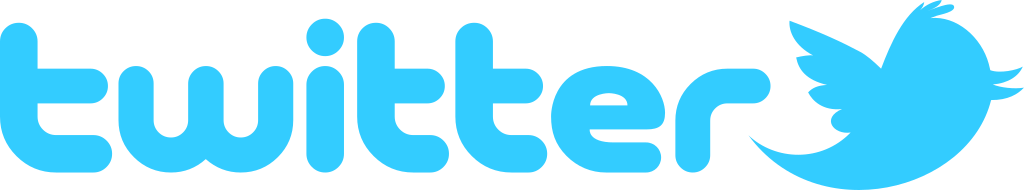


**September - October 2018**



***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 the information you are looking for.

**Staff Update**

*Well done to Mrs Kerr who will be leaving us in September to take up her post as Head Teacher in South Lanarkshire. We wish her every success in her new school. We would also like to congratulate Mrs Paterson, our PE specialist, on her retirement. We will all miss them both and hope that they will pop back to visit us from time to time. We would like to welcome Miss Murphy, who is working in Primary 6 this session and Mr McPherson, who will be our new PE teacher on Tuesdays. We are also happy to have a new Pupil Support Worker, Mrs Robson, with us this term.*

**Credit Union**

Credit Union will start again on Wednesday 5th September. Staff from the Credit Union will be in school each Wednesday. This can be a great way to save money towards upcoming events and trips.

**Flu Vaccination**

As part of the yearly NHS programme, pupils are being offered flu vaccination in school. This will be given in the form of a nasal spray.

The nurse has advised that in order for this to be effective, we need a high number of our pupils to receive the vaccine.

**Please return vaccination letters by Friday 7th September at the latest, to ensure your child is able to receive this.**

**Homework Diaries**

All pupils have a homework diary. This is a two-way method of communication between home and school. Pupils will record important information for you to read when necessary. You should also make use of these when needed to let the teacher know about important information e.g. reasons for absence or significant issues. Please also sign to say you have discussed your child’s homework and use the self-assessment/evaluation sections with your child to show how they completed their homework.

**School App**

Keep an eye out for the upcoming launch of our new school app. This will be a new and exciting way for us to keep you updated about what is happening in the school.

**Dropping Off and Collecting Pupils - Playground**

From Wednesday 19th September all pupils should be dropped off at the gate to their playground and left under the supervision of staff. To enable us to supervise children closely and ensure the safety of all pupils, *parents should not be inside either playground at drop-off time.* Pupils of Primary 1 and 2 pupils can enter the yard at collection time to collect children. Pupils from Primary 3-7 should be collected from the front gate area of the school and parents should not enter the rear playground area. This is to ensure that classes working outdoors are able to access this area.

**Car Parking and Drop-off/Collection of Pupils**

The area around the car parks becomes extremely busy at drop-off times. This has resulted in the school bus being unable to access the school and leave afterwards. It can also mean a queue of cars, as people stop to drop children off in the car park area. This presents a risk to our pupils who are coming to school. We have new road markings outside the school and these areas should not be parked on. *We continue to ask that you park on Gateside Road and walk with your child for the remaining distance to school.*

Please also show consideration for neighbours of the school when parking, not using residents parking bays or disabled parking areas. Please also dispose of rubbish considerately by taking it home with you.

*The two car parks directly outside the school are for staff use and should not be used for parents for parking or for dropping children off.* **No one should park or drop children off in the school bus drop-off zone.**

**Photographs**

Please note that the deadline for ordering photographs is Friday 7th September. All order should be placed and paid for by this time.

Primary one pupils will have their photograph taken for the Courier on Wednesday 26th September. We ask that all pupils are dressed in full school uniform please. If you do not wish your child to be included in this photograph please let us know.

**Sports Leaders**

Sports Leaders from our local high school will be working with pupils again this session, beginning on 6th September. These sessions will prepare the children for the various Active Schools festivals we take part in throughout the year.

Our first sessions will prepare our Primary 6 pupils for the Cross Country event, which will take place on 20th September. Letters have been issued and should be returned as soon as possible.

**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, 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. **Please remember to inform the office if you change your email address.**

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**Dates for your Diary**

**Wed 5th Sept** – Parent Council AGM – 7pm

**Wed 5th Sept** – Credit Union starts back

**Thu 6th Sept** – Sports Leaders Sessions commence

**Fri 7th Sept** – Deadline for photograph orders & return of flu vaccination letters

**Tue 11th Sept** – P7 visit to the Risk Factory

**Mon 17th Sept** – HOLIDAY

**Tue 18th Sept** – Inset Day

**Wed 19th Sept** – Pupils Return

**Thu 20th Sept** – P6 Cross Country Festival

**Wed 26th Sept** – P1 Courier Photo

**Wed 10th Oct** – Flu Vaccinations

**Thu 11th Oct** – Parental Consultations

**Fri 12th Oct** – School finishes for October break

**Mon 22nd Oct** – Inset Day

**Tue 23rd Oct** – Pupils Return

***Once a week, take a peek!***

*Please check your child’s hair regularly.* We recommend that pupils with long hair wear this tied up when at school. *Treatment can be prescribed by your doctor or purchased at the pharmacy.*

***Snacks and Birthday Cakes***

Unfortunately, as some children have severe allergies, we are unable to allow children to bring in birthday cakes for their class. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Please remember that children are not allowed nut products in school, this includes Nutella and chocolate/nut filled croissants.

**School Uniform**

We are happy to see many of our pupils wearing full school uniform since returning this session. There has been a little confusion over this. Please note that school uniform is:

**Girls:**

* Brown skirt/Pinafore or Tartan Skirt.
* Blue shirt/blouse
* Brown striped school tie
* Blue school sweatshirt
* Blue or brown cardigan
* Brown Blazer/Jacket with St. Joseph’s badge
* Black Shoes
* \*Summer option includes a blue/white checked dress.

**Boys:**

* Brown trousers
* Blue shirt
* Brown striped school tie
* Blue school sweatshirt
* Blue or brown jumper
* Brown Blazer/Jacket with St. Joseph’s badge
* Black Shoes

P7 pupils can wear tartan tie instead of brown tie.

Polo shirts should not be worn to school, even on PE days. Please label all items of clothing.

Pupils should bring PE kit to school and change into this on the day. ***We recommend that pupils bring PE kit in gym bag to be kept in class and brought home for washing when required.***

**Risk Factory**

Primary Seven pupils will visit the Risk Factory on Tuesday 11th September. This is a great activity for pupils. Letters have been issued and should be returned as soon as possible, to ensure all pupils are able to come along.

**Water in class**

Please note that pupils are allowed to have a bottle of water in class for drinking as required throughout the day. Pupils are not allowed to keep juice on desks in class for drinking throughout the day and this should be kept for snack and lunch time only. We ask that you consider using re-usable bottles for water to contribute to our school’s Eco work.

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**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.

