

St James's Jotter

January 2018



Happy New Year

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2018. 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 Twitter 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.

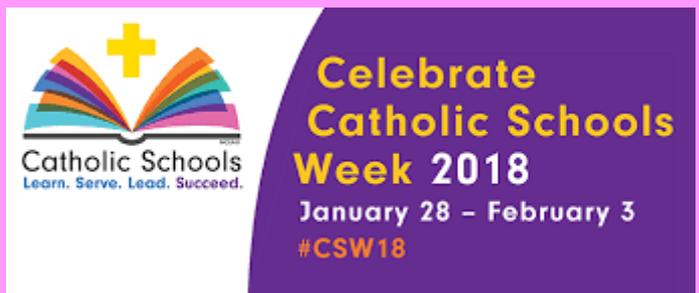
Paula Cunningham

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week runs from the 28th January until the 3rd February and this year the theme is Families of Faith. Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the World Meeting of Families 2018. From 21–26 August 2018, families and others from all over the world will gather to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. This event presents a special opportunity for school families to celebrate not only the fact that parents are the primary educators of their children but also the vital role that Catholic schools play in assisting parents.

As a part of Catholic Schools Week, we will be celebrating:

- Our Family at Home
- Our School Family
- Grandparents: A Special Part of Our Family
- Our Parish Family
- Our World Family



The children will take part in various activities in class throughout the week. On Tuesday 30th January, our Year 7 children will participate in the Service of Commitment and Light in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse at 7pm in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation on 14th March.

On Friday 2nd February, we will celebrate grandparents or, for those children who may not have any grandparents, a significant adult in their life other than a parent/guardian. We are inviting grandparents/significant adult to visit their grandchild's class and take part in activities. From 10—10.30am, grandparents can visit the Nursery, Year 1, 2 and 3 classes. Then we will have a special break in the Assembly Hall for all our visitors. From 11—11.30am, grandparents can visit the Year 4, 5, 6 and 7 classes. The grandparents of the children in our Nursery afternoon class can visit between 1.00pm and 1.30pm. We are looking forward to a very enjoyable day.

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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 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.

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.

FAREWELL

Mrs Louise Cunning has taken up a new post as Vice Principal of Sacred Heart Primary School in Derry. We thank Mrs Cunning for all that she has done for our children and our school in her 12 years here and we wish her every happiness and success in her new school.

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

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, both in the Nursery Unit and Primary School, who contributed to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal in December 2017. We were able to donate 20 large hampers to this worthwhile cause. Thank you all for your donations - they were very much appreciated.



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 Miss Morrow	Noah Todd Nevaeh Cowler
Year One Mrs Magill	Conor Green Eimear McNickle
Year 2 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Michael Dobosz Omayma Chochri
Year 3 Mrs Hinds	Maddie Hamilton Olivia Lee
Year 3 Mr Jones	Sophie Barit Cerys Grant
Year 4 Mr McNamee	Juno Campbell Fritz Bacalso
Year 5 Mr Nolan	Luna Banasik Brooke Moore
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Manas Jacob Shera Jaise
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Liam Tully Abigail Neil

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 6 February, our awareness week will take place during the week beginning 8th February 2018.

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
Tuesday	Basketball, Eco Club and Drumming
Wednesday	Drama
Thursday	Dance and Multisports
Friday	Art

Confirmation

Our Year 7 children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 14th March 2018 at 11.00am in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse. The celebrant will be Fr Pat Sheehan. 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 13th March. I look forward to your support in making this a very special celebration for our children.

Living and Learning Together

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 24th January 2018		NSPCC Assemblies and workshops
Tues 30th January 2018	7.00pm	Year Seven Service of Commitment and Light, St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Friday 2nd February 2018	10.00am and 11.00am	Grandparents' Day
Tues 6th February 2018		Internet Safety Day
Mon 12th—Friday 16th February 2018		School closed
Wed 28th February 2018	11.00am	First Confession Parents' Meeting 6.30pm
Tues 6th March 2018	10.00am	First Confession St James's Church
Wed 14th March 2018	11.00am	Confirmation St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Sat 12 May 2018 2018	11.00am	First Holy Communion in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse

Accelerated Reader Awards

Congratulations to the children who have reached their target points set by the Accelerated Reader programme. They have accomplished this milestone by reading and quizzing on lots of books. We are sure they will continue to keep up the good work and do lots more reading next term.

We would also like to congratulate our Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires—Nora Campbell, Aimee Green, Rory O'Conallain and Olina Sunil.

Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 (cont)	Year 7 (cont)
Fritz Bacalso	Luna Banasik	Jeff Jazul	Marianna Garvin
Nathan Burns	Julia Cherezniak	Ciaran Laverty	Anna Gordon
Juno Campbell	Amelia Grajek	Grace Law Michael Teggart	Ciara Green
Courtney-Lee Crawford	Kaelan Green	Abbie Lawlor	Cara Hamilton
Adam Dudek	Natan Jankowski	Aisling Lennon	Jonathon McCourt
Oliver Gordon	Michael McCourt	Shannon McCourt	Grace McKinley
Connor Houlahan	Arianna McCracken	Aoibheann Mulholland	Cian Morgan
Zuanna Keating	Jonathan Patterson	Conor O'Conallain	Abigail Neill
Patryk Kosiarski	Poppy Reid	Caoimhe Quinn	Johnny Nicholson
Maeve Lennon		Toby Sayers	Rory O'Conallain
Flynn Markey	Year 6	Oliver Simpson	Anna O'Dowd
Hollie McMillan	Cain Armstrong	Sarah Syeda	Hannah Quinn
Jacob Montijo	Eve Blair	John Tasker-Lynch	Lara Quinn
Jack Morton	Emma Brown	Michael Teggart	Scarlett Reid
Caoimhe Murphy	Nora Campbell		Diana Saji
Ryan O'Neill	Yash Chacko	Year 7	Caitlin Shaw
Damian Siwecki	Olivia Dubanowska	Steven Barnes	Olina Sunil
Se Sweetnam	Sasha Gracey	Melani Biju	Liam Tully
	Aimee Green	Beccie Campbell	Jovial Vincent Gigiy
			Oliwier Wiczling