

St James's Jotter

December 2017



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 2018.

Paula Cunningham



Application Forms

Application forms for the Nursery and Year One are now available from the office. Closing date for applications is noon on 10 January 2018.

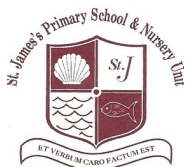


Thanks

We would like to thank all those who donated a shoebox to our Shoebox Appeal. We received over 100 boxes and want to thank everyone for their continued generosity towards those less fortunate than ourselves.

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. A number of visitors commented on how wonderful the children were—we are very proud indeed!

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St

Living and Learning Together

CAROL SERVICE

The Year 5-7 Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 19th December at 10.00am in St James's Church and everyone is welcome to attend. The children in Years 5-7



Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

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.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday 20th December, we will be having a Christmas Jumper Day. The children can wear a Christmas Jumper and/or Santa hat or something Christmassy. If they do not have anything, please do not go out and buy something—they can wear their ordinary clothes. We are asking for a donation of £1 from each child for school funds.



Living and Learning Together

NSPCC—Speak Out, Stay Safe

In January, the NSPCC will be visiting our school and presenting assemblies and workshops to different Year groups. Information will be sent home at the beginning of the new term.

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.

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help maintain our garden. If you would be able to help in any way including painting the benches in the playground, please give your name to Mrs Dallat. No experience is necessary—you just need to be willing!



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.

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 Tuesday 19th December.

Christmas Concert DVD

The PTA are very kindly filming the Christmas Concerts again this year. If you would like to order a DVD costing £5, please complete the order form and return to your child's teacher with payment, by Monday 18th December. Many thanks to Mr Ashbridge for filming the concerts.



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. Supervisors are unable to accept money other than that for Breakfast Club. Thank you for your cooperation.

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>

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.

Pupil of the Month

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

Year 1 Miss Morrow	Roisin McAuley	Year 5 Mr Nolan	Igor Kubieniec
	Max Sloan		Andres Santos Guerra
Year 1 Mrs Magill	Ronel Gigy	Year 5/6 Mrs Kelly	Caoimhe Quinn
	Eva Milliken		Kosma Siwecki
Year 2 Mrs Cross/ Mrs Dallat	Matthew Koralewicz	Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Marianna Garvin
	Sophia Markey		Oliwier Wiczling
Year 3 Mrs Hinds	Neil McAuley		
	Tayana McGuinness	Well done to all the boys and girls!	
Year 3 Mr Jones	Monica Biju		
	Luke Quinn		
Year 4 Mr Mc Namee	Leah McClung		
	Damian Siwecki		

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 12 December 2017	9.30am	Year One Christmas Concert
Wed 13 December 2017	9.30am	Year Two Christmas Concert
	11.00am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert
Thurs 14 December 2017	9.30am	Year Three and Year Four Christmas Concert
Fri 15 December 2017	Half Day	12 noon finish
Tues 19 December 2017	10.00am	Carol Service St James's Church
Fri 22 December 2017	Half Day	12 noon finish
Please note that there will be no Breakfast Club on Friday 22nd December		
Mon 8 January 2018		Children return to school
Mon 12 Feb—Fri 16 Feb 2018	School closed	
Wed 14th March 2018	11.00am	Confirmation St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
Sat 12th May 2017	11.00am	First Holy Communion St Mary's, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse