



# March 2017

## IMPORTANT DATES

Wed	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ash Wednesday
Thur	Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<u>Assembly Elections- School Closed</u>
Fri	Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>	World Book Day
Mon	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	NSPCC assemblies for all children
Tue	Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	NSPCC workshop for P6
Wed	Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	NSPCC workshop for P7
Thur	Mar 9 <sup>th</sup>	Photographer for P1 and P7 classes and their siblings.
Wed	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-sacramental meeting for P3 parents in school at 5pm. <u>Please note new date.</u>
Thur	Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	St Patrick's Day Concert by P2, P4 and P5 children in school at 1pm
Fri	Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Holiday –School Closed</u>
Thur	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	P3 Sacrament of First Confession in St Therese Church at 1pm
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> –Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	April	P7 Trip to the Share Centre
Thur	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Thursday. School closing at 12 noon. No dinners served.
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> - Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	April	Easter Holidays
Fri	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Armagh Rhymers performing for all classes

## UPCOMING ASSEMBLIES

Miss O'Rourke's P3 class – Fri March 10<sup>th</sup>

Mrs Hamill's P2 class – Fri March 31<sup>st</sup>

P6 year group – Wed April 12<sup>th</sup>

## NI ASSEMBLY ELECTION

The school will be used as a polling station for the assembly election on Thur March 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be closed for pupils and staff.

## CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the P7 boys and girls who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Their behaviour, prayerfulness and reverence throughout the long ceremony was excellent and the school has received many compliments on their wonderful singing and music.

## P3 FIRST CONFESSION

The P3 First Confession Meeting for parents has been rescheduled to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm in the school hall. We warmly encourage parents to attend this final meeting before the sacrament of First Confession on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm in St. Therese Church.

## LENT

With the reception of ashes or a special blessing on Ash Wednesday, the children have begun their Lenten journeys. We wish them well as they attempt to become an even better version of themselves through prayers, sacrifice and giving to others in need.

## TROCAIRE LENTEN APPEAL

The theme for the Trocaire Lenten Campaign 2017 is 'Climate Change Climate Justice' and the children will be exploring a range of activities in class to help them develop a better understanding of these important issues in our world today. Additionally, a special week of sponsored activities has been scheduled for week commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March during which the children will complete a challenging task having sought sponsorship for vital funds to help with the work of Trocaire. Good luck girls and boys with this important element of your Lenten journey!

## EXTENDED SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

**Additional places are available in some afterschool clubs.** If your child is interested in joining an additional club please let their teacher know.

**Mon - Film Club 3-4pm P5-P7**

**Mon - Dance 3-4.30pm P4-P7**

**Tue – Judo 4-5pm P4-P7**

**Tue – Soccer 4-5pm P5-P7**

**Wed –Gaelic Skills (Boys) 3-4pm P4-P7**

**Thur – Drama 2-3pm P2**

**Thur – Drama 3-4pm P3-P7**

**Thur – Art 3-4pm P3-P5**

**Fri- Gaelic (Girls) 2-3pm P4-P7**

Flower Arranging and Knit and Chat are on Tue evenings. Parents, grandparents and friends and welcome to come along. Bootcamp is starting very soon-information to follow.

## INTERNET SAFETY

Our **Parents' Workshop** on Internet Safety Day was well attended and raised awareness of some of the online dangers our children may face and how to manage these issues.

The organisation, *Children in Northern Ireland*, in conjunction with the PSNI, are providing free training for parents on Online Safety, covering issues such as social media, cyber bullying, gaming, grooming and adult content. Local venues are as follows:-

**Belfast City Hall** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 6:30-9pm

**Lisburn Civic Centre** 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 6:30-9pm

**Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017, 6:30-9pm

If you would like to attend one of these sessions please book your place by phoning 028 9040 1290 or online at [www.ci-ni.org.uk/cybersafety](http://www.ci-ni.org.uk/cybersafety)

## NSPCC PROGRAMME

The NSPCC's '**Speak out Stay safe**' nationwide programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe. Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops, specially trained staff will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries. Information has been sent out to parents about this already but if you would like any more information about the programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website [nspcc.org.uk/schools](http://nspcc.org.uk/schools) or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

## DUNCAIRN ARTS PROJECT

The P7 children have been involved in workshops with the Duncairn Arts Centre. The children have been learning all about Wonders of the World in the classroom and have built models of The Eiffel Tower and The Giant's Causeway. The children's artwork will be displayed in a joint exhibition with Cavehill Primary School at the Arts Centre within the next few weeks. Dates to follow!!

## THE BIG PEDAL

The Big Pedal is back again! For those who don't remember The Big Pedal is a giant inter-school cycling competition spanning 10 school days between **20th March to 31st March 2017**. It works a bit like the Tour de France – each day of the race is a new stage following a different Sustrans cycle route around the UK. The format is simple. The more pupils who cycle or scoot, the quicker our school races round a "virtual" course – and it's all weighted so schools of any size have an equal chance to win.

Mrs Hamill along with Primary 7 "Bike Buddies" will log in to the website each day of the race and record our school's results. In previous years we always score really well in this competition so let us do even better this year! Good luck to everyone who is willing to take part and remember to stay safe on our roads!

## SOCCER

The P7 boys played in the quarter final of the P7 Cup in a North Belfast derby against Holy Cross Boys PS in what can only be described as a highly competitive and tense football match. On a windy day, the boys took an early lead against their opponents and were only pipped in the last few moments. Played in tough conditions, it was a highly competitive match with some fine individual displays from both sides.

## DIGITAL LEADERS

After a long interview process due to the high levels of interest, we have now appointed 8 new digital leaders who will receive training from Apple. The Digital Leaders will assist the other children and the teachers in becoming more confident in their use of the iPads. Many thanks to all who applied and we encourage you to keep showing this enthusiasm when using your iPads.

## TRANSLINK SAFETY BUS

A big thank you to Translink for the KS2 interactive safety session in February. We were able to watch the CCTV and find the hidden cameras on the bus. We learned about the measures that are in place to ensure we can travel safely and securely on public transport. All children were given goodies and a travel sized information card to remind them of how to stay safe with Translink.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

We will celebrate World Book Day on Friday 3rd March 2017 and all of the children will be taking part in activities to celebrate their love of reading on this day. To mark the occasion we also ask everyone to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. There will be prizes for the most inventive costumes. Have fun everyone!

## BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone for supporting our recent school book fair. The teachers are delighted with their wish list books and are looking forward to receiving new books bought with the commission from the book sales.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

On Thur March 9<sup>th</sup> the school photographer will take individual and family photographs of our P1 and P7 children and their siblings. If parents of pupils in other year groups would like individual or family photographs taken please let your child's teacher know.

## RAINY MORNINGS

On wet mornings children should go straight to their classes at 8.45am. P1 and P2 children should enter the building using their individual classroom doors and the other year groups should use their usual entrance. We respectfully ask that parents **do not** accompany children into the school to ensure we are compliant with safeguarding requirements.