



St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

October already!

October is a fantastic month, lots of Halloween excitement and another holiday as well! This month we will be celebrating Halloween with a variety of events organised by our Parent Council. Last year our infant department had their first ever 'Halloween Howl' which was a huge success and we are confident this year's event will be even better.

On the 1st November we will be attending All Saints day Mass in St Joseph's Parish at 9.30am. All parents and family members are welcome to join us. If you can help to escort the children to St Joseph's Church please meet us at the back gate at 9.10am.

Mrs Suzanne Martin
Head(less) Teacher!

Parents evening

Our first parents' evenings this session will be taking place on Wednesday 7th November from 5 - 8pm and Thursday 8th November from 3.30 - 6.30pm. The appointment letters will be issued to the children next week. If you are unable to attend your allocated slot please contact the school office as soon as possible.

As part of your child's learning journey, they will write their own report card, this will be given to you by your child's class teacher after your meeting. It is important that you read, discuss and complete this report card in order that your child receives feed-back from you and their teacher on their progress. Report cards should be sent back with your child once completed.



You will be asked to write 2 stars. These are 2 things that you think your child has worked hard on or made progress with.



You will be asked to write 1 wish. This should be something you think your child needs to work on with support and encouragement or a new skill that you feel would benefit your child.



Maths Week Scotland

Another very successful Maths Week Scotland this year in St Joseph's. All classes participated in a variety of engaging numeracy and maths activities. From orienteering to creating patterns with sweets!



October 2018



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Improving St Joseph's!



To ensure the continuous improvement of St Joseph's and the excellent learning and teaching that takes place, School Improvement Priorities are set for each new session. For the session 2018-19 our priorities are:

1. Raising attainment in Literacy through:

- ◆ Reading recovery in P2
- ◆ Creating a reading culture through developing our school library
- ◆ Sharing good practice in the teaching of Literacy across the school with a particular focus on engagement.
- ◆ Ensuring consistency of approach to Grammar and Spelling from P1 through to P7.

2. Raising attainment in Numeracy through:

- ◆ Introduction of progression pathways and new planning tool
- ◆ Maths champion to drive effective learning and teaching by sharing good practice from P1 to P7
- ◆ Introduction of SEAL and Number Talks approach to mental maths.
- ◆ St Ninian's maths teacher to support effective learning, teaching and transitions in P6 and P7.

Our full 2018-19 School Improvement Plan and our 2017-18 Quality Assurance report can be found on our school website.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StJosephs/files/2018/10/School-Improvement-Plan-2018-2019.pdf>

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StJosephs/about-us/standards-and-quality-report/>

Pupil Voice in St Joseph's

The opinions, ideas and experiences of our children are very important to us, we want to ensure the children are leading the learning and making their school the best it can be! This session, every child will be part of a committee, please see list of committees below, which will meet on the first Thursday of each month starting on 4th October.

Rights Respecting P1-3	Rights Respecting P4-5	Rights Respecting P5-7	Fair Trade P1-3	Fair Trade P4-7	Eco x3	Pupil Council P1-4	Pupil Council P4-7	GIRFEC P1-4	GIRFEC P4-7	Road safety P1-3	Road safety P4-7	Pastoral	Digital Leaders P3-7	Enterprise P1-4	Enterprise P5-7	Press P3-7	Library	Houses
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The Scottish Government recently released a new self evaluation tool for children to use called 'How Good Is OUR School' (see link below) the children will be evaluating St Joseph's using this tool and will write their committee action plans to address and strengthen any areas that may require some work. **Please ask you child about their committee and what they plan to do to improve our school!**

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/HGIOURS-Part2.pdf>



Rosary Group

During the month of October our Rosary group will be meeting every Wednesday morning at 8.30am for a short period of reflection. As always, our St Joseph's family and friends are very welcome to join us!



P4 Spiritual Retreat

Thank you to Father Stephen, SPRED and the Caritas pupils from St Ninian's for hosting a beautiful retreat for our sacramental classes. Our children participated in morning Mass and then had a fun time exploring aspects of their faith through group activities.

Dogs in the Playground

We would ask that dogs be kept out of the playground when you are dropping off or picking up your children. Some children can become distressed around dogs and our priority is to ensure our children are safe and happy.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council AGM was held on Tuesday 18th of September. Please see the allocated positions below:

Parent Council Chair - Mr A Mackie (reelected)
 Vice Chair - Mrs L McKean (reelected)
 Secretary - Mrs M Harcombe (reelected)
 Treasurer - Mr I Anderson (reelected)
 Vice Treasurer - Vacancy
 Social Convener - Mrs A Boyle (reelected)
 Vice Social Convener - Mrs H Dougall (reelected)

Allergies

Please be aware that we currently have several children throughout the school with severe nut allergies. No nuts or products containing nuts should be brought to school.



The next meeting will be on 13th November at 7pm in St Ninian's High School. All parents are members of the Parent forum and as such can put themselves forward to serve on the Parent Council. We would be delighted to welcome new parents at the next meeting.

Halloween Happenings!

This year our Parent Council Social Committee has organised two spooktacular Halloween movie nights which will take place in St Joseph's gym hall. Children can bring their own cushions, blankets and get their PJs on, I have already looked out my onesie!

P2 and 3 - Thursday 25th October at 6.30 until 8.30pm Film - *Hotel Transylvania 2*

P4 and 5 - Friday 26th October at 6.30 until 8.30pm Film - *ET*



Dates for your diary

Date	Time	Event	Stage
Friday 5 October	10.30am	Vocations Mass in St Mirin's Cathedral	P7
Monday 8 October	3.15pm	Dodge Ball	P4 and P5
Tuesday 9 October	9am	Show Racism the Red Card Workshops	P7
Tuesday 9 October	3.15pm	Multisport club	P2-4
Wednesday 10 October	8.30am	Rosary Group - ICT Suite	All welcome
Wednesday 10 October	9.30am	'Come and see my learning' at Busby Glen	P4 and P4 Parents
Wednesday 10 October	3.15pm	Football club	P4 and 5
Thursday 11 October	3.15pm	Football Club	P6 and 7
Friday 12 October In-service day			
Monday 15 - Friday 19 October (inclusive) October Week			
Monday 22 October	3.15pm	Dodge ball	P4 and 5
Tuesday 23 October	3.15pm	Multisports club	P2-4
Wednesday 24 October	8.30am	Rosary Group - ICT Suite	All welcome
Wednesday 24 October	2pm	Class Mass	P7
Wednesday 24 October	3.15pm	Football club	P4 and 5
Thursday 25 October	3.15pm	Football Club	P6 and 7
Thursday 25 October	6.30-8.30pm	Halloween Movie night	P2 and 3
Friday 26 October	2pm	Halloween Howl	P1 and 2
Friday 26 October	3.15pm	Girls football	P4-7
Friday 26 October	6.30 - 8.30pm	Halloween Movie night	P4 and 5
Monday 29 October	3.15pm	Dodge ball	P4 and 5
Tuesday 30 October	3.15pm	Multisport club	P2-4
Wednesday 31 October	1.30pm	Gaelic football	P7
Thursday 1 November	9.30am	All Saints Mass in St Joseph's Parish	P1-7 Family and friends welcome

December Dates

We thought it might be helpful to remind you of the December dates in case you need to make arrangements to attend Nativities or Advent assemblies.

Tuesday 4th Dec 2018	P2 Nativity	10am
Thursday 6th Dec 2018	P2 Nativity	2pm
Friday 7th Dec 2018	P5 Advent Assembly	2.15pm
Tuesday 11th Dec 2018	P1 Nativity	10am
Thursday 13th Dec 2018	P1 Nativity	2pm
Thursday 13th Dec 2018	P4 Advent Assembly at St Joseph's Parish Church—All School welcome	6pm
Friday 14th Dec 2018	P6 Advent Assembly	2.15pm
Monday 17th Dec 2018	P3 Nativity	10am
Tuesday 18th Dec 2018	P3 Nativity	2pm
Tuesday 18th Dec 2018	P6/P7 Disco	6pm
Wednesday 19th Dec 2018	P7 Advent Assembly	2.15pm
Thursday 20th Dec 2018	Class Parties	Afternoon
Friday 21st Dec 2018	Panto in School	Morning



