

St James's Jotter

November 2018



NEW ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

The Education Authority is introducing online applications for admissions to pre school (Nursery) and Primary Schools for children starting in September 2019.

There will be a portal for parents to apply online for a place and it will include the listing of preferences of schools. Parents will have the opportunity to amend their submitted application until the closing date. This replaces the current paper based application form. For admission to Nursery or Year One in September 2019, parents will continue to provide their child's birth certificate and other verifying documents stipulated in the admission criteria directly to their first preference provider/school.

The 'Go Live' date for the new digital admissions is Wednesday 2nd January 2019 at 10.00am. The closing time and date for punctual applications will be 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31st January 2019.

Further information will be available at our Open Night on Tuesday 4th December.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

During Anti Bullying Week (12th—16th Nov) our children participated in various activities to raise awareness of bullying and the importance of respect. The majority of activities that the children did were taken from the NI Anti Bullying Forum website www.endbullying.org.uk. This website also has useful resources for parents.

At a special Assembly, each class from Year 3 upwards presented what they had learned to the rest of school. The presentations were fantastic and the anti bullying message was very clear.

RESPECT



End Bullying Now!
www.endbullying.org.uk

Northern Ireland
Anti-Bullying Forum
Acting Together to End Bullying

Anti Bullying Week 2018 is supported by Translink

OPEN NIGHT

Our annual Open Night for the Primary School and Nursery Unit will take place on Tuesday 4th 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.



Living and Learning Together



St James's Primary School
and Nursery Unit



OPEN NIGHT

Tues 4th December 2018

6.30pm—7.30pm

Everyone Welcome

Living and Learning Together

PTA MOVIE NIGHT

There will be a Movie Night on Thursday 13th December 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.

PTA Christmas Draw

Every family has received a book of tickets for the PTA Christmas Draw. We would be grateful if the money, tickets and any unused tickets are returned by Friday 7th December.

Many thanks for your support.

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.

SCHOOL FUNDING CRISIS

As you are aware, schools throughout Northern Ireland are currently in crisis due to a lack of funding. Our school is no different and this is why we rely on the generosity of parents/guardians to support our fundraising efforts. We are also extremely grateful to our PTA for all their support in helping us to fund much needed resources for our children. There will be a public meeting on school funding in Victoria Primary School, Carrickfergus on Monday 3rd December at 4.00pm and parents are welcome to attend to have their voice heard. Information can be found at the back of the Jotter.

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 £440.83 since our Easy Fundraising account was opened approximately three years ago and we have 79 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.



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>

Unsinkable!

Our Year Four classes visited Titanic Belfast on Thursday 22nd November. The children had a great day developing their already vast knowledge of the Titanic. The guides were very impressed by how much our children already knew about the Titanic!

Hallowe'en Disco

Many thanks for your support with our Hallowe'en disco. We raised £300.20. This money has been used to help purchase playground resources for our children.

STAR REPORTERS

Mrs Donaghy's Year 6/7 class were chosen as 'Star Reporters' by C2k (the providers of our school computer network) due to their wonderful contribution to the C2k Newsdesk. C2k Newsdesk is a news site for children in NI schools and the children are able to submit articles to the Newsdesk for publication. Mrs Donaghy's class are regular contributors to the Newsdesk, writing very informative pieces. In October, the children had a visit from David from the Newsdesk who facilitated a writing workshop and presented the class with a certificate.

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Many thanks to all those who contributed to our annual Shoebox Appeal. Your generosity resulted in over 70 shoeboxes being donated to the Samaritan's Purse who were, once again, very grateful to our St James's community. Many thanks.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE NI

Our Year 6 children had great fun making lots of 'money' with Young Enterprise NI when they visited our school recently. Mrs Kelly's Year 6 class also enjoyed a trip to Mossley Mill where they participated in a Business Masterclass as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week. We certainly have many children who may make an appearance on The Apprentice in years to come!



**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
johnlewis.com

ebay

Expedia.co.uk

Living and Learning Together

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

Once again we are asking for your support to make up Christmas Hampers to support families in need this Christmas. We are asking for each family to try and bring in at least one or two items to help make up one hamper per class.

There are twenty basic items we try to provide in each hamper. Each child in the class will select one type of basic item from a list. If you wish to donate more than



one type of item we have also made a list of luxury items that will be added to the hamper. You will find the list on the note that will go home.

We appreciate that this is a very expensive time for families, but if you can manage to support this appeal it would be greatly appreciated. All the items for the hampers would need to be in school by **Friday 14th December**.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

As in previous years, in order to raise much needed funds for our school, we will be selling tickets for the Christmas concerts. Tickets cost £2 per person and information and an order form will be sent home.

Please follow our PTA on Twitter:

@stjamespspta

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.



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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CAROL SERVICE

The Year 5-7 Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 18th December at 10.00am in St James's Church and everyone is welcome to attend. The children in Years 5-7 should come to school as normal on this day and we will walk to the Church. Children will be able to go home with their parents/guardians after the Carol Service but the class teacher must be informed. This is always a special occasion for the children and provides us with the opportunity to consider the meaning of Christmas.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday 19th December, we will be having a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of the Children's Hospice. The children can wear a Christmas Jumper and/or Santa hat or something Christmassy. If they do not have anything, please do not go out and buy something—they can wear their ordinary clothes. We are asking for a donation of £1 from each child for the Children's Hospice.



Pupil of the Month

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

Year 1 Mrs Magill	Igor Pacyga
	Neasa Burns
Year 2 Miss Morrow	Esme Sayers
	Jase Montijo
Year 2 Mrs Hinds	Rosin McAuley
	Liam Farrington
Year 3 Mr Jones	Orlagh Lavery
	Hubert Pacyga
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Alphonsa Sebastian
	Ethan Mullen
Year 4 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Joshua Montijo
	Abiel Njarakulathu
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Fritz Bacalso
	Juno Campbell
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Julia Cherezniak
	Mark Neill
Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	Kosma Siwecki
	Shannon McCourt

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

ICE HOCKEY

60 children from Years 4 to 7 had the opportunity to attend a Friendship Four Ice Hockey match on Friday 23rd November. The children were chosen based on their Class Dojo points. The children and the teachers had a great afternoon and they all contributed to the wonderful atmosphere in the SSE Arena with all their cheering!



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.

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

Tues 27 November 2018	6.30pm	Year 6 Transfer Meeting
Wed 28 November 2018		Year One and Two go to the Mac Theatre
Tues 4 December 2018	6.30-7.30pm	Open Night
Thurs 6 December 2018		Children's Christmas Dinner in the canteen
Fri 7 December 2018	Half Day	12 noon finish
Tues 11 December 2018	9.30am	Nursery Christmas Concert (Full time class and part time morning class)
	1.00pm	Nursery Christmas Concert (Part time afternoon class)
Thurs 13 December 2018	9.30am	Year One Christmas Concert (Mrs Magill)
	11.00am	Year Two Christmas Concert (Miss Morrow and Mrs Hinds)
	6.30pm	PTA Movie Night
Fri 14 December 2018		Santa Hall Stroll, Scoot or Cycle
	9.30am	Year Three and Four Christmas Concert (Mr Jones, Mrs Cross/Mrs Dallat and Mr McNamee)
	11.00am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert (Mr Jones, Mrs Cross/Mrs Dallat and Mr McNamee)
Tues 18 December 2018	10.00am	Year 5-7 Carol Service in St James's Church
Wed 19 December 2018		Christmas Jumper Day for the Children's Hospice Party Day in canteen
Fri 21 December 2018	Half Day	12 noon finish
Mon 7 January 2019		Children return to school
Friday 11 January 2019		Admissions Support Sessions 9.15-10.15am and 2.00—3.00pm
Tues 19 March 2019	10.00am	First Confession (St James's Church)
Sat 18 May 2019	11.00am	First Holy Communion (St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse)

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PUBLIC MEETING ON SCHOOL FUNDING

Monday 3rd December @ 4pm

School
funding
STILL in
CRISIS

**Victoria Primary School, Coronation Road,
Carrickfergus BT38 7EZ**

**This is an opportunity for parents, school staff and
Governors to make your voice heard on
funding for education.**

Everyone welcome