



April

2018

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon	April 9 th	School reopens for Term 3
Thur	May 3 rd	P4 Pre-sacramental meeting in school 5pm
Mon	May 7 th	<u>School closed.</u>
Thur	May 10 th	RSE talk for parents of P6 and P7 pupils
Wed	May 16 th	What's Inside? –RSE workshop for P7 pupils
Thursday	May 24 th	P5-P7 Sports Day (Weather permitting)
Fri-Mon	May 25 th -28 th	<u>School closed</u>
Fri	June 1 st	P1-2 Sports Day (Weather permitting)
Fri	June 15 th	P3-4 Sports Day (Weather permitting)
Sat	June 2 nd	P4 First Holy Communion in St Therese of Lisieux Church at 10am
Wed –Thur	June 6 th -7 th	P7 Production of Mary Poppins
Fri	June 29 th	School closing at 12 noon for the summer holiday.

ASSEMBLIES

P1 Ms Scannell – Fri May 4th at 9.30am
P1 Ms Dorman – Fri May 11th at 9.30am
P1 Mrs White – Fri May 18th at 9.30am
Parents are very welcome to attend.

TROCAIRE

The theme for the Trocaire Lenten Campaign 2018 is *'Until Love Conquers Fear'* and the children have enjoyed some great fundraising activities to raise vital funds to help with the work of Trocaire. Thank you all for your generosity in sponsoring the children. Please send in any outstanding money as soon as possible.

PARKING

Parking around the school is very limited and roads close to the school get very congested in the mornings and afternoons. However, I have been asked to remind parents to adhere to parking regulations and to show consideration to residents/pedestrians when parking.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS

Breakfast Club and 123 Club will be open as usual from Mon April 9th. Information regarding all other clubs will be sent out after Easter.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Please make sure that each child's uniform is clearly marked with their name. It makes returning lost property to its rightful owner much easier.

PROVISIONAL HOLIDAY LIST

A provisional holiday list for 2018-19 is available on the school website.

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

Well done to all the boys and girls who performed in our St Patrick's Day Concerts. They put on a wonderful feast of poetry, music, drama, song and dance to help us celebrate St Patrick's Day.

All classes also had a chance to learn some Irish, with an engaging lesson 'as gaeilge' from Miss Bennington, one of our substitute teachers.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council have been busy raising money to buy equipment to use at lunchtime. They have been selling ballots for a lovely Easter hamper donated by Mr and Mrs McCready and the PTA. Congratulations to the lucky winners-Sarah, Thomas, Daniel, Grace, Sophie, Matthew, Harry, Gurshick and Erin.

On Tuesday 20th March the School Council had a very special visitor from Stormont come in to talk them about what happens (or is supposed to happen) in the NI assembly. They were able to ask her lots of questions and at the end had a debate on whether or not school uniforms should be banned. They had great discussions and gained some ideas that we hope to use in our future meetings!



NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

To celebrate National Science Week all classes are having a visit from the Science Starz mobile lab during March or April. All children have the opportunity to wear a lab coat and to get fully involved in an experiment related to their current World Around Us topic. So far the children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in 'hands-on' experiments and investigations. These sessions have been partially funded by a grant from the Edina Trust. Thank you to everyone who has sent in the requested £1.50 to cover the rest of the cost.



SHARE DISCOVERY VILLAGE

The P7 children had an amazing time staying at the Share Discovery Village in Fermanagh. Speed boating, mountain biking, archery and climbing were just some of the activities that the children got the chance to experience. They even tried washing dishes, making beds and tidying up. Just like home! **A huge thank you to all the teachers and assistants who gave up their time to accompany the children on the residential trip and made it all possible!**

PARENTS OF P6 AND P7 PUPILS

As part of our RSE programme, the P7 children have the opportunity to take part in a workshop 'What's Inside?', on May 16th, delivered by Love for Life. They will discuss some of the physical and emotional changes puberty brings. **We have also booked a presentation for parents of both P6 and P7 pupils, on May 10th, designed to help you discuss these sensitive issues with your child. More details will be sent out in the next few weeks.**

JUMP, JIGGLE AND JIVE

Parent and Toddler 'Jump Jiggle and Jive' classes Mondays 12pm -12.45pm in the Assembly Hall, suitable for 1-4 year olds. No advanced booking required, just turn up! Dancing, skipping, jumping and crawling with balls, hoops ribbons and much more! **"Great Workout for everyone! My 2 year old son is so excited to take part every week...highly recommend"**

mail@jumpjiggleandjive.co.uk

Tel 07977113490

AMBASSADOR NURSING HOME

We have been invited to further develop our links with the Ambassador Nursing Home. Some of the residents do not have many visitors and they have really enjoyed the children from various classes singing for them at Christmas and St Patrick's Day, as well as listening to the orchestra perform. We want to take this involvement a step further and give the residents and the children a chance to chat and get to know each other. There has been some recent research into the benefits of bringing children and the elderly together. For the elderly the benefits of seeing the energy, enthusiasm and excitement of children are fairly obvious. However, the research indicates many benefits for children too, including developing social and emotional skills, developing compassion and understanding of the difficulties of others, developing the children's empathy and their self-esteem, as well as learning how the world has changed so much over the years. Some of our P4s are going to visit the residents in April so that they can discuss their learning about World War 2 and listen to the residents reminisce about Belfast during this time.

ECO SCHOOL -The Big Battery Hunt

We are participating in one of the largest recycling challenges in the UK with the Big Battery Hunt that will run over the month of April. Each child has been given a 'Big Battery Hunt Box' to collect used and unwanted batteries from around the home. The children can bring in the used batteries (AAA, AA, C, and D) that they have collected and place them in the large battery bin at the front of the school. The more batteries that we can collect the more chance of winning prizes for our school. Happy Recycling!

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone for supporting our recent school book fair. We have £1367 in commission from the book sales to top up our reading schemes.

BELFAST MARATHON

A large group of our parents are taking part in the Belfast Marathon to raise funds for 'Lighthouse' and for 'The Tomorrow Fund'. If anyone would like to sponsor the participants, donations will be taken at the office or can be made through the Just Giving website. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ruth-mclarnon1>
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ruth-mclarnon2>

ONLINE SAFETY

Most social media apps are not designed for primary school children as much of the content is unmoderated. However, we note that some children are using these. Advice for keeping children safe on popular apps is available on <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>