



# St Joseph's Primary School

## Stepps



## Term 1 2019/2020

### Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to our new school year!! Our children and staff have settled in really well and the year has got off to a great start.

We have welcomed 25 new Primary 1 children to our school community and they have taken everything in their stride. Well done to everyone who supported their transition, we certainly are seeing the benefits of our nursery-primary transition programme. We also welcome 2 new children in other stages throughout our school and 4 new members of staff.

2019/2020 promises to be a very busy and exciting year for our children and I look forward to working closely with you to ensure that our school continues to be the wonderful place that we all know it to be.

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved and I encourage you to do so as the more parental involvement that we can create, the better experiences that are offered to our children. Everyone has something to offer so please don't be shy-we will be sending out an overview of class topics for the year in the coming weeks so watch out for opportunities to share your skills and interests.

Thank you for the continued support you give to our staff and to our children. Our school community really is unique for all the right reasons.

Kind Regards,

B. McCloskey  
Head Teacher



## **Welcome**

As mentioned, we have many new faces to welcome to the school community. I am sure that they will all very quickly feel that they really belong as they receive a traditional St Joseph's welcome. We welcome 25 new Primary 1 children to our school. These children have settled in really well – I would like to thank Mrs Curran, Mrs McHugh, Miss Clark, Miss Boyle and all of our wonderful Primary 7 buddies for supporting our Primary 1 stars this week. A special mention to our primary 7 children who have made a great start to their final year here in St Joseph's – a brilliant positive attitude to school.

## **Staffing Update**

We welcome the following staff to our school –

Mrs Gatenby as class teacher for Primary 5 – Mrs Gatenby was Miss Madden before the summer holidays however she celebrated her wedding in June. They are the same person.

Miss Govan as class teacher for Primary 6

Mr Cunningham as class teacher for Primary 7a

Mr Sedwell and ASNA and Breakfast Club Co-ordinator.

## **Office Update**

Mrs McCormick has now left St Joseph's to take up a new post in Early Years.

We wish her the best of luck! This leaves a vacancy in the office and

Mrs McFegan has kindly volunteered to fill the gap.

Should you need to contact the school office, the office will be available as follows;

Monday and Tuesday – 8:30am to 3:30pm

Wednesday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

## Working in Partnership

At the beginning of what I am sure will be a very busy, productive and enjoyable school year, I remind everyone that we are always looking for volunteers to come in and support our efforts to provide the very best of opportunities to our children. If you have an area of interest or expertise, or even if you simply have a few hours to spare during the week, please get in touch. Last session we established a Walking Club and a Cross Country Team and it would be great if more adults got involved. We really value and rely on the support offered to us from parents and families of our children. Our Parent Council and PTA are always looking for new members and fresh ideas so please get in touch. Please see the annual Calendar for dates of Parent Council and PTA meetings and come along when available.



## School Communication



### Daily Diaries-

Please remember that the best way to contact your child's teacher is a note in your child's diary (the diaries will be issued next week – there was a delay with the supplier). If it is something very urgent – please phone the school office.

### Twitter-

We will continue to use Twitter to update you with class events/celebrations etc. Twitter will also be used to get important information out as it is a very quick and easy way to do so. Please follow us on Twitter – we have changed the settings on our Twitter to private so please be patient if your request isn't accepted straight away.



### Email-

We are an Eco School so we try to avoid using paper as much as possible. Most letters and communications will be sent via email (please make sure that you keep us up to date with your current email addresses). If we do send letters – it will often go to your eldest child so please keep a closer eye on their bags.

### Text-

Some urgent messages will be sent via text to your phone. It will go to the first emergency contact for each child. Again, please let us know if your number changes throughout the school year.

## School App-

Due to cost and admin challenges we are not continuing to use the school app. We are in the process of looking at Class Blogs and I will send out more information in the coming weeks.

**Healthy Snacks** We encourage healthy eating and the following points should be kept in mind.

- ✓ **St Joseph's is a nut – free zone**
- ✓ Sticky sweets and fizzy drinks are prohibited
- ✓ We encourage fruit and healthier snacks Monday-Thursday and have a more relaxed Free Choice Friday however it is encouraging that most children make healthy choices on Friday's too.
- ✓ Children are encouraged to drink plenty of water and should bring a bottle of water everyday.



## School Uniform



Our children look amazing in their new school uniforms and I would like to thank you all for supporting this. Please continue to make sure that all clothing and property is labeled as we try to avoid the 'lost property mountain'.

## Tissues



Our supply is running low and any donations of boxes of tissues would be very gratefully received.

## Gym Days

Your child's teacher will let you know what days your child has gym. Please make sure that jewellery is left at home on these days and if your child cannot remove earrings that they are covered with tape or a plaster. Can younger children please practise laces, buttons etc. at home as this will be a huge help to teachers. Thank you.

## Road Safety

The roads around the school can be very busy – particularly in the mornings. Please remember that we all have an important role to play in ensuring that every child is safe. Please utilise the **Kiss and Drop Zone** in the Church Car Park – we have put a leaflet in bags. I also ask that you support the efforts of our JRSO team and our Road Crossing Officer(Lorraine)



by not stopping on the kerbside near the school and by reminding your child to only cross the road with her. Please do not park in the staff carpark or disabled spaces.

Please use the church car park and cross with Lorraine.

Father Kenny very kindly allows us to use his car park and I ask you to do your bit to make it safe for everyone.

### **School Garden/Outdoor Classroom**

We are extremely fortunate in having such attractive grounds and we are extremely grateful to Mrs Martin for ensuring that these are so beautifully presented. **Please support our efforts, by sticking to paths which allows the grass to grow.** Please also use the middle(main) gate where possible.

The Cardowan side gate is for disabled access and the Stepps side gate is for vehicles only.



### **Health and Safety**

If your child has any special dietary needs, for any reason at all including allergies and religious observance, please get in touch with our office team.

This information will help us to ensure that all relevant staff are aware of these needs and that procedures are in place.

### **Playground Safety – Drop Off/Pick Up**

Children will be supervised in the playground from 8.45 am.

Please ensure that children enter the playground on their own and that adults stay outside the school gates. This is not because we do not welcome adults into our school community – it is because although your child knows you well, you are a stranger to the others and this sends very confusing messages to our children about stranger danger etc.

We ask that all parents leave the narrow entrance/exit path clear as it is daunting for little children to weave through adults.

All children who are late must report to the school office. Please advise the office before 9:30am if your child is going to be absent from school – telephone 01236 794816.

Miss Clark, Mrs Curran and Mrs McHugh will liaise with Primary 1 parents about procedures to collect Primary 1 children at the end of the school day for the next few weeks.

### **NLC Breakfast Club Provision**

I am delighted that Mr Sedwell will take over the running of our Breakfast Club – ensuring that there has been no gap in this provision.

The Breakfast Club will start at 8.15am and finish at 8.45am when children will be taken to the playground. The cost is £1 for a families first child, 80p for a families second child and 50p for any further children in the same family. Children will have cereal(Krispies or Corn Flakes), toast and a juice.

### **Medicine**

If your child requires to take medicine during school hours, please obtain a permission form from the office to allow our admin staff to administer it. Medicine must not be sent in with your child in their bag. All medicines must be brought to the office, with the exception of inhalers. Inhalers are held in the possession of your child for ease of access.

If your child is sick or has diahorrea, there is an exclusion period of 48 hours from school.

### **Annual Data Check Forms**

Your child will have brought home their data check form, consent form for trips, consent for photos/dvd/social media and ICT form. Please ensure all forms are completed promptly and returned to the school office. Should the school need to contact you, the data check form needs to be up to date.

### **Charitable Efforts**

There were a few fundraisers prior to the summer holidays – Our Annual Community Football Cup raised £150 and the winning team chose MacMillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who got involved and who came along. A brilliant community event and great to work alongside and have fun with our friends from Stepps PS.

Our First Holy Communion children chose Let The Children Live as the recipients of the collection from their celebrations. We sent £640 away to Father Peter Walters to help the children living in poverty and danger on the streets of Columbia. Thank you so much for helping our children to help others.

## Dates for the Diary



26 <sup>th</sup> August	P7 Kilbowie
29 <sup>th</sup> August	In School Show – Alice In Wonderland(thanks to our PTA)
30 <sup>th</sup> August	Relic of St Terese Mass Motherwell Cathedral
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	P7 Retreat Carfin Grotto and Motherwell Cathedral(thanks to PTA)
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Meet The Teacher 7pm (a very informal introduction)
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Maths Week
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Council/PTA Meetings
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Mass P6
15 <sup>th</sup> September	P6/P7 Football Tournament – Albion Rovers(more info to follow)
17 <sup>th</sup> September	P7a Sky Academy
25 <sup>th</sup> September	P7b Sky Academy
26 <sup>th</sup> September	Daily Writing Jotters Home
27 <sup>th</sup> September	Holiday
30 <sup>th</sup> September	Holiday
7 <sup>th</sup> October	P5 Mass
8 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photos – more info to follow
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent/Teacher/Child Progress Conversations(Parents' Night)
14 <sup>th</sup> October	October Week Holiday
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parent Council/PTA Meetings
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Mass P4
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Numeracy Jotters Home
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Council/PTA Meeting
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Education Sunday Mass
18 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET – staff only at school
19 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET – staff only at school
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Mass P3/4
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Rookie Rockstars(thanks to PTA)
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Rookie Rockstars evening show(more info to follow)
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Rookie Rockstars evening show(more info to follow)
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Father Kenny Blessing Advent Wreath at assembly
4 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Meeting
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Panto
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Taught Writing Jotters Home
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Nativity Show(more info nearer the time)
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Nativity Show(more info nearer the time)
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunches
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Parties
19 <sup>th</sup> December	P3/2 Mass
19 <sup>th</sup> December	chool closes at 2.30pm for holidays