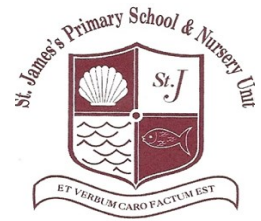


St James's Jotter

January 2019



Happy New Year

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2019. It was great to see all the smiling faces coming back to school ready for a busy term ahead. I would be grateful if you could please make yourself familiar with the information and key dates provided in St James's Jotter. Reminders will also be posted on Facebook and ParentMail will also be used to communicate with you. I look forward to continuing to see our children and our school flourish in the year ahead.

Paula Cunningham

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week runs from the 28th January until the 3rd February and this year the theme is Celebrating the Work of our Local Catholic Schools.

The children will take part in various activities in class throughout the week. On Wednesday 30th January, our Year 7 children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse. This is a very special event for our children and their families, our school and the parish community.

A special part of Catholic Schools Week is the celebration of our Grandparents. However, this year due to Confirmation, we will celebrate Grandparents Day on Friday 1st March. We will have special Assemblies for Grandparents with each class taking part. The first Assembly involving children in Years 1, 2 and 3 will take place at 9.30am followed by tea and coffee in the canteen. Then children in Years 4, 5, 6 and 7 will present an Assembly at 10.45am. All Grandparents are welcome to attend. Grandparents of children in our Nursery will be invited to play with their grandchildren from 9-9.30am (Full time and morning) and 12.30-1.00pm (afternoon). All grandparents are welcome.

ADMISSIONS

The closing date for applications for our Nursery and Year One is midnight on Thursday 31st January. All relevant documentation must be given to your first preference school by 12 noon on Friday 8th February. If you have any difficulties with the online application, please contact the office and we will provide support.

Election of Parent Governor

We have two candidates for the role of Parent Governor Mrs Claire Burns and Mrs Samantha Sayers. Ballot papers will be sent home by post and must be returned by post or to the ballot box at the school office by 12 noon on Friday 8th February. We will then notify you of the newly elected Parent Governor.

Superhero Week for Autism NI

We are delighted to be taking part in Superhero Week for Autism NI from the 4th—8th February. Currently one in thirty-four school age children are diagnosed with Autism in Northern Ireland as this is steadily on the increase. Autism NI relies on your help to improve the lives of children living with the daily challenge of Autism. To take part, each child will be given five Superhero Tasks to do at home. Then on Friday 8th February, we will have a Superhero dress up day with each child coming to school dressed as their favourite Superhero. The tasks are as follows:

Be as strong as Superman and help carry the shopping

Be as smart as Ironman and do your homework

Be as kind as Wonder Woman and feed your pet or the birds

Be as generous as Black Panther and set the table

Be amazing like Spiderman and keep your room tidy

Each child will receive a Superhero pack to take home with a Superhero Tasks Wall Chart, Sponsor Form, Stars for completed tasks and a place for a Super Parent/Guardian to sign to confirm the child has completed their tasks.

Living and Learning Together

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>

MORNING ARRANGEMENTS

I would like to remind you that, in the morning, we ask parents/guardians of Year 2-7 children 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. 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. Please note that when a child is late for class it is recorded on their attendance record.

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 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 by 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.

We ask parents to try to make appointments for children outside school hours. However, if, in an emergency, you need to collect your child early, you must ask for your child at the office and you must fill in a form providing details of why your child is leaving school.

THANK YOU FROM MRS KEANEY

Mrs Keaney has extended her heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the gifts received from the children, parents and staff to mark her retirement. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

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.

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, 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. Breakfast Club supervisors can no longer accept money other than that for Breakfast Club. Thank you for your cooperation.

Car Parking

Unfortunately, there have been problems with staff trying to park in the staff car park. I would ask all parents who are leaving children to Breakfast Club, not to enter the staff car park but to drop your child in the main car park and they can walk the short distance to the canteen door. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

TAKE CARE!

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



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.



No Nail Polish

Please note that children should not wear nail polish to school. Your cooperation is appreciated.

WEBSITE

Please remember to check our website regularly.

www.stjamesps.co.uk

Living and Learning Together

ROAD SAFETY QUIZ

Congratulations to our Year 7 Road Safety Quiz Team who represented our school at the recent quiz in Mossley Mill. Aimee, Eden, Shannon and Cain had a busy morning participating in eight rounds of the quiz. They all got a goody bag and a medal but most importantly, they were great ambassadors for our school. Well done!

PEACE PROMS

We are delighted that, once again, we will have 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 will be performing on Sunday 25th February in the SSE Arena in Belfast. This is a very exciting opportunity for the children. If anyone would like to attend the concert, tickets are available from the SSE Arena.

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.

Pupil of the Month

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

Year One Mrs Magill	Uyo Akagwu Mathews Biju
Year 2 Miss Morrow	Eva Milliken Adam Michalski
Year 2 Mrs Hinds	Kamil Kukowski Leah Brown
Year 3 Mr Jones	Rosa Doherty Ronan Gilmore
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Eamon Cochrane Cara Lee
Year 4 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Maddie Hamilton Zuzanna Dagiel
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Patryk Kosiarski Flynn Markey
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Dylan Semple Arianna McCracken
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Abbie Lawlor Kacper Luzynczyk

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

INTERNET SAFETY WEEK

You will be aware the internet hosts many exciting opportunities for education. The online world is a wonderful place for young people to explore, with unprecedented opportunities for learning and creativity, but just like the real world there are risks and dangers they should be aware of and which we should all act to protect them from.

As part of the curriculum, teachers ensure that pupils are taught about e-safety and acceptable online behaviour. Each year, we have an 'Internet Safety Awareness' week in school and this year, to mark Safer Internet Day on the 5th February, our awareness week will take place during the week beginning 4th February 2019.

Teachers will be planning lessons based on Internet Safety, using resources from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) www.thinkuknow.co.uk. This is an excellent website offering advice to teachers and parents on ensuring your child is not accessing inappropriate content online.

After School Clubs

We are delighted to, once again, offer a fantastic selection of after school activities for our children.



Monday	Judo and Mini Explorers
Tuesday	Drama
Wednesday	Multisports
Thursday	Art
Friday	Soccer

Confirmation

Our Year 7 children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 30th January at 11.00am in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse. The celebrant will be Bishop Farquhar. 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 29th January. I look forward to your support in making this a very special celebration for our children.

Living and Learning Together

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 28th January 2019		Cancer Focus Workshops Year 7 Transfer Meetings
Tues 29th January 2019		Year 7 Transfer Meetings
Wed 30th January 2019	11.00am	Confirmation St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Mon 4th-Fri 8th Feb 2019		Autism NI Superhero Week
Fri 8th February 2019		Superhero Dress Up day
Tues 5th February 2019		Year 6 Trip to Navan Fort
Thurs 14th February 2019		Valentine's Theme Dinner in canteen
Mon 18th—Friday 22nd February 2019		School closed
Sun 24th February 2019		Peace Proms, SSE Arena
Friday 1st March 2019	9.30am and 10.45am 9-9.30am 12.30-1.00pm	Grandparents' Assemblies Grandparents' Stay and Play in the Nursery Grandparents' Stay and Play in the Nursery (afternoon)
Monday 4th March 2019		Book Fair
Thursday 7th March		World Book Day dress up (see below)
Tues 19th March 2019	10.00am	First Confession, St James's Church
Sat 18th May 2019	11.00am	First Holy Communion in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse

TOKENS

The Irish News are currently printing tokens for a class to win a school trip to the Giant's Causeway. In order to enter, we need to have 25 tokens—the tokens are printed daily in the Irish News. If you read the Irish News or know someone who does, please collect the tokens and send them into school no later than Monday 25th February. Many thanks.

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.

World Book Day

This year World Book Day will be celebrated in our school on Thursday 7th March. Instead of dressing up as a favourite book character, we would like to try something new! We would like the children to start thinking about a costume they could make that represents a 'describing word' of their choosing. For example, the word 'delicious' could be represented by a homemade costume covered in food wrappers or even a costume of a hot dog! The word 'colourful' could be represented by bright clothes with rainbows or flowers attached. The more creative and inventive the better!

