

September 2015

Issue no. 1

action @ school

St. Joseph's Primary
School, Antrim

Tel 94462076

Dear Parents, Guardians and friends of St. Joseph's,

We are delighted to welcome you all back to our new school year. Thank you to all the parents for assisting in the early morning routines, this has ensured a very smooth start to the morning lessons and the school term. Parents are reminded that children line up in the playground and teachers collect children from the playground and take them to class.

As regards our building, all the asbestos identified for removal was removed over the summer enabling us to open again in time for September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and patience during this time. We also thank the Parish and Greystone for accommodating us in June so we could finish the school year. We are back on track with the window replacement scheme and having new lighting and ceilings installed in the P.E. hall, canteen area and corridor out of the P.E. hall. Although it seems to be taking a long time, work is progressing according to the schedule and when it is finished it will be lovely! Again, thank you for your patience.

LATE ARRIVALS

Reminder: Teachers are continuing to use the computerised system for recording attendance. Once the classes are brought into the school, the doors will be closed and any late comers must enter via the school office. From Monday 12th October, late children will register on the computer in the foyer and a latecomers notice will be sent home. This should assist any parents who are unaware that their children are late. This also complies with our child protection and health and safety policies and ensures that we can monitor attendance closely for our end of year and Education Welfare Office reports. It also ensures that dinners are ordered for late children who require them. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation and remind you that school begins at 8:55am and supervision in the yards is in place from 8:45.

All parents are asked to ensure all uniform items are labelled including the black plimsolls for indoor wear and PE. It is important that all children have indoor shoes. It is expected that all children have a full school PE uniform – white polo shirt and navy PE

shorts. Please remember to label all parts of your children's uniforms as changing for PE can cause a few mix-ups! Ties are available from the school office at a cost of £3.99. Presently P.E. activities are carried out outside- weather permitting and our dance programme is available in classes. P1-3 are currently availing of football coaching and P5-P7 are swimming also. School dinners are £2.50 for any children wishing to have school dinners/lunches. As soon as our canteen area is open will advise parents and send out the menus. Milk is payable termly and notes will go out advising of the fee before milk money is due.

SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations and good luck to all of our P7s who left us in June. They had a memorable graduation night with Conan Fitzpatrick- Lecturer in digital animation at the University of Ulster- as their honorary graduate. There were many tears as the piper piped the children out and the rest of the school had a chance to say goodbye.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Our Extended Schools programme has been approved and we will be introducing a range of afterschools clubs this year including Bricks for Kids, Off Load Rugby, Drama Club, Youth club and Education City. We will keep you posted as each club becomes available- some require the hall.

WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care is still operating for morning and afternoon sessions- please see below for details. Children can bring in fees or these can be paid at the school office.

8:00-8:30 Breakfast time £1

8:30-8:55 Morning Games Club £1

2:00-3:00 P1 and 2 Youth Club £1

3:00-4:00 P1-7 Youth club £1

4:00-5:30 Games/Wind down/Homework £4

Parents can select any and all times that suit their needs- please speak to the office if you have any questions. Wraparound will operate as usual over

Halloween if required. Please book at the school office in advance or a place cannot be guaranteed.

PARENTS AND PARTNERS

We will be having our first meeting of the year on Tuesday 20th October at 6pm in school. Parent support and involvement is vital to St Joseph's and we would encourage all to become involved- even just to help with ideas or to volunteer to support our programmes. All new parents are most welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you all then.

PARENT MEETINGS

Parent teacher meetings will be scheduled for Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October to enable you to catch up with your child's teacher before the Halloween break. Please let your teacher know in advance if you cannot make any appointment and we will happily reschedule you. Please note- all children finish at 1pm to facilitate the meetings.

FLU VACCINE

We will be facilitating the Public Health Agency in the administration of the flu vaccine for all children P1- P7. This will happen on the 10th November 2015. Please speak to your child's teacher if there is a reason why your child should not be vaccinated. Consent forms should be returned to school as the nursing service are clear that any child who does not have a signed form WILL NOT be vaccinated.



SHOE BOX APPEAL

As you will know we have been able to support the Road of Hope Shoe Box appeal over the past few years with your very generous support.

This year we are sending home

information, attached to this newsletter of how you can make your shoe boxes and send them to school for collection. If for any reason you would not like to make a shoe box but would like to donate any of the items, we will gratefully accept these too. They will then be used by Road of Hope to make up additional shoeboxes. The joy on the faces of the children who receive a shoebox make it all worthwhile. Please return shoeboxes as soon as you can, we will let you know when we receive confirmation of the collection date.



SHARED EDUCATION

Well done to P6 who are working on a shared programme on their topic Titanic with the P6 class from Greystone Primary School. They have enjoyed their joint sessions and showing off their learning with each other. They are looking forward to a visit to the Titanic Centre in Belfast.

WEBSITE

We are finally about to finalise our new website which we hope parents will find very informative. It will include a calendar of all of our events and class pages which will regularly be updated. You will also be able to access information such as school policies and dinner menus. We will let you know as soon as we have a 'going live' date!

GOOD NEWS

We will use this section of the newsletter to share good news from our families. This could be after schools clubs successes, new babies or competition winners. If you would like to share anything at any time of the year, please email us

rtreacy776@c2kni.net

Congratulations to Mrs Clarkin who had a baby boy at the end of the last term. Baby congratulations also go to Josh from P6 and his family, Josh is delighted to have a new baby brother. Josh from P2 has also had a new baby brother and Jack from P6 has welcomed twin cousins- gorgeous girls!

Congratulations also to Mr Mc Greevy who has been appointed as a teacher to St. Teresa's Primary School in Belfast and will be starting after the Halloween break. He will be missed but we wish him well in his new post.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 26th October –Monday 2nd November- School closed for half term and staff training, reopens on Tuesday 3rd November for all pupils.

Monday 19th/Tuesday 20th October Parent teacher meetings will be held, individual appointments will be given out. All pupils finish school at 1pm on these days to facilitate the meetings.

Tuesday 10th November- Flu vaccinations.