**March Diary Dates:**

**We would like to remind all parents and guardians that the school will be closed on Tuesday 17th of March for St Patrick’s Day. Please remember that this term will end on Wednesday 8th of April and Term 3 will begin on Monday 20th of April**

Always remember that 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.

Newsletter 07

March 2020

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| **Wed 4th** | Shared Education Event at St Patrick’s PS for P6/7. |
| **Thurs 5th** | World Book Day. Visit from the Mayor and Chief Executive of Derry-Strabane Council. |
| **Sat 7th** | F.O.S.E Coffee Morning from 11am to 1pm. |
| **Tues 10th** | * Ditch The Stabilisers Event for P1/2. * Big Street Survey for P6/7. * Visit from District Inspector Susan O’Boyle. |
| **Wed 11th** | * P6/7 Shared Education at The Model PS. * Gloria Perry Intergenerational Event at Sion Mills PS. * Library Van returns. * First Confession for P4. |
| **Fri 13th** | * SUSTRANS – Feet First Families walk to school. * Gaelic with Ryan Mayse resumes for P4/5. |
| **Wed 18th** | P6/7 Shared Education Event at St Eugene’s PS. |
| **Thurs 19th** | P1-3 Shared Education Event at St Eugene’s PS. |
| **Mon 23rd** | First STEM Aware workshop for P6/7. |
| **Wed 25th** | P6/7 Shared Education at The Model PS. |
| **Mon 30th** | Second STEM Aware workshop for P6/7. |
| **Wed 1st** | P6/7 Shared Education Trip to Baronscourt. |

**WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2020**

This year World Book Day is on Thursday 5th of March and we are delighted to have Michaela Boyle (Mayor) and John Kelpie (Chief Executive) of Derry City and Strabane District Council join us for our celebrations. World Book Day was originally established to encourage and give every child an opportunity to read and that is exactly what we will be doing in our school on the day. At Eugene’s we will not be asking children to dress up as we believe that this can take away from the true meaning of the day, ending up more about costumes than books as well as causing unnecessary stress for many families.

**FRIENDS OF ST EUGENE’S COFFEE MORNING**

The Friends of St Eugene’s have organised a Mad Hatter’s Coffee Morning which will take place on Saturday 7th of March between 11am and 1pm. The event is to raise money for our school and we would love to see as many members of our school community there as possible. Books of tickets for the draw have been sent to all families, if you would like more tickets please contact the office. So far this year F.O.S.E have used the money that they have raised to buy equipment to improve Wi-Fi within the school for our pupils, to provide hospitality at the opening of the Trim Trail, to buy cups, mugs and saucers for the school to use at events and over the mid-term break they paid to have our school hall repainted. The Coffee Morning will be a great opportunity to see our freshly painted hall and enjoy a cuppa and craic with our community.

**CONFIRMATION**

Well done and congratulations to our Primary Seven children who received the gift of The Holy Spirit at the Sacrament of Confirmation in St Theresa’s Church, Sion Mills, on Saturday 29th of February. This was a very special day for the children and their families. A big thank you for all your hard work and preparation which made the day run so smoothly. Thank you also to Mr Gormley and Miss Mc Cay for preparing the children so well.

**SUSTRANS EVENTS IN MARCH**

We are excited for our Sustrans events taking place this month. On Tuesday 10th parents and guardians of children in P1/2 are invited to attend a ‘DITCH THE STABILISERS’ session at 9.15am. The session will take place in our school playground and the children will learn to ride their bicycle without stabilisers. An information note will be sent out later this week and we hope that as many parents as possible can attend. P6/7 will conduct a ‘Big Street Survey’ with the guidance of Ronan later that morning, during this survey the children will identify spots around Victoria Bridge for meeting points and crossing points during our active travel events. Feet First Families will take place on Friday 13th of March, on this morning we encourage our boys and girls to walk to school. Staff will meet the children travelling on Ralph and Trevor’s buses under the flyover and the walk will commence at approximately 9am. If you live further away, why not leave your car at the shop and join the other pupils and staff as they walk to school.

**INTERGENERATIONAL CELEBRATION WITH GLORIA PERRY**

Those who participated in the Intergenerational Sculpture Workshop with Gloria Perry will now have received an information letter about the celebration event on Wednesday 11th of March. If you have not returned your reply slip, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. The coach will leave St Eugene’s PS at 9.15am to travel to Sion Mills PS and return again before 11am.

**FIRST CONFESSION**

Mrs Connolly and our P4 pupils are busily preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The pupils will make their First Confession in St Theresa’s Church on Wednesday 11th March at 7pm. All children should be in the Church by 6.45 pm and must wear their full uniform.

**RELAX KIDS**

Relax Kids with Shannon continues each Wednesday. Relax Kids teaches our children about confidence and calmness – essential life skills. We thank the McHale Foundation for providing the funding for this programme. The KS2 sessions will begin in April.

**SHARED EDUCATION**

P1-3 will continue to meet with their friends from St Patrick’s PS and Newtownstewart Model PS on a monthly basis. The next session for P1-3 will take place on 19/03/2020 and will this time be held here at St Eugene’s PS. P6/7 will have their first session with our partner schools on 04/03/2020 at St Patrick’s PS. The forest schools trip to Robin Wood in the Clandeboye Estate has been rescheduled for Wednesday 22nd of April. The trip to Baronscourt will go ahead as planned on Wednesday 1st of April.

**STEM AWARE**

We are delighted to once again offer a series of STEM Aware workshops for our KS2 children. These workshops have been organised through our Extended Schools Cluster Group and will begin on Monday 23rd of March. Our children will learn many skills as they work with professionals from The Nerve Centre on the project.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Many of you will be aware that we have a thriving school Facebook account that is an invaluable tool for sharing information and promoting our school amongst our families and wider community. We would like to thank you for your support on this page and for all your wonderful positive comments, likes and shares. Please be mindful that this account is mainly managed during personal time and we would like to remind you that the page is for information only, should you have any queries these should be made by telephoning the office during working hours.

**AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION**

We are delighted to see so many of our boys and girls enjoying our After School Clubs. Please find the timetable below.

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|  | **2:15 – 3:15PM** | **3:15 – 4:15PM** |
| **MONDAY** | **2:15 CLUB**  *P1 – P2* | **FILM CLUB** *P3 – P7* |
| **TUESDAY** | **GAME SKILLS** ***P1 – P3*** | **GAME SKILLS** *P4 – P7* |
| **WEDNESDAY** | **2:15 CLUB** *P1 – P2* | **DRAMA CLUB** *P3 – P7* |
| **THURSDAY** | **2:15 CLUB**  *P1 – P2* | **ART CLUB** *P3 – P7* |

Pupils staying for Game Skills with Robbie on Tuesday afternoons will need PE gear to take part, the first session will run from 2:15 – 3:15 for pupils in P1-P3 and the second session will run from 3:15 – 4:15 for pupils in P4 –P7.

**EMERGENCY CLOSURES**

We are now in that period of the year when snow can become a factor in school. Should any adverse weather (such as heavy snowfall) impact upon the school then a decision to open or close will be made by considering these factors…

Can pupils and staff access the school building safely? Can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency? In an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school? Is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils? Are there enough members of staff able to make it to work for a suitable pupil: teacher ratio? Such decisions are not taken lightly and we will inform you our parents as soon as we have made an adequate assessment of the situation. We will continue to use social media to keep parents informed if closures are necessary.

**MILK FOR TERM THREE**

Mrs Gallagher will be placing an order for milk for April, May and June. Milk is free for our Reception children and will cost £10.80 for term three for children in P1-P7. **Please complete the slip below and return to the school with payment (if your child wishes to take milk) on or before Wednesday 25th of March.** It is important that you return this slip even if you no longer wish your child to take milk as we need to make sure our order is accurate.

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**SCHOOL MILK REPLY SLIP**

**Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please tick:**

**I do want to order milk for my child during term three and have included payment of £10.80**

**I do not want to order milk for my child.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENDANCE**

PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS: A morning phone call to the school office is required if your child will be absent. A note is then required for the class teacher on your child’s return to explain the reason for absence. Please note that arriving in late (after registration closes) is recorded as an absence for that session of the day**.** We urge all parents to avoid being left in a situation in which an absence is recorded as ‘unexplained’. Holidays should not be planned during Term time as these will also be recorded as unapproved absences. The EWO (Education Welfare Officer) is able to access our Attendance Data and will make contact with parents of children who have unexplained/unapproved absences or poor attendance.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 100% attendance | 0 days missed | Excellent |
| 95% attendance | 9 days of absence = 1 week and 4 days of learning missed. | Satisfactory |
| 90% attendance | 19 days of absence = 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed. | Poor |
| 85% attendance | 28 days of absence = 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed. | Very Poor |
| 80% attendance | 38 days of absence = 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed. | Unacceptable |

**SAFEGUARDING PUPILS AND STAFF**

Parents are reminded that we operate a safe handover policy at our green pedestrian gates in the morning, we appreciate your co-operation with this policy. If you need to visit our school office to pay a bill or make an enquiry you should use the bottom buzzer and wait for Mrs Gallagher to grant access. Visitors must not proceed beyond the office unless invited to do so by a member of staff, this is for your safety as much as the safety of our children.

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REAR OF MILK REPLY SLIP