

St James's Jotter

March 2019



POETRY IN MOTION IN YEAR 6/7

On the 12th March Mrs Donaghy's Year 6/7 class attended the launch of the Poetry in Motion Schools Project 2018-19 poetry anthology 'The Colour of Light'. The children performed their whole class poem 'Burnt Cake' and then Sarah recited her poem, 'Who Could I Be?' We were delighted that Sarah's poem won the 2019 Seamus Heaney Award for Achievement and Sarah was presented with her award by Sarah Crossan, Ireland's laureate for children's literature. We were very proud of all our children for their wonderful performance. Well done boys and girls and well done Sarah!

BIG PEDALCHALLENGE

As you are aware, we are taking part in Sustrans NI's Big Pedal Challenge. We get points when children and adults walk, cycle or scoot to school. We are hoping to continue to move up the Leader Board next week so please get active!



COOL FM

We were delighted to be invited to COOL FM on the 27th March to take part in an interview about our special partnership with Whitehouse Primary School and Nursery Unit. Aoife from Year 3 and Toby from Year 7 were interviewed along with Miss Morrow and Mrs Cunningham. They got a tour of the Cool FM studios and got to meet PK and Paulo. The children had an enjoyable day and were a real credit to our school. We will let you know when the podcast is available.



Young Enterprise Business Beginnings

Mrs Donaghy's Year 6/7 class have worked hard to create and market their beautiful Ishtar Jars as part of the Young Enterprise NI project. A team from Year 6/7 will be selling the jars in the Abbey Centre on Wednesday 3rd April between 10am and 2pm. Please come along and support them!



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NUT FREE ZONE

Our school is a nut free zone. We currently have children in our school who have allergies to nuts and nut products. In order to ensure the safety of all our children, I would be grateful if you could ensure you do not send any nut products to school with your child. Please note that this includes Nutella. Thank you for your cooperation



FIRST CONFESSION

Congratulations to our Year 3 children who made their First Confession recently. The children participated fully in a beautiful ceremony. Well done boys and girls.

EASTER BONNET CHALLENGE

Last year we had a very successful STEM challenge where our children made constructions from lollipop sticks. We were thrilled with the creativity, ingenuity and diligence shown by the children and we were delighted that our parents got involved and supported their children so enthusiastically.

This year we have decided to set another STEM challenge in the form of an 'Easter Bonnet' challenge. The children have been shown a power point at Assembly of fabulous Easter bonnets made by children all over the world. The amazing hats on view had egg themes, Spring themes, superhero themes and there were even some with amazing buildings on top. The children have now been inspired to design and create their own Easter hat.

We intend to hold an Easter parade where each child will model their own hat for the children to see. Just like last year, there will be prizes galore for the most amazing constructions. We are really looking forward to seeing the results of all the children's efforts at Easter time.

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 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.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We had a wonderful celebration for World Book Day when the children came to school dressed as an adjective. They enjoyed our adjective parade on the 'catwalk' and prizes were awarded. We also has the Scholastic Book Fair with us for World Book Day and would like to thank parents/guardians for supporting our Book Fair.

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 Sayers	Designated Governor for Child Protection
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.

WORLD MATHS DAY

On Wednesday 6th March we celebrated World Maths Day in St James's. The children in Years 4-7 took part in a Maths Team Quiz in the Assembly Hall. After six intense rounds of questions there were five teams who had scored full marks. These teams then went forward to battle it out in the final and after three more rounds we ended up with a winning team and a team of runners up. Congratulations to our winners who demonstrated great mental maths knowledge and who showed that they could calculate word problems quickly and accurately.

The children in Years 1 – 3 celebrated World Maths Day with fun maths activities in the classroom and a Maths sing-a-long in the afternoon. They danced and sang and joined in all the actions. Needless to say, a fun time was had by all.

Finally, several classes took part in a Number treasure hunt all around the school. The children practised their observation, counting, calculating and recording skills as well as learning how to be part of a team. Well done to all the classes who took part and to the children who tried their best to find all the answers.

TAKE CARE!

It is great to see 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 or when on a scooter, they 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.



St Patrick's Day

We celebrated St Patrick's Day on Friday 15th March with lots of singing and dancing and the children all wore green. It was a great day of fun and laughter!



YEAR FIVE SHARED EDUCATION

We are delighted that once again our Year 5 children will have the opportunity to visit Whitehouse Presbyterian Church and St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse with their friends from Whitehouse Primary School. The children will take part in shared activities in both Churches.

TAG RUGBY

Well done to our Year 7 Tag Rugby Team who competed in a Blitz at Threemile Water. Once again, the children were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 1st April	Year 5, 6 and 7 Golf Taster Session
Wednesday 3rd April	Young Enterprise Business Beginnings Abbey Centre 10am
Friday 5th April	ARC 21 Bus; Year 6 and 7 Celebration of Sport (Valley LC)
Thursday 18th April	Half Day 12 noon finish
Friday 19th April—Friday 26th April	Easter Holidays
Mon 29th April	Return to school
Mon 6th May	School closed
Mon 27th—Tues 28th May	School closed
Sat 18th May	11.00am
	First Holy Communion in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Fri 7th June	Sports Day (weather permitting) - further details will be sent home nearer the time

Pupil of the Month

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

Year 1 Mrs Magill	Anna Stevenson Finlay Reynolds
Year 2 Miss Morrow	Natalie Jarmolinska Connor Green
Year 2 Mrs Hinds	Beck McManus Kohl Tumilty
Year 3 Mr Jones	Riva Jaise Kevin Dudek
Year 4 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Ethan Blair Tom Dench
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Monica Biju Ryan Moran
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Ryan O'Neill Leah McClung
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Luna Banasik Aaron Lee
Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	John Tasker-Lynch Aimee Green

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

PTA EVENTS

BELFAST MARATHON

The PTA have arranged for two teams of parents to run in the Belfast marathon on 5th May. The parents will be asking for sponsorship and will be holding a 'loose change' bucket collection each morning in the Parent's foyer on the week prior to the marathon. All the money raised will go towards an update of the Library and towards adding to our collection of books for the Accelerated Reader Programme. We look forward to your support for this venture.

QUIZ NIGHT

There will be a Quiz Night in 'Sipsters' on Thursday 2nd May. All our parents and friends of St James's are invited to form a team and join in the fun. There will be a small entrance fee for each team and ballots will be sold on the night. We look forward to seeing you all there.

SUMMER FAIR

The PTA intend to hold a Summer Fair in early June as part of their fundraising ventures. This event has always been well attended in the past and thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. This year there will be a variety of activities to enjoy including a barbeque, carnival games, face painting and a variety of stalls. Look out for further details on ParentMail.

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