

# St James's Jotter

December 2016



## Happy Christmas

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to wish all our parents/guardians, friends and children a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2017.

Paula Cunningham



## Thanks

Many thanks to all the children who helped out with our Open Night. They helped our visitors to see what a warm and welcoming place our school is. One visitor commented on how our Open Night was very child centred which is lovely to hear as all that we do here in St James's is in the best interests of all our children.

## Application Forms

Application forms for the Nursery and Year One are now available from the office. Closing date for applications is noon on 11 January 2017.



## CAROL SERVICE

The Year 5-7 Carol Service will take place on Friday 16 December at 11.00am in St James's Church and everyone is



*Silent Night, Holy Night*

welcome to attend. The children in Years 5-7 should come to school as normal on this day and we will walk to the Church. Children will be able to go home with their parents/guardians after the Carol Service but the class teacher must be informed. This is always a special occasion for the children and provides us with the opportunity to consider the meaning of Christmas.

## WEBSITE

Please remember to check our website regularly to learn more about what the children are doing and to see lots for photographs of different activities.

[www.stjamesps.co.uk](http://www.stjamesps.co.uk)

 [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)  
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### 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. Please consider our neighbours at all times. 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. Please note that residents have been advised to contact the PSNI to report any incidents. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

### 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.

### FUNDRAISING

Many thanks to the parents/guardians who have made a voluntary donation to school funds. To date we have received nine donations. If anyone would like to make a donation, please send it to your child's teacher in an envelope marked 'donation'.

Many thanks to all our parents/guardians who ordered Christmas cards, gift tags, mugs and tea towel designed by their own children as part of our Class Fundraising initiative. Your generosity has raised £300 for school funds.

### Remembrance Day

Mrs Hinds and the Pupils' Council attended a Remembrance Day Service in Ypres Park on 11 November. As always, the children were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please remember that parents/guardians of Year 2-7 children are asked 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. Any money to be given to the teacher should be sent in with your child in an envelope clearly labelled. 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.

### CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our Year 7 children will be going to the Christmas Market the week before Christmas. They will get a guided tour around the market and learn about the language, food and cultural backgrounds of the traders. They will hopefully also get to sample some tasty food products along the way!



## COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Our Countdown to Christmas Numeracy Challenge will take place from the 12th until the 16th December. Our children will have the opportunity to develop their thinking skills through a number of fun Christmas Numeracy activities. In the classrooms, a range of activities will take place including a Key Stage 2 competition to design a Christmas board game. Year 3 and 4 will be making Christingles and costing the price of each one and the Year 1 and 2 children will be inventing their own Christmas-bocker Glory! The children will be code writing and breaking, party planning and Christmas shopping on a budget. Puzzles, jokes, quizzes and colour by numbers activities will ensure that all our children have a fun week of Numeracy. Even their homework will be based on Christmas Numeracy challenges. Numeracy is sure to be even more fun than normal for everyone next week!



### St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

Once again we are asking for your support to make up Christmas Hampers to support families in need this Christmas. We are asking for each family to try and bring in at least one or two items to help make up one hamper per class.



There are twenty basic items we try to provide in each hamper. Each child in the class will select one type of basic item from a list. If you wish to donate more than one type of item we have also made a list of luxury items that will be added to the hamper. You will find the list on the note that will go home.

We appreciate that this is a very expensive time for families, but if you can manage to support this appeal it would be greatly appreciated. All the items for the hampers would need to be in school by Friday 16th December.

### 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. It is vital that you follow the treatment plan fully as stopping treatment early can result in the headlice returning. 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>

### CHRISTMAS WRITING COMPETITION

In order to promote and provide a purpose for children's writing, we are having a Christmas Writing Competition. One child from each Key Stage will receive a prize for a piece of writing



about Christmas. It can be anything from a Christmas poem or story to a recipe for making mince pies. We look forward to reading the children's wonderful work!

### 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.

### 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.

### Newtownabbey Food Bank

St James's Primary School and Nursery Unit is a registered referral agent for Newtownabbey Food Bank.

Vouchers are available in school. Mrs Dallat is the contact person for these vouchers. The voucher entitles an individual or family in crisis to receive food sufficient for three days.

**There is no gathering of personal information by school.**

The vouchers can be handed in at the local food bank at Abbots Cross Presbyterian Church or in Carnmoney.

At the food bank there are refreshments available and toys for young children to play with whilst waiting for the food pack.

Volunteers will also be present to direct individuals to social services/citizens advice if needed.

### PTA

Many thanks to all those who came along to the Movie Night. It was a great night and enjoyed by all. The tickets for the Christmas Prize Draw are now available and have been sent home. Tickets should be returned to school by Wednesday 14 December and the draw will take place on Friday 16 December. If you have any unsold tickets, please send them to the office as soon as possible. The last date for ordering a DVD of a Christmas show is also Wednesday 14 December. We appreciate your continued generosity.

The next PTA meeting is Monday 16 January 2017 at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### SICKNESS

There is a lot of sickness at the moment particularly vomiting and diarrhoea (norovirus). If your child has these symptoms, please keep them at home until at least 48 hours after the symptoms have passed. We also encourage the children to wash their hands thoroughly in school to try to prevent the spread of the virus.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 13 December 2016	9.30am	Year One Christmas Concert
Wed 14 December 2015	9.30am	Year Two (Mrs Cross/Mrs Dallat and Mrs Magill) Christmas Concert
Thurs 15 December 2016	11.00am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert (Mrs Cunning, Mrs Hinds and Mr Jones)
Fri 16 December 2016	9.30am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert (Mrs Cunning, Mrs Hinds and Mr Jones)
Fri 16 December 2016	11.00am	Year 5, 6 and 7 Carol Service in St James's Church
Fri 23 December 2016	Half Day	12 noon finish
<b>Please note that there will be no Breakfast Club on Friday 23rd December.</b>		
Mon 9 January 2017		Children return to school
Wed 18 January 2017	6.30pm	Year 6 Transfer Information Session
Fri 3 February 2017	11.00am	Confirmation St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Mon 13 Feb—Fri 17 Feb 2017		School closed
Thurs 16 March 2017		School closed
Fri 17 March 2017		School closed
Sat 20 May 2017	11.00am	First Holy Communion St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse

\*\*\*Please note change of date\*\*\*

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### **Pupil of the Month**

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

Year 1 Miss McGrann	Ronan Gilmore
	Olivia Brennan
Year 2 Mrs Magill	Ethan Blair
	Hannah McMillan
Year 2 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Alphonsa Sebastian
	Daniel Council
Year 3 Mrs Cuning	Dominik Ostram
	Maeve Lennon
Year 3/4 Mrs Hinds	Adam Dudek
	Flynn Markey
Year 4 Mr Jones	Eve Gillespie
	Conor O'Conallain
Year 5 Mr McNamee	Shera Jaise
	Justin Patino
Year 6 Mr Nolan	Anna Gordon
	Corey Russell
Year 6/7 Mrs Donaghy	Aoife McKeown
	Sasha McComb
Year 7 Mrs Kelly	Jodie Coiley
	Callum O'Neill

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

### **ATTENDANCE AWARDS**

At the end of this term, we will be checking the attendance data and any child who has 100% attendance will receive special recognition at the next Assembly in the new year. The attendance awards will be given out termly and there will also be a special award at the end of June for children who have 100% attendance for the whole year.

### **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 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.



### **RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**

As part of our Shared Education Initiative with Whitehouse PS, we will be working towards achieving our UNICEF Level 1 Rights Respecting School Award. We have already started work on this and the children are beginning to learn about rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We will be keeping you informed of all the work we will be doing.

### **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

This year our Safeguarding Team is as follows:

<b>Mrs Cunningham</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>Mrs Dallat</b>	<b>Designated Teacher for Child Protection</b>
<b>Mrs Hinds</b>	<b>Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection</b>
<b>Mrs Higgins</b>	<b>Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Nursery)</b>

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 Higgins.

All concerns will be dealt with sensitively.

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