

St James's Jotter

February 2019



WORLD BOOK DAY and BOOK FAIR

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th 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 should come to school as an adjective or 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! We are delighted that we are hosting the Scholastic Book Fair the week beginning Monday 4th March. Children will be able to use their World Book Day token to get £1 off a book over the price of £2.99.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY

As you are aware, we are having a special Grandparents' Assembly on Friday 1st March. 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. Tea and coffee is available at this time for all grandparents regardless of which Assembly they are attending. Then children in Years 4-7 will present an Assembly at 10.45am. Grandparents of children in our Nursery can play with their grandchildren from 9-9.30am (full time and morning classes) and 12.30-1.00pm (afternoon class). All grandparents are welcome. If your child does not have a grandparent or their grandparent cannot attend, another significant adult in your child's life is very welcome to come along. We are looking forward to a special day celebrating all our grandparents.

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.

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>

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.

Pupil of the Month

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

Year One Mrs Magill	Daniyal Khan
	Moosa Rasool
Year 2 Miss Morrow	Grace Ellen Connolly McGrann
	Ronel Gigy
Year 2 Mrs Hinds	Max Sloan
	Olivia Kwiek
Year 3 Mr Jones	Tom McGrillan
	Eva Jaise
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Luke Quinn
	Rosa McKinley
Year 4 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Kayla Picken
	Kyle Jankowski
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Se Sweetnam
	Courtney McCormick
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Eve Gillespie
	Mateusz Glanowski
Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	Michael Teggart
	Grace Law

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

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 24th 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, Miss Morrow and our parent volunteers 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.

Love Your Bike Day

We had wonderful support for our Love Your Bike Day with lots of children coming to school on their bike or scooter. Each class has the chance to work with Beverly from Sustrans to 'Bling their Bike' or took part in a Dr Bike session or Cycle Skills. We look forward to welcoming Beverly back in the near future.

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 child 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.

SUPERHERO WEEK

Thank you for all your effort and donations for Superhero Week for Autism NI. We raised £ and would like to thank you for your generosity. We will be presenting the money to Autism NI very soon.



Confirmation

Our Year 7 children received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 31st January 2019. The children were exemplary and our school choir performed exceptionally well and received many compliments. We were all very proud of all our children. A special thanks to all those who donated cakes and buns for the celebration afterwards. Your generosity certainly added to this very special celebration and was greatly appreciated.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 1st March		Grandparents' Assembly
Mon 4th—Friday 8th March		Book Fair
Tues 5th March		PTA Meeting
Wed 6th March		Celebration of World Maths Day
Thurs 7th March		World Book Day (Dress Up)
	6.00pm	Year Three First Confession Meeting for Parents
Tues 12th March	6.30pm	Phonics Information Session for Year 1 and 2 Parents
Fri 15th March		Non Uniform Day for St Patrick's Day (children can wear something green—no football shirts)
Tues 19th March	10.00am	First Confession, St James's Church
Thurs 18th April		Half day for Easter Holidays 12 noon finish
Mon 6th May		School closed
Sat 18th May	11.00am	First Holy Communion in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Mon 27th May		School closed

Online Safety

You may be aware of recent media reports highlighting the need to keep our children safe online. National Online Safety produces up to date guides for parents and carers about social media apps and platforms. The guides are available at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/> and provide lots of useful information to help keep our children safe.

