

# St James's Jotter

December 2018



## Happy Christmas

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to wish all our parents/guardians, friends and children a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

Paula Cunningham



### 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. We will be holding Admissions Support Sessions on Friday 11th January (please see over for details).

### THANK YOU

Many thanks to all those who came to our Open Night. We were delighted to show everyone how proud we are of our school and our children. If you know someone who was not able to come to our Open Night, please ask them to contact the office and we can arrange a time for them to visit.

### 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

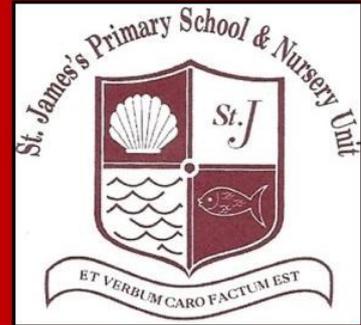
On Wednesday 19th December, we will be having a Christmas Jumper Day. The children can wear a Christmas Jumper and/or Santa hat or something Christmassy. If they do not have anything, please do not go out and buy



something—they can wear their ordinary clothes. We are asking for a donation of at least £1 from each child for the Children's Hospice. There will also be a party day in the canteen.

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St James's Primary School  
and Nursery Unit



# Admissions Support Sessions

Fri 11th January 2019

9.15—10.15am and 2.00-3.00pm

Staff will be available to help you complete  
an online application using the new  
Education Authority Parent Portal.

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### CAR PARKING

Please remember that, following advice from the Education Authority, the back car park is for staff parking only.

As always, I would appeal to all drivers to please be considerate when parking in King's Walk and Bleach Green. Please consider our neighbours at all times. I would also suggest that you could drop your children off on Fernagh Road at the entrance to King's Walk and they could walk the short distance to school. Please note that residents have been advised to contact the PSNI to report any incidents. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

### 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. 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.

### FRONT ENTRANCE

Reminder that the front entrance is only to be used between 8.50am and 9.00am and at home time for people with buggies/prams and those with disabilities. Everyone else should use the children's entrance foyer or, at home time, wait for the children outside. Thank you for your cooperation.

### 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 follow our PTA on Twitter:

@stjamespspta

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please remember that parents/guardians of Year 2-7 children are asked to 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. Any money to be given to the teacher should be sent in with your child in an envelope clearly labelled. 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.

### Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help maintain our garden. If you would be able to help in any way, please give your name to Mrs Dallat. No experience is necessary—you just need to be willing!



## 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.



easyfundraising.org.uk  
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St James's Primary School & Nursery Unit  
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# 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 Sainsbury's M&S Argos

## Collection for Mrs Keaney

Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards a gift for Mrs Keaney. From staff and parents, we raised £454. We bought a crystal vase and flowers and these gifts, along with the rest of the money, will be presented to Mrs Keaney at a special Assembly. Thank you for your generosity.

## Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is proving to be increasingly popular and provides a valuable service for our parents/guardians. If your child goes to Breakfast Club and has money that they need to give to the teacher, including dinner money, I would be grateful if you could ensure the money is put in a labelled envelope in the child's bag which they can then give to their teacher. Supervisors are unable to accept money other than that for Breakfast Club. Thank you for your cooperation.

## 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>

## Congratulations

Congratulations to our Year 7 pupil Aimee Green who won a writing competition on C2k Newdesk. Aimee's piece all about 'Happiness' is definitely worth a read! Well done Aimee, we are all very proud!

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## PTA

Many thanks to all those who supported the recent PTA Movie Night and the PTA Christmas Draw. The prize winners are listed below. The Movie Night raised £259.95 and the Christmas Draw raised £819.40. Thank you for your generosity.

Overnight stay in Armagh City Hotel with breakfast for two people	Aine and Paul Doherty
A pair of Enterprise Plus return tickets to Dublin	Laura Montgomery
Coffee brewing class in Established Coffee	Sarah McManus
A pair of Giants Ice Hockey tickets for 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	D Greene
Tesco Newtownabbey Finest Christmas Hamper	Poppy Reid
£25 Marks and Spencer Voucher	Jayden McShane
Little Wing Little Bill meal voucher for two people	Paul Cunningham
Glengormley Movie House Pass for four people	Ronan Gilmore
Family pass to Streamvale Farm donated by Lindsay Mazda	Cain Armstrong-Quigley
£40 voucher off a Newtownabbey Funky Monkeys Party	Mikayla King
GAP Wine Gift Pack	Simone Fearn
£30 Gift Voucher for Forever Living products donated by Kyra Pauley	Nicola Johnston
Avon hamper donated by Natasha Wallace	John Stewart

## Thank you

We would like to thank all those who came to our Christmas Concerts. Through ticket sales, we were able to raise £556 for school funds.

Our Year 6/7 class also raised £77 through their European Christmas Market which is part of our Erasmus + Project with our partner schools throughout Europe. This money will be donated, along with our Christmas Jumper Day money, to the Children's Hospice.

Many thanks for all your donations of food for our Christmas Hampers for St Vincent de Paul. It is wonderful to see such generosity which will help local families in need this Christmas.



### Pupil of the Month

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

Year 1 Mrs Magill	Leo Venner Sheen	Year 5 Mr Nolan	Zuzanna Keating
	Sophie McDade		Maeve Lennon
Year 2 Miss Morrow	Tisha Rahman	Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Clodagh O'Hara
	Ethan Walsh		Poppy Reid
Year 2 Mrs Hinds	Matthew Taylor	Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	Emma Brown
	Iona Sweetnam		Oliver Simpson
Year 3 Mr Jones	Olivia Brennan		
	Lucas Mullan	Well done to all the boys and girls!	
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Sophie Barit		
	Daniel Council		
Year 4 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Nathaniel Zborowski		
	Olivia Lee		

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 18th December 2018	10.00am	Carol Service St James's Church
Fri 21st December 2018	Half Day	12 noon finish (Breakfast Club will be available as usual)
Wed 2nd January 2019	Admissions Process opens online	
Mon 7th January 2019	Children return to school	
Friday 11 January 2019	Admissions Support Sessions 9.15-10.15am and 2.00—3.00pm	
Wednesday 16th January	7.00pm	Service of Commitment and Light, St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Wednesday 30th January	11.00am	Confirmation, St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
	Admissions process ends	
Mon 18th Feb—Fri 22nd Feb	School closed	
Tues 19th March	10.00am	First Confession, St James's Church
Sat 18th May	11.00am	First Holy Communion, St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse