

St James's Jotter

November 2017



SHARED EDUCATION

On 25th October, the Education Training Inspectorate visited our 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.

On the 15th November, 12 children from our school and their parent/guardian will set off for a three day residential to Corrymeela in Ballycastle. The residential facilitated by Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) has become a highlight of our Shared Education programme with Whitehouse Primary School. The children and adults will take part in a fun filled programme of activities. We hope they all have a great time!

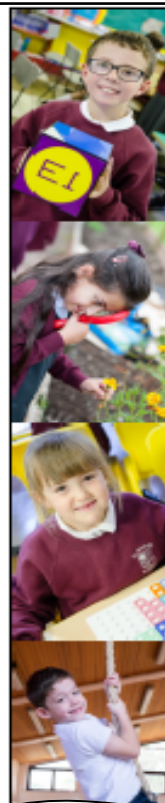
ANTI BULLYING WEEK

During Anti Bullying Week (13th—17th Nov) our children be participating in various activities to raise awareness of bullying and the importance of being a good friend. The majority of activities that the children will be doing are taken from the NI Anti Bullying Forum website www.endbullying.org.uk. This website also has useful resources for parents. The theme of this year's Anti Bullying Week is 'All Equal, All Different, All Together'. The children will also take part in a poster competition and the Pupils' Council will be selecting the winners. Good luck everyone!



OPEN NIGHT

Our annual Open Night for the Primary School and Nursery Unit will take place on Wednesday 6th 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 6th December 2017

6.30pm—7.30pm

Everyone Welcome

Living and Learning Together

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PTA

Many thanks to all those who supported the Hallowe'en Disco. The amount raised was £946.90. Many thanks.

There will be a PTA Meeting on 28th November in the staff room at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

MOVIE NIGHT

There will be a Movie Night on Thursday 30th November from 6.30pm (doors open at 6.15pm). The Movie Night is open to all children from Nursery to Year 7. Tickets will be sold at 8.50am every morning that week. We ask that parents of Nursery children please stay in the school during the movies. Details of the movies will be available soon.

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

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.

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 £382.83 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.



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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 6590 points! We finished 70th in the leader board out of 138 teams taking part. Well done everyone!



VIRTUALLY THERE

We are delighted that, following the success of previous participation, 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.



**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/>

amazon.co.uk John Lewis ebay Expedia.co.uk



Pause and Effect

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 Pause and Effect in Mossley Mill. The children and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

ICE HOCKEY

On Friday 24th November, children from Year 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be rewarded for their Class Dojo points with a trip to the Friendship Four Ice Hockey Event in the SSE Arena. A well deserved treat for our hard working pupils!

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 Morrow	Mia Finnegan
	Francis Cardeno
Year 1 Mrs Magill	Esme Sayers
	Adam Michalski
Year 2 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Kevin Dudek
	Eva Jaise
Year 3 Mrs Hinds	Mattheo Santos
	Lillie Hill
Year 3 Mr Jones	Daisy Arkins Flood
	Ethan Mullen
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Zuzanna Keating
	Adam Dudek
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Anton Lupari
	Cate O'Dowd
Year 5/6 Mrs Kelly	Nora Campbell
	Michael Teggart
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Grace McKinley
	Jovial Vincent Gigy

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.

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 the 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.

REMINDER

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

Old Pound Coins

I would ask that parents/guardians please refrain from sending in old £1 coins to pay for dinners, Breakfast Club etc. We are still receiving these coins.

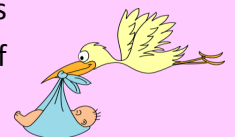
No dogs allowed

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.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Higgins and her husband on the birth of their son, Aodhan Michael.



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 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 Heaney.

All concerns will be dealt with sensitively.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 22 November 2017	6.30pm	Year 6 Transfer Meeting
Fri 24 November 2017		Ice Hockey (children will be notified)
Mon 27 November 2017		School closed for Staff Development
Tues 28 November 2017	6.00pm	PTA Meeting
Wed 29 November 2017	6.30pm	STEM Night (St James's)
Thurs 1 December 2017	6.15pm	Movie Night
Wed 6 December 2017	6.30-7.30pm	Open Night
Thurs 7 December 2017		Shared Education Residential Celebration
Mon 11 December 2017	9.30am	Nursery Christmas Concert
		(Full time class and part time morning class)
	1.00pm	Nursery Christmas Concert (Part time afternoon class)
Tues 12 December 2017	9.30am	Year One Christmas Concert (Miss Morrow and Mrs Magill)
Wed 13 December 2017	9.30am	Year Two Christmas Concert
Thurs 14 December 2017	9.30am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert
		(Mrs Hinds, Mr Jones and Mr McNamee)
Fri 15 December 2017	Half Day	12 noon finish
Tues 19 December 2017	10.00am	Year 5-7 Carol Service in St James's Church
Fri 22 December 2017	Half Day	12 noon finish
Mon 8 January 2018		Children return to school
Tues 30 January 2018	7.00pm	Service of Commitment and Light
		St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Tues 6 March 2018	10.00am	First Confession (St James's Church)
Sat 12 May 2017	11.00am	First Holy Communion (St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse)