



**Diary Dates**

**All Ages April Yoga:** Friday 20th April

**The Big Pedal:** Monday 23rd April – Friday 4th May

**Minecraft Celebration P5-7:** Monday 30th April

**Election Closure**: Thursday 3rd May 2018

**Staff Training ½ Day Closure**: Friday 4th May

**Bank Holiday Closure**: Monday 7th May

**First Holy Communion**: Saturday 12th May @ 11am

**Induction Programme:**

Initial Meeting: Thursday 10th May @ 2.30pm

Stay and Play 1: Thursday 17th May @ 1:30pm

Stay and Play 2: Thursday 24th May @ 1:30pm

**Welcome Back**

We are delighted to see all of our pupils returning safe and sound from their Easter break, ready for the final term of this academic year…hasn’t the year flown so far!

This term promises to be a busy one and there will be many events to look forward to, including First Holy Communion, Summer Fun Day, Trips, Cross Country, Football Competitions, The Big Pedal and much more besides.

**Futsal Finalists**

We were very proud of our Girls’ Futsal Team (P5-7) who represented our school with great skill, determination and sportsmanship during the recent NI Futsal Finals in Newtownabbey. Although the girls may not have won on the day, to have reached a NI Final is an amazing achievement and they more than held their own against teams comprised entirely of P7 pupils. Girls – we are so proud of you. Well done also to the Boys’ Team who travelled on the day to provide support. As always, our pupils were a credit to St Eugene’s and behaved impeccably.

**Families First Awards**

Earlier this year, Miss Gormley was the recipient of the Families First Award for Best Primary School Teacher. Now another member of our school community has been nominated – Danny Gallagher has been nominated in the Inspirational Person Category. Danny does a wonderful amount of work for our school community, as well as in many other guises for the local community. We can all vote for Danny at familiesfirstawards.com.

Well Done Danny and Good Luck!!

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**All Ages April**

Hopefully by now you will have received an invitation to our #*AllAgesApril* event taking place in school on Friday of this week (20th April). We need as many grandparents (preferably) and/or parents to come along and join in our ‘Laughter & Yoga’ sessions being delivered by Denise Devlin. Please return your reply slip by Wednesday for what promises to be a lovely event for our entire school community.



**The Big Pedal**

We are working hard to attain our Bronze award from Sustrans, as we aim to encourage our pupils to travel to school ‘actively’.

This month (Monday 23rd April – Friday 4th May) sees the SUSTRANS Big Pedal take place. During this fortnight, we are aiming to get as many pupils as possible to travel to school on a scooter or a bicycle. This journey can be a ‘part journey’ for those who live too far away (for example, travelling by car into Victoria Bridge and cycling from the shop). We will also organise a ‘Cycle/Scoot Morning’ where staff will be on hand to accompany children on a cycle from beside the Community Hall to the school. The date of this event will be communicated closer to the time.

All children who make a journey to school by bicycle or scooter during the two weeks will be entered into a draw for a special prize!!! Keep an eye on our Twitter, Facebook and our school website for further details.

**Gemma’s Run/Mindfulness**

Mr Gallagher will be participating in ‘**Gemma’s Run’** in Aghyaran on Friday 11th May. This is an event in memory of Gemma McHale who died in an accident in 2012. Money raised by Gemma’s parents funded the recent and extremely worthwhile ***‘Mindfulness’*** Programme enjoyed by our P6 & 7 pupils last year, and our P3/4/5 pupils this year.

The Mindfulness Programme is a very valuable one and we encourage you to support this event either by taking part, or making a donation. Should you wish to donate, you can do so through the school office and we will pass this on to the Gemma McHale Foundation.

**Pupil Council**

The Pupil Council have been very busy recently, they have been gathering suggestions and ideas and meeting on a regular basis to discuss these. At the end of last term, the Pupil Council gathered some information about what pupils would like to receive for the Pupil of the Week Award. In consultation with the whole school the pupils voted to have the option of a homework pass or a chance at a prize from the lucky dip. We are so proud of the work they have done so far and there are plenty of goals which they are working towards before the end of term 3.

**School Closures**

The school will be closed all day on Thursday 3rd May 2018 as we are a Polling Station for the upcoming election. This is in addition to an already planned early closure (1/2 day for Staff Training) which we had planned for the Friday after this (4th May). On this day, school will close for pupils at 12.30. We apologise for the timing of this closure, but we had planned it prior to the election date being announced. During May, the school will also be closed (as per the holiday list distributed before the end of the summer term last year) for each of the Bank Holidays during May (7th and 28th May). If you have any queries about these closures, please do not hesitate to call and speak to Mr Gallagher.

**Shared Education:**

Our P5-7 pupils have been enjoying their trips to Newtownstewart Model PS where they have been meeting with their peers from the Model PS and St Patrick’s PS Newtownstewart and learning all about the Vikings. The programme has almost reached an end and will conclude with an almost full day visit to the Model PS, including lunch and play. More details to follow once these are confirmed.

**Minecraft**

P5-7 pupils have been invited to Sion Mills PS on Monday 30th April to showcase the finished outcomes of their Minecraft Session delivered by Stem Aware. Pupils from our school will join other local schools to share their work, engage in further STEM (Science, technology, English & Maths) activities and discuss their learning.

**Value of the Month**

Each month we will be concentrating with the children upon a value that we hope the children will show at school and at home. Values will be discussed in class and at Assembly. Each month the staff will identify a member of each class who has been particularly good at living out that value. This month’s focus: ***Patience***

**Prayer of the Month**

Please keep note of the prayer for the month of April and say this at home with your child.

The Angel of the Lord declared onto Mary,

And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. *Hail Mary……*

Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

Be it done unto me according to your word. *Hail Mary…….*

And the word was made flesh,

And dwelt among us. *Hail Mary……*

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray,

Pour forth we beseech O Lord,

Your grace into our hearts,

That we to whom the incarnation

Of Christ your Son was made known

By the message of an angel,

May by his passion and cross

Be brought to glory of his resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Uniform**

On our return to school after Easter, we have now entered our ‘Summer’ term (hopefully the weather will reflect this!) and therefore pupils can begin to wear our ‘Summer’ uniform should they wish. Girls may wear summer dresses and Boys can wear a pale blue polo shirt and plain navy shorts (not sports shorts). Jumpers are still required and we would also of course encourage the wearing of black footwear (Velcro for Reception/P1/P2).

**Easter Draw**

Thank You very much for supporting our Easter Draw, from which we raised £235. Some of this money will be donated to Trocaire and the remainder will go into school funds, where it will be spent directly on our pupils. Thus by supporting our draw, you are directly investing in our pupils and these funds are vitally important in the current financial climate.

A big thank you also to those who sponsored/donated a prize for the draw.

**Tin Whistle** **£3 for April payable now**

We are fortunate to have Noel Devine’s expertise to help our pupils develop their musical talents at just £1 per week. Tin Whistle is for all pupils from P4-7 and goes a long way to helping our school fulfil our obligations to provide Music as part of the curriculum. **As such, this is a part of the school curriculum and it is expected that pupils participate.**

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**Milk Money**

£11 for the term, payable now.

**Breakfast Club**

Please ensure that any money owing for Breakfast Club is paid promptly. The fee we charge for this facility is very small, but we require that it is paid to make the Club sustainable. Please check with Mrs Preston if you are unsure as to how much you might owe.

Please note that old, round £1 coins are no longer legal tender and cannot be accepted in school.

**Attendance**

Recently we have experienced a worrying drop in our attendance figures.

Please note that arriving in late (after registration closes) is recorded as a period of in attendance. If your child is going to be absent, it is vital that the school are informed either by a phone call on the day, or a note once your child returns to school. The EWO (Educ Welfare Officer) is able to access our Attendance Data and will shortly be making contact with those families where a pupil or pupils are showing poor attendance.

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**Morning Drop Off**

Some pupils are still arriving into school very early in the morning. Please remember that for Child Protection and Health & Safety reasons, children who arrive in school early (before 9am) need to attend the Breakfast Club and that this comes at a cost of £1. We are not in a position to supervise these pupils in the main building before 9am.