



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EDUCATION AT ST EUGENE'S PS.

A copy of this newsletter can be downloaded from our website www.steugenesps.com at any time. We encourage our parents, grandparents and extended families to 'like' and 'follow' our Facebook and Twitter accounts to be kept up to date with all our exciting news at St Eugene's PS.

WELCOME BACK

We hope that all of our families had a safe and enjoyable Easter break. It was lovely to welcome the boys and girls back to school on Monday morning for our final term of 2020/2021. Prior to the Easter holidays you will have received a letter with some details for this term. You will find a recap of the holidays/closures below:

Key Dates	
Monday 3rd to Friday 7th May (inclusive)	SCHOOL CLOSED May Break
Friday 28th of May	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS Staff Development Day
Monday 31st of May	SCHOOL CLOSED May Bank Holiday
Wednesday 30th of June	School closes at 12.30 for summer holidays

SUMMER UNIFORM

Now that we are in the third term, pupils are permitted to wear summer uniform. This is plain navy shorts and the pale blue polo shirt with navy socks for boys and the blue and white summer dresses with navy or white socks for girls. Given the times that we find ourselves in, we have decided to relax the wearing of shirts and ties, all pupils can wear the pale blue polo shirt with navy trousers if needed as a result of other uniform items not fitting. **Full school uniform will resume in September.**

BREAKFAST CLUB

Minister Weir announced yesterday evening (Wednesday 14th April) that Breakfast Clubs can now resume. We are delighted to inform you that our Breakfast Club will be running again from **Monday 19th of April**. The club begins at 8.15am and children can attend whether they wish to have breakfast or not for the small cost of £1 per day. Children attending from Reception P1/2 should proceed to the Hall on arrival and those from all other classes to the side door of the main building. Children not paying for Breakfast Club can arrive as normal between 9am and 9.15am.

2.15 CLUB FOR P1/2

We have also been given permission by DE to resume our wrap around care. This means that our 2.15 club for eligible children in P1/2 will resume from Monday 19th April. Children who previously attended during term one are welcome to attend once again Monday to Thursday. Please remember this is for children who are waiting on the school bus at 3.15pm, children with an older sibling in our P3-7 classes (to avoid double pick up) with any additional spaces allocated to children whose parents are working.

IN YOUR SPACE CIRCUS SCHOOL

Well done to the boys and girls who completed the remote Circus School with 'In Your Space' during term two. This was a cross-community initiative funded by the Derry and Strabane District Council. The children met online with a group of children from Irish Street in Derry and learned a range of circus skills whilst exploring the themes of respect, understanding and tolerance within our diverse communities. We are thrilled to announce that we have agreed a second Circus School with 'In Your Space' for another group of children from St Eugene's PS to enjoy.

DIVERSITY BOXES

We were delighted to have been able to present each child in our school with a ONE WORLD diversity box earlier this week. These boxes contain a range of art and craft materials for home use, as well as information on different cultures and celebrations from across our society – a cornerstone for personal development.

SHARED EDUCATION

We hope to complete some Shared Education sessions (remotely) later this term with our partner schools St Patrick's PS Newtownstewart and The Model PS Newtownstewart. Further details will be issued in due course.

KS2 MEETING WITH LOCAL MLAS

Last term Mr Gormley's enjoyed an online session with Anne-Marie Fleming, Education services at Stormont. The boys and girls found out about our Parliament Buildings and the role that our MLAs play. Following on from this session, a second online meet has been arranged for our P6/7 class on the 14th of May. During this session the children will get to talk with local MLAs about how they can get involved in making decisions. The children are very much looking forward to this event, thanks to Mr Gormley for organising.

SPIES IN DISGUISE

P6/7 will take part in a live coding workshop with the Nerve Centre, tomorrow morning. The workshop will incorporate The Arts, Using ICT, Communication and Language and Literacy. We know that the children in this class will really enjoy all of the problem solving involved and the opportunity to use their imaginations to create and code their own game!

FOREST SCHOOLS

Miss Gormley has started her Forest Schools Leadership qualification which is being funded by RAPID NI. This will hopefully lead to our school becoming a recognised Forest School. To achieve this, Miss Gormley will be working with the foundation stage children and the leaders from Forest School NI, who will visit St Eugene's PS to support and observe Miss Gormley in delivering this exciting new approach to learning. We hope to roll this approach out across the whole school in the years ahead.

ADMISSIONS TO RECEPTION AND P1 - SEPTEMBER 2021

Thank you to all of the parents who have applied to St Eugene's PS for the next academic year. We are delighted with the demand for places once again this year, this is a true reflection of the reputation and strong standing of our school in the local community. We will be posting 21 letters to be received on the 28th of April by our new boys and girls. Parents can also preview the result of their application on the online portal from the 27th of April. Included with your letter will be induction information and access to our online learning platform where you will be able to watch videos and view information about your child's new school. You and your child will also be invited to meet with Miss Gormley in late May. We are so excited for your St Eugene's journey to begin!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND KEY DATES

Parents of children due to make First Holy Communion received a letter in March outlining the communication from Bishop Donal McKeown. First Communion has been postponed until September 2021. At this point in time, the provisional date that has been set for Confirmation still stands: Friday 4th of June 2021 at 5pm.

ENGAGE PROGRAMME

We are pleased to inform you that funding has been extended for our Engage Programme to continue until June. Children involved in Engage will continue to have weekly withdrawal from class for learning support.

STAFFING

Parents of children in P3/4/5 will be aware that Mrs Connolly is currently off. Miss McAnaw has been teaching the class in her absence. Unfortunately for us, Miss McAnaw has been offered a longer term position in a new school and given the nature of substitute teaching we understand her need to take up the new role. Miss McAnaw has been a real asset to our school since autumn last year and has taught Reception, P1/2 as well as the Engage Programme. Miss McAnaw will finish with us on Friday 23rd of April, we thank her for her hard work and dedication and wish her the very best in her new position. I speak for everyone at St Eugene's PS, when I say we will miss her immensely. Taking over from Miss McAnaw until Mrs Connolly is able to return is Miss Catherine Mayse. Miss Mayse has been working in our school since last term, she is a highly skilled, experienced teacher and has developed a wonderful rapport with the children here at our school. I know that our P3/4/5 children will enjoy the new energy and exciting learning experiences that Miss Mayse will bring to the class. Mrs McDermott is due to return from maternity leave to Reception/P1/2 in June.