

St James's Jotter

October 2018



SHARED EDUCATION WEEK

Shared Education week was 8th—12th October and throughout this week a number of activities took place. Mrs Cunningham and Miss Morrow worked with Mr Bailie and Miss Campbell from Whitehouse Primary School to consider the learning that is promoted through our Shared Education programme and also to consider staff development through Teacher Professional Learning opportunities (a programme funded through Shared Education). Our Year 6 and 7 children participated in a Bible Workshop and our Year 5 and 6 children participated in their STEM modules both in our school and in Whitehouse Primary School. Our Year Five children and their parents had the opportunity to participate in a Family STEM night with everyone having a great time! Mrs Cunningham and Mr Bailie also attended the Department of Education and Education Authority's Shared Education Conference.



Mr Bailie has been seconded to the Education Authority to help with its reorganisation. We wish Mr Bailie every happiness and success in his new role and we look forward to working closely with Miss Blain who will be the Acting Principal.



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. 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.

AWARD WINNERS!

We are delighted to have been awarded our Sustrans Bronze Award. This award is recognition of all the active journeys made to and from school in the last school year. We also had a Feet First Families day, Ditch the Stabilisers sessions and cycling proficiency in Year 6. We hope to continue with these sessions this year and work towards achieving our silver award.



PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Thank you to those parents/guardians who attended our Curriculum Meetings. Based on the feedback we received, parents found these sessions to be useful. If there are any sessions in particular that you feel a number of parents would benefit from, please do not hesitate to email your suggestions to the school.

Earrings

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

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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>

Feet First Families

Our Feet First Families week, in conjunction with Sustrans, began on Monday 15th October. During this week, we encourage children and their families to walk, cycle or scoot to school and record (on the sheet provided) each time an active journey is completed. We will end the week with a special breakfast in the canteen for all our active travellers from 8.00am costing £1 each.

Restart a Heart Day

We are proud to be a HeartStart school and are delighted to be supporting the British Heart Foundation's Restart a Heart Day.



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

Following feedback from parents, the Hallowe'en Disco will now take place during the school day on Friday 26th October. This disco will replace both the evening disco and the Hallowe'en Parade. Children can come to school dressed in their Hallowe'en costume. We are asking for each child to contribute £2 which will go towards school funds. A tuck shop will also be available.



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.



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. Please refer to the advice provided by our ICT Coordinator, Mrs Donaghy 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.



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 5th November. They will finish school on a Friday at 2.00pm. Please note that the children in Year 3 should still be collected from the main door opposite the Nursery. Thank you for your cooperation.

PTA

Thank you to those who attended the AGM—it was great to have a good turn out! The PTA hope to organise a Christmas Ballot and are appealing for people to donate or source prizes. If you would like to donate a prize or help part fund a prize, please contact the office. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

We will be marking Anti Bullying Week (12-16 November) with activities in class. The activities (many provided by the Northern Ireland Anti Bullying Forum) will focus on the theme of 'Respect'. We will be encouraging the children to think about what respect means to them, what it feels like to be respected and how they show respect to others.



VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to those who have offered to help out in the school. We still need volunteers to help us with different tasks. If you can help, even in a small way, please contact the office. 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 Mrs Magill	Leo Ross
	Arushi Dawn
Year 2 Miss Morrow	Johannah Jiss
	Kacper Ostrowski
Year 2 Mrs Hinds	Danny O'Neill
	Kamaia Porter
Year 3 Mr Jones	Aoife McCormac
	Benjamin Phiri
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Daisy Flood
	Yeshua Duhaylungsod
Year 4 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Yumnaa Rasool
	Mattheo Santos
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Alys Green
	Jacob Montijo
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Declan Douglas
	Julia Cherezniak
Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	Jeff Jazul
	Aisling Lennon

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

LOVE LIVING HERE

Our Year Four classes have been working with two artists to produce art work for our school. The children have had lots of fun working with Amanda and Frank on a mural learning different art techniques and creating images of our school, their friends, local shops and parks.

ICE HOCKEY

On 23rd November, 60 lucky children from our school will be attending the Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament at the SSE Arena Belfast. The match will be between Yale University and Union College and it will be televised live in America and Canada. It is fabulous for our children to experience the noise and excitement of a live ice hockey match. The children chosen to go will be those who have attained the most Dojo points in each class from Years 4 to 7. Good Luck Everyone!

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 £410.50 since our Easy Fundraising account was opened approximately four years ago and we have 77 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.

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 9th November. We look forward to seeing all the shoeboxes piled high as always showing the continued generosity and kindness of our school community.



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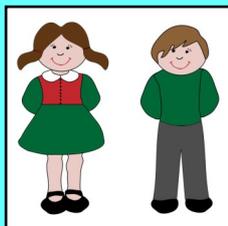
Canteen Party Day

The canteen will be having a Hallowe'en Party Day on Thursday 25th October. There will be witches' fingers (chicken goujons), wizards' blood (red sauce), witches' brew (coloured juice) and frogs' eyeballs (marshmallows). Dinners cost £2.60 per day.

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	Ryan Moran
	Sophie Barit
Year 4 Mrs Cross/Mrs Dallat	Eile Quinn
	Abiel Njarakulathu
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Juno Campbell
	Kevin Hoyne
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Aaron Lee
	Poppy Reid
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Shera Jaise
	Eve Blair



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 Heaney.

All concerns will be dealt with sensitively.

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Dates for your diary

15th October—19th October	Parent—Teacher Meetings	
Tues 24th October	School Photographer—Promotional material	
Thurs 25th October	Special Hallowe'en Lunch in the canteen	
Fri 26th October	Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Disco—children only	
	Half Day	
Mon 5th November	School reopens	
12th—16th November	Anti Bullying Week	
Mon 26th November	School closed for Staff Development	
Tues 27th November	6.00pm	Year Six Transfer Information Session
Fri 7th December	Half Day	12 noon finish
Tues 11th December	9.30am	Nursery Christmas Concert (Full time and Part Time am classes)
	1.00 pm	Nursery Christmas Concert (Part Time pm class)
Thurs 13th December	9.30am	Year One Christmas Concert
Thurs 13th December	11.00am	Year Two Christmas Concert
Fri 14th December	9.30am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert
Fri 21st December	Half Day	12 noon finish
Mon 7th January 2019	Children return to school	

PHOTOGRAPHER

A photographer, Colin Metcalfe, will be in school on 24th October to take promotional photographs for the school. These photographs will be used for a school prospectus, pop up banners and the website. Please note that if you did not consent to your child's photograph being used for promotional purposes, their will not have their photograph taken.



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



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Raise free donations

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