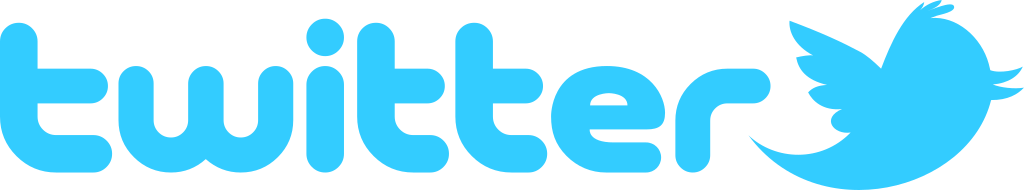


**January – March 2017**



***Please keep up to date with all that is going on in the school by checking our Glow Blog and joining us on Twitter.***

You can find us here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/StJosephsPS/> or google St Joseph’s Primary, Whitburn. Our Twitter handle is: **@StJosephspswhit.** Our Twitter account is now linked to our blog so you will receive a tweet each time we post anything new on the blog. Everyone is excited to show you what they have been learning. Please feel free to post comments and suggestions. We hope you can easily find all the information you are looking for.

*Playground Safety*

Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our playground clear of adults in the morning, making it easier to see the pupils. When the whistle is blown for the pupils to line up, the gate will be closed. This will allow staff to supervise the pupils in their lines. The gate will be opened by staff for any late comers.

Staff News

A warm welcome to our new staff,

Miss McCullagh has settled in well with her P6 class and Miss Duffy has now joined us in P7. We are currently advertising to recruit for P3 and P4.



Best wishes to Mrs Duffy who will commence her maternity leave on 24th February. We hope she has time to get her feet up before the new arrival.

Congratulations to Mrs Kerr and Mrs Preston who have secured development posts within the school. Mrs Kerr will be working on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) and Mrs Preston will be working with Mrs Gardner on Culture and Ethos.



Sacramental Preparation Meetings

Father Sebastian and Deacon Ronnie have arranged meetings to prepare pupils to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation in P3 and Confirmation and Eucharist in P4. The dates below are on the parish calendar.

P3 Reconciliation

5 Feb 10am Rite of Illumination St Joseph’s Church

2 Mar 7pm Parents’ meeting St Joseph’s Church

23 Mar 7pm First Reconciliation St Anthony’s Church

P4 Confirmation and Eucharist

25 Jan 7pm Parents’ meeting St Joseph’s Church

26 Feb 10am Presentation of the Our Father St

Joseph’s Church

12 May 7pm Confirmation St Joseph’s Church

3 June 10 am First Communion St Joseph’s Church

**Outdoor Education**

***Barcaple School Camp –*** Preparations are well under way for our P6/7 visit to Barcaple. They will be leaving at 9am on Wednesday 15th February and will return at 12.30pm on Friday 17th February. Mrs Burns will be joining the children on this trip. Parents will receive a packing list and further information early next week.

***Lowport Centre*** – Primary 5 children are looking forward to their trip to Lowport to take part in lots of outdoor activities like swimming and a visit to the Palace. This will take place on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st April.

***London Trip*** – Some children from Primary 7 will be travelling to London for an action packed few days in May. Individual activities are currently being booked and when we have more information on specific activities we will let you know. There will be a meeting for parents on **Tuesday 28th March** at 7pm in St. Anthony’s Primary, Armadale.

**Dates for your Diary**

**Wed 25th Jan** – 7pm P4 Sacrament Meeting, St Joseph’s Church.

**Thurs 26th Jan** – 10am Mass in church led by P4.

**Thurs 26th Jan** – P7 Ceilidh St Kent’s.

**Fri 27th Jan** – 10am Burns Celebration in school.

**Mon 30th Jan** – P5 Swimming Assessment.

**Tues 31st Jan** – NYCOS for P4 (12 weeks)

**Sun 5th Feb** – P3 Rite of Illumination at Mass

**Fri 10th Feb** – Holiday

**Mon 13th Feb** – Holiday

**Tue 14th Feb** – Holiday

**Wed 15th Feb** – Staff and Pupils resume.

**Wed 15th Feb** – Barcaple

**Thurs 23rd Feb** – Mass 10am, led by P3.

**Sun 26th Feb** – P4 Presentation on Our Father at Mass.

**Wed 1st Mar** – Ash Wednesday, Mass and Ashes in School.

**Thurs 2nd Mar** – 7pm P3 Sacrament Meeting, St. Joseph’s Church.

**Mon 6th Mar** – Beginning of STEAM Month.

**Wed 15th Mar** – 4pm – 8pm Parent Consultation Evening.

**Fri 17th Mar** – 10am Mass in Church, Feast of St. Joseph.

**Thurs 23rd Mar** – 7pm First Reconciliation in Sacred Heart Church, Armadale.

**Friday 31st Mar** – Easter Break.

**Tues 18th April** – Staff and Pupils Resume.

*Once a week, take a peek! *

*Please check your child’s hair regularly. Treatment can be prescribed by your doctor or purchased at the pharmacy.*

**The School Office**

To tackle the increased amount of administration, the office will remain closed on a Wednesday afternoon. If your enquiry can be dealt with another time this would be appreciated. Thank you.



Ho

**Burns Celebration!**

Aw the weans have been practisin’ aufy weel fur their wee turn oan the stage at the pairty fur the Grannies and Grandas. We cannie wait tae see yeez aw on Friday.

Gie it laldy!



**Swimming**

On Monday 30th January, Primary 5 will be taking part in a swimming assessment. This will prepare them for their lessons later on in the year.

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St Kent’s Ceilidh

Primary 7 children will attend the annual Ceilidh at St. Kentigern’s on Thursday 26th January. They will leave at 12 noon and return before the end of the school day. We hope they dance their socks off!

**Credit Union**

Our Credit Union starts back on Wednesday 25th January. This is a great opportunity to encourage your child to save. This service is also great for parents who wish to save for school trips etc. If you wish your child to open an account, they can request an application form whenever the Credit Union are in school.



NYCOS

The National Youth Choir of Scotland will be coming into school for 12 weeks commencing Tuesday 31st January to work will all of our Primary 4 children. This is a great opportunity for children to develop their musical talents.

Gala Day

The principal characters for Whitburn Children’s Gala will be drawn on Wednesday 25th January.

Class News

The children have settled back into the new term and their topic activities are well under way. Primary 1, 1/2 and 2 are concentrating on Scottish stories. Primary 1 are learning about Hamish McHaggis, Primary 1/ 2 are enjoying activities based around ‘Whit the Clockleddy Heard’ and Primary 2 are excited to be learning about Katie Morag.

Primary 3 are learning about Scottish food and are hoping to be out and about in the local area.

Primary 4 are studying the Swinging 60’s and will be learning about music, fashion, art and the moon landings.

Primary 4/5 and 5 are learning all about Space and have really enjoyed their science based topic so far. They are making non fiction booklets.

Both Primary 6 classrooms are being transformed into The Magic Castle and we have been really impressed with their work so far.

Primary 7 are studying Scotland and will be participating in a novel study of The Divided City by Theresa Breslin.

**50th Anniversary Celebrations**



We are currently preparing to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Year of our school. This is a very important celebration and we will mark the date accordingly. Our official anniversary is 6th December as this is when the school was opened. We will keep you posted once dates, times and activities are confirmed.

**Online Safety**

Our Community Police Officer will be working with the school on educating children how to keep safe online. As Parents, please make sure you are aware of your child’s online activities. You might find it helpful to start with a family discussion to set boundaries and agree what's appropriate. Or you might need a more specific conversation about an app or website your child wants to use or something

you're worried about. The NSPCC and CEOP websites have some great information on this subject.

**ipay**

We would encourage all parents to use our ipay cash system online. The web address is [www.ipayimpact.co.uk](http://www.ipayimpact.co.uk)

The iPayimpact online payment system gives you a more convenient and flexible way to make payments online. By making cashless payments online, you know that your money has reached the establishment safely. You can view your account statement and payment history and check when payments need to be made. Cashless payments help the school to be more efficient as administration time in the office is reduced. As you know Mrs O’Shaughnessy is already very busy!

***Birthday Cakes***

Unfortunately, due to the number of children who have allergies, we are unable to allow children to bring in Birthday cakes for their class. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Also, please remember that children are not allowed nut products in school, this includes Nutella.

**Complaints Procedure**

St Joseph’s are committed to providing a high quality service for your children. We value parental comments and complaints and use the information from them to help us improve.

We are very happy to work with all parents to resolve any concerns, complaints or issues you may have. West Lothian complaints procedure asks that you contact the school in the first instance. Then we can try to resolve any problems at this time. If you are still dissatisfied and wish to take the issue further, please contact West Lothian customer care directly.