******CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EDUCATION AT ST EUGENE’S PS.**

A copy of this newsletter can be downloaded from our website [www.steugenesps.com](http://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.

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**MOVE TO REMOTE LEARNING**

On New Year’s Eve the Minister for Education tweeted that Primary Schools would move to remote learning until Monday 11th of December. Given the worrying and rapid increase in infection transmission of Covid-19 the Department of Education has since announced that remote learning will continue until the February mid-term break. Pupils were originally due to return to St Eugene’s PS on Tuesday 5th of January. Staff had planned a Staff Development Day for Monday 4th of January, the Minister allocated a further preparation day for staff, but rather than disrupt parents plans any further we opted to move our Staff Development Day and hold our preparation day on Monday 4th of January, I would like to thank the staff for agreeing to the change at such short notice.

The January Staff Development Day has now been moved to Friday 12th of February, which is the Friday before the mid-term break. This means that there will be no remote learning provided on this day.

Thankfully we were well set up in our school community and when word came at short notice we were able to roll out our contingency plan at great speed. Remote learning has been working so well, so far. We thank our pupils, parents and teachers for all their hard work. We understand that remote learning is far from easy and puts additional stress on all stakeholders. At St Eugene’s PS, we know that a flexible approach is necessary to best support you, our parents and carers at home. Whilst ideally we would like children to log into their Seesaw accounts each morning ready to receive their daily tasks and instructions from teachers in school, we realise that this is not always practical for parents and carers at home. We remind you that you can only do your best. If you find you are experiencing difficulties please contact your child’s teacher, who will do their very best to help and support you.

Our Remote Learning Policy is available on our school website for reference: [www.steugenesps.com/files](http://www.steugenesps.com/files)

**SUPERVISION FOR THE CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS**

School remains open for the children of key workers and also those children who fall into the vulnerable category as determined by the DE. Each Wednesday an application form will be issued to parents via text, this form can be used to apply for supervision of key worker children for the following week. We apologise for asking for weekly applications but it is necessary to collect this information for DE. If you have previously availed of key worker supervision, you will only need to complete question 1 and 2, then skip to question 8.

You must only apply for in-school supervision if you have no alternative safe childcare. Whilst we were delighted to run the Breakfast Club during the first week of in-school supervision, it is simply not sustainable during a longer period of closure. With this in mind we have moved the arrival time for pupils to the earlier time of 8.45am at no additional cost to parents. Collection times are as follows:

* Reception: 12.30
* P1/2/3: 14:15
* P4-7: 15:15

We understand that some parents may only require supervision for part of the school day and we are fully flexible on working around the times that fit your work pattern best. The form for applying for supervision can be found using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqPOKV8ojqEVAprbH_I1BE_RUMUJHWlo4QzdFVzRXVFBIMDk2NElVTkc3Qi4u>

Any children in the vulnerable category have already been contacted by Miss Gormley, if you wish to change your mind in relation to provision for a child in your care please contact the school office and Miss Gormley will call you back.

Vulnerable children and children of key workers must attend school in their uniform and bring a mid-morning snack and packed lunch. The EA is issuing payment to parents of children in receipt of Free School Meals. Please do not send your child for supervision if they are in any way unwell, if our keyworker bubble bursts this could result in no in-school supervision being possible for a period of 10 days.

**LEARNING AT HOME**

As mentioned above children working from home will use their Seesaw account to complete and submit work from teachers. Seesaw will be children’s and parent’s main point of contact with the class teacher. Children access and submit work using the Seesaw Class App and parents can view work, feedback and communicate with teachers using the Seesaw Family App, it is important you regularly check both Apps. If you are fortunate enough to have more than one device at home, it usually works best to have the Family App on the adult’s phone and then Class App on a tablet, laptop or alternative device.

If you are having any difficulties with devices or internet access, please telephone the school. We have a very small number of home WiFi hubs available for loan and are waiting on a delivery of data sim cards, which Vodafone are kindly donating.

Each week a virtual assembly will take place on Friday mornings at 10am using Collaborate Ultra. We look forward to celebrating all of the Birthdays, awarding Studyladder and Mathletic certificates and of course our Pupil of the Week Award. Our virtual assembly will allow us to join together in prayer and song. Don't worry if you can't join us live as the session will be recorded and you can watch it back later. Remember Collaborate Ultra will not work using Internet Explorer. You must use Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari or Microsoft Edge (Chromium).

**ADMISSIONS TO RECEPTION AND PRIMARY ONE**

The online Admissions Portal is now open for children due to start Reception or P1 in 2021/2022. You can apply online at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions> at any time up until 12 noon on the 29th of January 2021. If you are experiencing difficulty you can **contact the EA Helpdesk on 028 9598 5595.**

We are expecting demand to be high as this year all places have been allocated for our 2020/2021 Foundation Stage Class which will be at capacity when all cohorts of Reception are admitted. We will best to help you here at St Eugene’s PS and should you have any questions, please contact our school office.

**FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME**

Thank you to the School Nursing Team who administered flu immunisation by nasal spray to our pupils in December. All of the children who had parental consent should now be immunised.

**CHRISTMAS DRAW & CHRISTMAS SHOW**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Draw in December. The draw took place on Facebook Live on the 11th of December. Thanks to Medicare Strabane for generously donating such a fabulous hamper once again. Thanks as well to our Friends of St Eugene’s Group for purchasing vouchers from the following local businesses; Lemonade, RK’s Menswear, The Hatch, Cut Above Hairdressing and SK Beauty. A final thank you to the members of our school community who donated the following prizes; Wine Hamper, Jameson Whiskey & Chocolates combo, Yankee Candle Gift Set, Prosecco & Chocolates Combo, Christmas Teddy and two Christmas Puzzles. We raised £615 which is incredible and will help enhance the provision for our children at St Eugene’s PS.

The winners were:

•Medicare Hamper - line 375 - Stephanie Gormley

•Wine Hamper - line 138 - Jace Harpur

•Lemonade voucher - line 357 - Charlotte Boyle

•RK's menswear voucher - line 251- Lacy F Logue

•Hatch voucher - line 23 - Gerard McGurk

•Cut Above voucher - line 318 - Declan Devine

•SK Beauty voucher - line 288 - Daisy McBride

•Yankee Candle Set - line 33 - Aoife Devine

•Jameson Gift - line 189 - Alannah Crozier

•Prosecco Gift - line 241 - Rose Hannigan

•Christmas Teddy - line 106 - Ava Crozier

•Christmas Puzzle 1 - line 31 - Hugh Patton

•Christmas Puzzle 2 - line 216 - Lani Devine

The Christmas Show was a great success and we hope that all of our families enjoyed watching the performances on their 60th Anniversary DVDs. Well done to all of the boys and girls for doing so well and to all of the staff for their hard work in making it all come together under such difficult circumstances.

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Appeal for St Vincent De Paul, we had a fun day in school, with a surprise visit from Mr and Mrs Claus and managed to raise over £300. Thank you to Victoria Bridge Cross Community Group for liaising with Santa and arranging the visit and also to John McKenna for very kindly donating the Christmas Selection Boxes for our 60th Christmas at St Eugene’s PS.

**WINTER CLEAN UP**

Thanks to PME Cleaning Services for the winter clean up on our grounds prior to the Christmas Holidays, it made such a difference to the school environment. We are awaiting new signage and when restrictions ease we plan to begin an outdoor planting programme to improve our outdoor areas.

**RECENT PR**

You will have noticed that our school has had regular coverage in the local press, check out our Facebook and Twitter accounts if you missed the features on our 60th Anniversary, Outdoor Learning, Christmas Jumper Day, Santa’s visit and Fun Learning at St Eugene’s PS.

Stay Safe and God Bless

Laura Gormley