

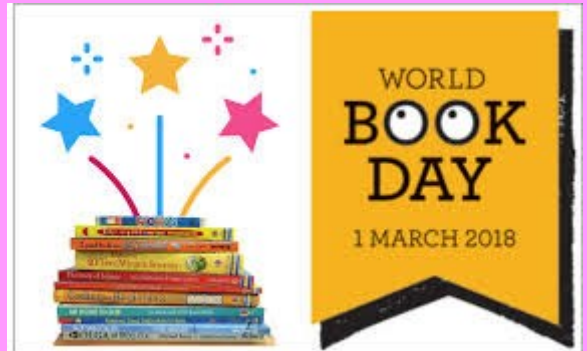
St James's Jotter

February 2018



WORLD BOOK DAY and BOOK FAIR

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st March. This special day promotes reading for personal benefit and enjoyment by encouraging children to explore the pleasure of books. In order to join in the fun, the children in the Primary School can come to school dressed as a character from a book. We will have a prize for the most inventive costume in each class. In the Nursery, Mr Hulabaloo will be visiting and the children should come to school dressed in pyjamas bringing their favourite bedtime story. We are delighted that we are hosting the Scholastic Book Fair the week beginning Monday 26th February. We are aiming to break last year's record of selling £1279.81 worth of books earning our school an amazing £767.89 in commission which was used to buy resources for the children. Please remember that children are able to use their World Book Day token to get £1 off a book over the price of £2.99.



CAR PARKING

In the January edition of the Jotter, I asked parents/guardians not to park in the staff car park at the back of the school. I am appealing for cooperation in this request as staff are still having difficulty getting in and out of the staff car park and on one occasion a member of staff got their car damaged trying to pass a parent's car. If your child is going to Breakfast Club, I would be grateful if you could drop them off in the main car park and they can walk the short distance to the canteen door. I would also be grateful if parents/guardians would be mindful of the speed at which they enter the school grounds remembering there are lots of children around.

Morning Arrangements

I would like to remind parents/guardians that children in Years 2-7 should be left in the children's entrance foyer from where they can make their own way to their classroom. Only parents/guardians of Year One children should accompany their child to the classroom unless an arrangement has been made with Mrs Cunningham. In the interests of Safeguarding and Child Protection, parents should not enter the children's toilets. If a young child needs to use the toilet, please use the toilets at the office.

HEALTHY EATING

As a health promoting school, I would remind you that children should bring a healthy break to school. Information regarding healthy breaks can be found in the September St James's Jotter which can be downloaded from our website. I would also remind you that we are a nut free school and children should not bring nut products to school. Due to being a health promoting school and in the interest of children with allergies, we are unable to give the children cakes or treats sent in by parents/guardians when it is their birthday. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

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YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

In this season of colds and flu, I would be grateful if you could remind your children to take extra care to wash their hands thoroughly, to cover their mouth when coughing and to use a tissue. I would also 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. 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>

Thank you

I would like to thank all those grandparents/significant adults who came to our school on Grandparents Day. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed spending time with you and we hope you enjoyed seeing some classroom activities.



ROAD SAFETY QUIZ

Well done to our Year Seven pupils, Anna, Johnny, Cara and Caitlin who represented our school in the Road Safety Quiz at Mossley Mill. The children were a credit to our school and Mrs Cross was delighted with their performance. Well done boys and girls!

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

In order to continue to raise standards in our school, we are continually trying to improve punctuality and attendance. Class teachers are now responsible for recording your child's attendance on the school computer system, SIMS.

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.

PEACE PROMS

We are delighted that, once again, we had two choirs performing in the Peace Proms—Our Year Five Shared Education choir with Whitehouse Primary School and our Year 6 and 7 choir. The children performed on Sunday 25th February in the SSE Arena in Belfast. This was a very exciting opportunity for the children and the staff and parents were very proud of them all. Many thanks to Mr Nolan, Mrs McMurtry, Miss Morrow and Mrs Hinds who accompanied the children.

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Our Safeguarding team is:

Mrs Dallat	Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Hinds	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 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.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Miss McCann has sent out a note about the next session of after school clubs. All reply slips need to be returned by Friday 2nd March. Please remember that we need to have enough children in each club in order to make it feasible to run the club. We appreciate your continued support.

TAKE CARE!

It is great to see some of our children coming to school on their bicycles and scooters. However, I would like to remind you that, in the interests of your child's safety, when riding a bicycle, they should always wear a helmet.



Children should also get off their bicycle/scooter at the school gate and walk it round to the bicycle stands.

MAD HAIR DAY

Thank you for all your effort and donations for Mad Hair Day. The children loved seeing each other's hair and thoroughly enjoyed the day. We raised £315 for the MS Trust and would like to thank you for your generosity. We will be presenting the money to Mrs McNamara very soon.



Confirmation

Our Year 7 children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 14th March 2018 at 11.00am in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse. The celebrant will be Fr Pat Sheehan. After Mass, the children, sponsors and their families are invited to the Hall 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 Tuesday 13th March. I look forward to your support in making this a very special celebration for our children.



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 that if your contact details change, you inform the office immediately.

£10 notes

Please note that Wednesday 28th February is the last day that we will be able to accept the old 'paper' Bank of England £10 notes.

Pupil of the Month

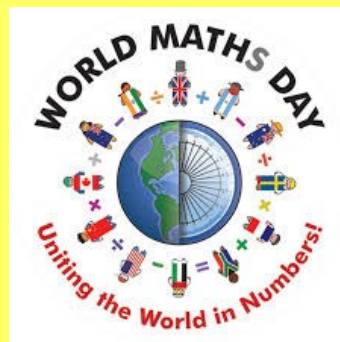
The following children were awarded Pupil of the Month for January:

Year One Miss Morrow	Kamaia Porter
	Kohl Tumilty
Year One Mrs Magill	Kacper Ostrowski
	Natalie Jarmalinska
Year 2 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Hubert Pacagya
	Aoife McCormac
Year 3 Mrs Hinds	Eile Quinn
	Hannah McMillan
Year 3 Mr Jones	Eamon Cochrane
	Ryan Moran
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Alys Green
	Kyle Lupari
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Kaelen Greene
	Caleb Molloy
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Olivia Dubanowska
	Eden Johnston
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Tristan Curry
	Ciara Green

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

World Maths Day!

On Wednesday 7th March we will be celebrating 'World Maths Day' in our school. We are going to combine this with the NSPCC fundraising event called 'Number Day'. The KS2 children will enjoy competing in a Maths quiz and the KS1 children will enjoy a Number sing-a-long in the school hall. The teachers will also plan a variety of fun Maths activities and games for the children to enjoy throughout the day. We will be asking parents to support the NSPCC by donating £1.



FEET FIRST FAMILIES

We are excited to announce that as part of the Sustrans Active School Travel Programme, we are holding a **series of FEET FIRST FAMILIES** events. **FEET FIRST FAMILIES** is a brand new initiative in which we are supporting our pupils to walk, scoot or cycle to school on a regular basis and to encourage other members of the family to get involved too.

On Friday 2nd March, pupils will be given a sheet of stamp strips which they can mark off each day that they make an active journey to school.

There are 6 spaces on each strip, 5 for school days and 1 for the weekend. We would love you as a parent or guardian to complete the weekend option with your child by going for a walk, cycle or scoot with them – maybe the whole family could participate? Once the strip of 6 is complete, simply place it in the **FEET FIRST FAMILIES BOX** in the children's entrance foyer to be in with a chance of receiving a prize.

As part of the **FEET FIRST FAMILIES** official launch day on the 9th March, we are encouraging as many pupils and their families as possible to walk, cycle or scoot to school on that day. We will also be choosing our first prize winner on this day.

If you are unable to walk, scoot or cycle the whole journey from home, please consider a 'Park n Stride' option where you are encouraged to drive part of the journey to school. Find a safe and suitable place to park up, meet friends and walk the final part of the journey (at least 7-10 mins away) – you may find this more relaxing than sitting in traffic.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 26th Feb—2nd March		Book Fair
Thurs 1st March 2018		World Book Day
		Year One Phonics Workshop for Parents
Tues 6th March 2018	10.00am	First Confession St James's Church
Wed 7th March 2018		World Maths Day
Wed 14th March 2018	11.00am	Confirmation St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Fri 16th March 2018		Non Uniform Day for St Patrick's Day (children can wear something green—no football shirts)
Wed 21st March 2018		Big Bun Sale for Trocaire (further details to follow)
Mon 6th — Tues 7th May		Holiday—school closed (please note additional day)
Sat 12 May 2018 2018	11.00am	First Holy Communion in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse

St James's STEM Challenge

In St James's we love to involve our parents/guardians in their children's learning. We also love to promote the STEM subjects; Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. So, on Friday 9th March, to celebrate Science week, we will launch an amazing STEM challenge for all our children! The children, with the inspiration and assistance of their parents/guardians, will be given nine days to create an amazing construction! Details will be revealed by Mrs Hinds at Assembly on 9th March. There will be prizes galore for those children whose constructions amaze us the most! Watch out for the photographs of the children's wonderful creations on our website.



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