

St James's Jotter

January 2016



Happy New Year

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2016. 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 31 January until 6 February and this year the theme is Catholic Schools: Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy. We will remember that God is a God of mercy, a God of love and compassion, a God who forgives all and always forgives. God's mercy is for everyone; no one is excluded. This year we are invited to consider what that means for each one of us as a member of God's family.

As a part of Catholic Schools Week, we will be celebrating grandparents or, for those children who may not have any grandparents, a significant adult in their life other than a parent/guardian. On Friday 5 February, we are inviting grandparents/significant adult to visit their grandchild's class at 10.00am and take part in activities. Then, at 10.30am, we will have a special break for the grandparents in the Assembly Hall. The children will be bringing home invitations this week.



PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Our 'Parents as Partners' programme has been a great success with parents and guardians attending iPad workshops, facilitated by iTeach, Phonics workshops and an information session on Accelerated Reader. The children were also able to enjoy the Enchanted Evenings during the Phonic Workshops which proved to be very popular!

This term the focus for our 'Parents as Partners' programme will be Numeracy with different workshops being held. Please see the Dates for your Diary section for the different dates. Please note that we will be holding the Enchanted Evenings for the children in Years 1, 2 and 3 while the parents attend the workshop. Children in Years 4, 5, 6 and 7 will also be supervised during the workshops.

We look forward to seeing you at the workshops.

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YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

I would 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>

PEACE PROMS

We are delighted to announce that our choir will be performing in the Peace Proms on Sunday 28 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.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

In order to continue to raise standards in our school, we are trying to improve punctuality and attendance. 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.

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.

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.

WEBSITE

Please remember to check our website regularly.

www.stjamesps.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Our Safeguarding team is:

Mrs Dallat	Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Kelly	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 Kelly.

If you have any concerns about a child in the Nursery Unit, please speak with Mrs Heaney.

All concerns will be dealt with sensitively.

Rest in Peace

Our sincere sympathies are extended to Mr Nolan following the death of his mother in December. We keep Mr Nolan, his mother and his family in our prayers.

CAR PARKING

Please remember that, following advice from the Education Authority, the back car park is for staff parking only. As always, I would appeal to all drivers to please be considerate when parking in King's Walk and Bleach Green. I would also suggest that you could drop your children off on Fernagh Road at the entrance to King's Walk and they could walk the short distance to school. In a recent meeting with DRD, this was also suggested as a way to help address our traffic issues. Please note that residents have been advised to contact the PSNI to report any incidents. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

ACCELERATED READER HOME CONNECT

We are pleased that parents and carers now have the opportunity to use Renaissance Home Connect. This is a means of monitoring children's reading practice by allowing access to Accelerated Reader at home. Renaissance Home Connect provides a snapshot of each child's reading progress including average percentage correct on quizzes, number of points earned and results of the last quiz taken (reading quizzes can only be taken in school). Parents and carers can also see all of the books read by their own child. We are sure that Renaissance Home Connect will prove to be a valuable tool in helping parents to encourage their child to read and in helping to monitor progress towards reaching reading targets. The children in Years 4 to 7 have already been given the website address and their login details. If you have any questions about Home Connect please feel free to ask the class teacher or Mrs Kelly (Coordinator).

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.



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. Mrs Brown and Mrs Thompson can no longer accept money other than that for Breakfast Club. Thank you for your cooperation.

TWITTER

If you have requested to follow us on Twitter but haven't yet been accepted, please let me know as it can be difficult to determine who is a parent from the twitter name.

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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.

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 2015. We were able to donate 19 large hampers to this worthwhile cause. Thank you all for your donations - they were very much appreciated.



Pupil of the Month

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

Year One Miss Patterson	Tomisin Bamidele Riley King
Year One Miss Morrow	Ameila Gutkowska James Snoddy
Year 2 Mrs Cross	Sophia Nugent Ryan O'Neill
Year 2/3 Mrs Cuning	Michael McCourt Caleb Molloy
Year 3 Miss Black	Clodagh O'Hara Ciaran Lavery
Year 4 Mr Jones	Grace aw Abbie Lawlor
Year 5 Mr Tunney	Janelle Flanagan Calum O'Neill
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Emma Simpson Mebin Babu
Year 6 Mr Nolan	Bailey Nicholson Katie Sloan
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Eric Moore Sophie Lee

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 9 February, our awareness week will take place during the week beginning 8 February 2016.

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.

I would also like to invite you to an Internet Safety Information Session for parents/guardians on Thursday 11 February at 6.30pm. In order to help with child care arrangements, we will supervise Nursery and Primary School children at this time. The information session will be held in the ICT Suite and we encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

PTA

Thank you to everyone who supported our movie night and Christmas draw. Movie night raised a fantastic £329.45 while the Christmas ballot raised a fabulous £403. A list of prize winners can be found later.

We would extend particular thanks to those businesses and individuals who donated prizes, namely Tesco Newtownabbey, the Bureau Whiteabbey, DKNi florists, Lyric Theatre, Cafe Nero Victoria Square, Louise Green and Keira Simpson.

Please watch our notice board and school newsletter for upcoming events in this term.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th February at 6pm in the school staffroom. If you are a parent or guardian please come along or give any suggestions or ideas you might have to a teacher or committee member.

St James's PTA

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AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

After School activities will be commencing the week beginning January 25th. Most clubs will run for six weeks but some of the external clubs may be shorter or longer than this. The notes will be going out this week (18th January) so keep an eye out for the note in your child's bag. Please do not send any money until your child has been informed that they have a place in a club. They will receive a separate note informing them of this once their permission slips have been returned. Any children not placed in a club will receive priority for the next round of clubs.

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.

PTA Christmas Ballot Prize Winners

Tickets for the Lyric Theatre : O McMillan
Voucher for the Bureau: K O'Connor
Voucher for Flowers: A McCormick
Tesco Hamper: R Montgomery
Nero Coffee Voucher: C Campbell
Head Massage: C McQuitty
Barbie Video Girl: K Pauley
Thorntons Chocolate Figure: R Zborowski
Bottle of Wine: G Hill

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 Declan McAuley and Harry Nicholson our first ever Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires! Harry's advice to all our readers, "Read books you like and just keep reading!"

Year 5

Lara Quinn
Abigal McNamara
Anna Gordan
Anna O'Dowd
Darcie Robinson
Olina Sunil
Melani Biju
Diana Saji
Rory O'Conallain
Tristan Curry
Johnny Nicholson
Jovial Vincent Gigiy
Calum O'Neill

Year 6 (Mrs Kelly)

Emma Simpson
Aoife McKeown
Aimee Kerr
Ann Aweetnam
Ciara O'Conallain
Amiel Njarakulathu
Aaron Dickson
Mebin Babu
Harry Nicholson

Year 6 (Mr Nolan)

Maria Raju
Jessica McKinley
Daniel Armstrong

Year 7

Sahar Syeda
Ainara Tasker-Lynch
Hannah Muckian
Una Collins
Abbie Moore
Thomas Tomlinson
Declan McAteer
Zeigan Barrido
Ewan Gracey
Declan McAuley



Accelerated™
Reader

YOUNG ENTERPRISE COMES TO ST JAMES'S

Our Year 7 children are taking part in a Young Enterprise 'Our Business' Programme this term. This enterprise programme enables children to set up and run a business over the course of a half term. While participating in an exciting business venture with their peers, children will identify key business skills and consider their own skills and attributes.

As part of this exciting initiative, we are asking for a volunteer to bring their business knowledge/skills and experience of business to the classroom. If you could spare some time to work with our Year 7 children, or if you would like more information, please speak with Mrs Cunningham or Mrs Donaghy.



CONFIRMATION

Our Year 7 children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 6 February at 11.00am in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse. 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 Friday 5 February. I look forward to your support in making this a very special celebration for our children.

CHRISTMAS NUMERACY CHALLENGE

Before Christmas, children from Year 1 to 7 took part in our Countdown to Christmas Numeracy Challenge. The children had great fun completing the different activities and it was great to see their work displayed in the children's entrance foyer. Thank you to Mrs Cuning for organising such an enjoyable learning experience for the children. Class teachers selected winners from each class and they were awarded with selection boxes at our Awards Assembly just before Christmas. The winners were:

Y1 (MM): Hubert Dziedziak and Jacob Nycek
Y1 (SP): Harvey Snoddy and EileQuinn
Y2: Nathan Burns and Hollie McMillan
Y2/3: Joshua Montgomery and Adam Dudek
Y3: Caitlin Grant and Mateusz Glanowski

Y4: Leona Somerville and Bradley McComb
Y5: Lara Quinn and Darcie Robinson
Y6 (TN): Bailey Nicholson, Jodie Coiley and Katie Sloan
Y6 (RK): Aimee Kerr, Emma Simpson, Jasper Delfinado and Sasha McComb
Y7: Aoife Murphy, LJ Barit, Zeigan Barrido, Dylan Russell and Matthew Green

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 19 January	6.30pm	Year One Numeracy Workshop
Thurs 21 January 2016	6.30pm	Year Five Residential Information Session in Whitehouse PS
Thurs 21 January 2016	7.00pm	Year Five Shared Education Science Workshop in Whitehouse PS
Mon 25 January 2016	2.00pm	Year Seven Service of Commitment and Light
Tues 26 January	6.30pm	Year Four and Five Numeracy Workshop*
Wed 27 January	6.30pm	Year Three Numeracy Workshop*
Sat 6 February 2016	11.00am	Confirmation in St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Mon 8 Feb 2016	9.10am	PATHS Information Session for Parents/Guardians (Assembly Hall)
Thurs 11 Feb	6.30pm	Internet Safety Information Session
Sat 14 May 2016	11.00am	First Holy Communion in Star of the Sea, Whitehouse

*Please note change of date

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First Term Full Attendance Awards				
Year One Miss Morrow	Year One Miss McCarthy	Year Two Mrs Cross	Year Two/Three Mrs Cunning	Year Three Miss Black
Daisy Arkins-Flood Hubert Dziedziak Liam Magill Sophie Maguire Rosa McKinley James Snoddy	Tomisin Bamidele Hannah McMillen Eile Quinn	Kevin Hoyne Courtney McCormick Hollie McMillen	Michael McCourt Mark Neill	Luna Banasik Mateusz Glanowski Caitlin Grant Natan Jankowski Ciaran Laverty Arianna McCracken Nathaniel McCracken Aoibheann Mulholland Conor O'Conallain Cate O'Dowd Clodagh O'Hara Caoimhe Quinn Poppy Reid Michael Teggart
Year Four Mr Jones	Year Five Mr Tunney	Year Six Mrs Kelly	Year Six Mr Nolan	Year Seven Mrs Donaghy
Cain Armstrong Quigley Emma Brown Lewis Burgess??? Nora Campbell Manas Jacob Shera Jaise Aisling Lennon Kasper Luzynczyk Shannon Magee Bradley McComb Shannon McCourt Mia McCullough Justin Patino Toby Sayers Oliver Simpson Kosma Siwecki Sarah Syeda John Tasker-Lynch	Steven Barnes Janelle Flanagan Callum Grant Ciara Green Cara Hamilton Rebecca McKee Grace McKinley Abbie McNamara Niamh McWilliams Cian Morgan Johnny Nicholson Lara Quinn Scarlett Reid Darcie Robinson Corey Russell Diana Saji Caitlin Shaw Olina Sunil Jovial Vincent Gigiy	Jasper Delfinado Aaron Dickson Sasha McComb Aoife McKeown Jamie Louise McLaverty Ruairi Mulholland Harry Nicholson Ciara O'Conallain Emma Simpson Ann Sweetnam	Keith Calungsod Manuel Jacob Chloe McKinley Jessica McKinley Cleo Mulholland Maria Raju Katie Sloan-Hill Jamie Wang	LJ Barit Zeigan Barrido Megan Heffron Sophie Lee Declan McAteer DJ McCourt Ellen McNamara Sarah Quinn Sahar Syeda Ainara Tasker-Lynch