



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.

PHASED REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

You will be aware that the Northern Ireland Executive have announced a phased reopening of schools. This phased return will begin with pupils in Reception to Primary three. I wrote to you last week to outline the key dates during this return. Please find these details again below:

Key Dates	Arrangements:
8th March - 19th March <i>(excluding 17th March when school will close completely for St Patrick's Day)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reception – P3 to return to school (9am- 2.15pm) - P4-7 taught remotely via Seesaw - School remains open for the children of key workers in P4-7
22nd March- 26th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reception – P3 move back to remote learning. - All pupils taught remotely via Seesaw - School remains open for the children of key workers
29th & 30th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All pupils taught remotely via Seesaw
31st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easter Feis LIVE online at 10am - Easter Holidays commence at 12.30
12th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School reopens for Term 3 with arrangements communicated at a later date after DE announcements.

Please note that Reception and P1 will be taught by Miss Gormley from 8th to 19th of March and P2 and P3 will be taught by Miss McAnaw during the same period. Mrs Connolly will teach P4/5 remotely. Mr Gormley and Mr Lecky will continue to teach P6/7 remotely. Children of key workers will be supervised in school until Friday 26th of March by support staff (further details below). Please note that in a change to an earlier communication, **DE have not permitted us to run our Breakfast Club** for the remainder of this term. The school day will operate from 9am to 2.15pm for all children, working parents are permitted to drop their children off from 8.45am at no additional cost whilst the Breakfast Club remains out of operation. We hope to have permission to resume the Breakfast Club from Monday 12th of April.

Children in Reception to P3 will continue to need a mid-morning snack. Reception children will leave at lunch time and pupils in P1-P3 can avail of the catering service. All children attending school during this period before Easter should wear full school uniform on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and PE uniform on Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow for clothes to be washed daily. Coats and lunch boxes can be brought into school but unfortunately school bags are still not permitted due to concerns in relation to the virus.

We fully understand how difficult this situation is, particularly for our P4-7 children who continue to have to sacrifice their face to face education whilst the Executive continue to monitor the rates of infection. As you, we remain incredibly frustrated by the current situation, but there is light at the end of the tunnel and when it is safe to do so we can't wait to open our doors to all our pupils. We really hope that this will happen as soon after the Easter break as possible. Arlene Foster has stated that an update will be communicated on 16th March.

For our P4-7 parents and carers, we continue to understand that a flexible approach is necessary to best support you. 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. You may need to submit work after hours or at weekends and this is perfectly okay with us, work will be marked and feedback will be given when the teacher is next online, during school hours. 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

SUPERVISION FOR THE CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS

School remains open for the children of key workers in P4-7 and also those children who fall into the vulnerable category as determined by the DE. This supervision will run until Friday 26th March. We are pleased to inform you that we no longer need to collect a weekly form from those already using this provision. We will assume that hours and days remain the same for you, if you need to make any adjustments or your circumstances change please contact Miss Gormley via email.

If you require the use of this emergency provision for the first time, we ask that you email Miss Gormley gormley873@c2kni.net by the Thursday of the previous week so that a form can be issued to you.

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 P4-7 who are 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.

WELL-BEING WEDNESDAY AND FREE CHOICE FRIDAY

Our well-being initiatives have had a great response and we will continue to use these in our weekly schedule for children engaging in remote learning. On well-being Wednesdays children are invited to check in live with their teacher and see their friends online. On Friday mornings our live assemblies are a great way for the children to see others from across the school and celebrate the weekly achievements, birthdays and much more. Free-Choice Fridays encourage our boys and girls to pursue another interest away from the screen on Friday afternoons and provide much needed respite for parents and pupils alike.

INTERGENERATIONAL ART WORKSHOP WITH GLORIA PERRY

Each year we are delighted to be able to offer an Intergenerational Art Workshop with local artist Gloria Perry through our Extended Schools Programme. The workshop is for children in Primary 6 and a grown-up from another generation.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we have adapted the workshop to take place online. Children will need to have internet access and an adult from another generation with them on Wednesday 24th March from 10am to roughly 2.30/3.00pm. Gloria will provide all materials in advance. This year you will make a beautiful garden lantern, roughly 1.5m in height with an intergenerational theme, the lantern will light up when dark. The workshop will be followed up with a celebration online event to showcase the creations on Wednesday 14th April at 10.30am. This event is always a highlight of the school year and has been enjoyed by families for many years at St Eugene's PS. If you are a parent of a P6 child and feel it will not be possible for your child to take part, please let the school know as we can allocate your place to another child rather than lose out on your paid place.

EASTER FEIS/TALENT CONTEST

Miss Gormley announced on our Live Friday Assembly that our Easter Feis will still go ahead this year. We will hold our Feis on Wednesday 31st of March online at 10am. A link will be sent to you closer to the time. If your child would like to say a poem, sing a song, play an instrument or showcase a talent, you can begin to prepare. On the day each child taking part will get the chance to turn on their microphone and camera and perform. There is no pressure to take part and families are invited to view the Feis and enjoy the celebration as we end the term, regardless if their child is performing or not.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND KEY DATES

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions the First Communion date has been moved from 17th April into mid-late May. Fr Canning will confirm the exact date when he gets the go ahead from Melmount Parish. Please note that Fr Canning will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) with our boys and girls in school, the week before First Holy Communion.

You will be aware from our February Newsletter that a provisional date has been set for Confirmation: Friday 4th of June 2021 at 5pm.