Tisha Rahman
	Jase Montijo
Year 2 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Lucas Mullan
	Olivia Brennan
Year 3 Mrs Hinds	Nati Zborowski
	Zuzanna Dagiel
Year 3 Mr Jones	Cara Lee
	Alphonsa Sebastian
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Maeve Lennon
	Patryk Korsiariski
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Declan Douglas
	Poppy Reid
Year 5/6 Mrs Kelly	Grace Law
	Oliver Simpson
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Evan Johnston
	Diana Saji

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

REMINDER

We are no longer able to accept the old £1 coins.

YEAR SEVEN ASSEMBLY

Well done to our Year Seven children who presented a very thought provoking Assembly based on our Value of the Month for October - Honesty. They certainly showed us all that 'honesty is the best policy'!

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings will take place the week beginning Monday 16 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 16 Oct to Fri 20 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. 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 £378.41 since our Easy Fundraising account was opened approximately three years ago and we have 72 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.

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. At Assembly, children were reminded of items that can be packed in the shoe boxes. Please visit <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and click on the links to see suggestions for shoe boxes. We are asking for all shoeboxes to be brought back to school by 10 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

Canteen Party Day

The canteen will be having a Hallowe'en Party Day on Thursday 26th October. There will be chicken goujon wraps, cocktail sausages, pizza, salad and meringue ghosts. Dinners cost £2.60 per day in the Primary School and £2.50 in the Nursery.

Pupils' Council

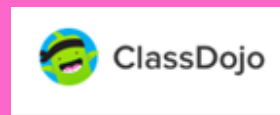
Our Pupils' Council plays a prominent role in the life of the school working with school leadership, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and our pupils. The elections have taken place and the following children have been elected:

Year 4 Mr McNamee	Maeve Lennon
	Connor Houlahan
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Cate O'Dowd
	Anton Lupari
Year 5/6 Mrs Kelly	Emma Brown
	Oliver Simpson
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Cian Morgan
	Lara Quinn



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. Parents/guardians also have the opportunity to join Class Dojo to see what their children are getting points for. If you are not yet linked to Class Dojo, please contact your child's teacher. 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 Heaney	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

16 October—20 October 2017	Parent—Teacher Meetings	
Mon 16 October 2017	Year 7 Athletics	
Wed 18 October 2017	Shared Education Pre Residential Meeting St James's 7.00pm	
Thurs 19 October 2017	Year 2 Theatre at the Mill Maiden Voyage Dance Company	
	Year 5 Rugby	
	School Photographer	
Fri 20 October 2017	School Photographer	
	Nursery Sponsored Cycle	
Tues 24 October 2017	Mass for Years 5-7	
Wed 25 October 2017	Dairy Council Workshop for Years 5 and 6	
Thurs 26 October 2017	Special Hallowe'en Lunch in the canteen	
	PTA Hallowe'en Disco (Fancy Dress)	
Fri 27 October 2017	Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Parade	
	Half Day	
Mon 6 November 2017	School reopens	
13—17 November 2017	Anti Bullying Week	
15—17 November 2017	Shared Education Residential in Corrymeela	
Wed 22 November 2017	Year Six Transfer Information Session	
Mon 27 November 2017	School closed for Staff Development	
Wed 6 December 2017	6.30-7.30pm	Open Night
Mon 11 December 2017	9.30am	*Nursery Christmas Concert (Full time and Part Time am classes)
	12.30pm	*Nursery Christmas Concert (Part Time pm class)
Tues 12 December 2017	9.30am	Year One Christmas Concert
Wed 13 December 2017	9.30am	Year Two Christmas Concert
Thurs 14 December 2017	9.30am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert
	1.30pm	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert
Fri 15 December 2017	Half Day	12 noon finish for staff Christmas lunch
Fri 22 December 2017	Half Day	12 noon finish
Mon 8 January 2018	Children return to school	

* Please note change of date

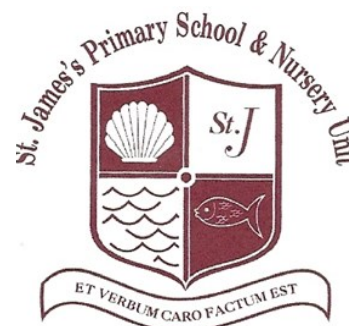
SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th October. Individual photographs will be taken along with siblings who attend our school and class photographs for Nursery, Year One and Year Seven.

Athletics

On Friday 13th October, our Year 6 children had a great time with Dean from Athletics NI developing their fundamental skills of running, jumping and throwing.

From next week, our Year Seven children will also have the opportunity to develop their skills with an athletics coach.



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:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stjamesps

amazon.co.uk

[John Lewis
johnlewis.com](http://JohnLewis.johnlewis.com)

ebay

Expedia.co.uk

Sainsbury's

M&S

Argos

ST JAMES'S PTA INVITES YOU TO A



HALLOWEEN DISCO

THURSDAY

26TH OCTOBER 2017

6.30 - 8PM



FANCY DRESS

SNACKS & DRINKS

CARICATURES

ENTRY FEE:

TINY TERRORS &

GIANT GHOULS ... £2