



**Diary Dates**

* **First Holy Communion**

Saturday 12th May

* **Induction for New Children**

Thursdays 10th, 17th & 24th May

* **Bank Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED**

Monday 28th May

* **Sport’s Day**

Sunday 3rd June

* **Fan the Flame Mass for P7**

Thursday 7th June

* **Induction @ Holy Cross College for P7 pupils** Friday 8th June (all day)

**Tin Whistle**

£5 for the month of May, payable now.

**First Holy Communion**

Our P4 pupils will receive Jesus for the first time on Saturday as they celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist, in St Theresa’s Church, Sion Mills at 11am. The children have been working hard to prepare under the guidance of Mrs Connolly and Mrs Preston and they are all looking forward to their big day. Hopefully we will be blessed with fine weather to add to this wonderful occasion. The ‘First Communion Class’ will also celebrate on Monday with a little ‘party’ in school and will be able to wear their outfits again to show their friends in other classes. Thank You to Mrs Connolly and Mrs Preston for all of their work in preparing the pupils to receive the sacrament. Good luck boys and girls!

**Prize Winners!!!**

Congratulations to Mrs Connolly’s class who have won a trip to W5 in Belfast thanks to a competition run by Spar NI. All of our classes were entered through the staff but it was P3/4/5 who were the lucky recipients and the envy of many in our school and beyond!! More details on the trip to follow.

Well done also – Ben McCool (P4) on winning the scooter for The Big Pedal fortnight! Ben scooted or cycled every day during the two weeks. Congratulations to all of those who participated and thanks to parents who helped with bicycles, different travel arrangements and so on. We understand that it is not manageable for all but we hope that you appreciate our aim is to encourage exercise amongst our school community.

**P7 Transfer to Post Primary**

Our current P7 pupils will this month receive a letter indicating the Post- Primary School to which they will transfer for September. Letters should arrive on Saturday 19th May.

**P6 Transfer**

A letter was sent out recently to parents of all P6 pupils in relation to Grammar School Entrance Exams in the autumn term. Can all P6 parents please return the reply slip to the office on or before this Friday, 11th May.

**Standardised Tests**

All pupils from P3-7 will be completing assessments in Literacy (PTE) & Numeracy (PTM) over the course of the next few weeks. These assessments help inform our planning and teaching for next year, as well as indicate to our school how each of our pupils have progressed since May of last year. If you have any queries about these assessments, please contact your child’s teacher.

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**Induction Programme**

This afternoon we welcomed our new parents to their initial induction meeting with Miss Gormley. We look forward to welcoming all our new pupils next Thursday (17th of May) for the first of our Parent and Child sessions. This is such a valuable programme for parents and pupils alike, as it helps smooth the transition into Primary school for our youngest pupils.

**HURT Resilience Programme**

Our P6 & 7 pupils will enjoy an interactive workshop in school on Tuesday 15th May which is designed to help them prepare for difficult situations beyond Primary School. The programme teaches resilience, encourages assertiveness in the event of peer pressure, aims to assist confidence building and raises awareness of the dangerous effects of alcohol and substance misuse. These are key elements of our PD & MU curriculum at P6/7 level and thus the programme allows us to meet many of our statutory requirements for PD & MU.

**Gemma’s Run/Mindfulness**

Mr Gallagher will be participating in ‘**Gemma’s Run’** in Aghyaran on Friday night. 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 P3/4/5 pupils and funds raised in this run will again go towards the ‘Mindfulness’ Programme in our area. If you would like to support this event, a donation can be made via the office and we will pass on all funds to Gemma’s parents. A worthwhile cause we are sure you will agree.

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**Value of the Month**

This month’s focus: **Honesty.** At the end of the month staff will identify a pupil in each class who has been particularly good at living out this value.

**Prayer of the Month**

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

The Memorare

*Remember O most gracious virgin Mary,*

*That never was it known,*

*That anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help,*

*Or sought your intercession, was left unaided.*

*Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you*

*O virgins of virgins my mother*

*To you I come, before you I stand*

*Sinful and sorrowful*

*O mother of the Word Incarnate despise not my petitions*

*But in your mercy – hear and answer me.*

*Amen*

**‘Fan The Flame’ Mass**

Our P7 pupils will be attending the ‘Fan The Flame’ Mass in Derry on Thursday 7th June 2018, where they will join with other pupils of their age from Derry, Donegal and Tyrone who have all received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. Further information will be sent out to parents shortly.

**Library Van**

The Library Van will make its last visit on Wednesday 6th June 2018. This visit will be for the return of books only.

Remember – books borrowed from the local libraries can also be returned using this service.

**Minecraft**

Our P5-7 pupils visited Sion Mills PS recently to meet with their peers from other local primary schools and showcase the work completed through the Extended Schools Cluster on Minecraft. We are grateful to Stem Aware for assisting with this project as this is a recognised way of helping deliver STEM (Science, technology, English & Maths) in schools and provides a fun and child friendly opportunity for learning for our pupils.

**Warm Weather and Sun Protection**

The recent warm and sunny spell has brought again into focus the importance of protecting ourselves against the sun. Please remember that school staff are not permitted to apply sun-cream for your child and that a good application of sun-cream before coming to school will be sufficient for the amount of the school day that children spend outdoors. We also encourage the wearing of hats for outdoors.

**Sport’s Day – Sunday 3rd June**

We plan to hold our annual Sport’s Day on Sunday 3rd June 2018. Each year this event is greatly supported by the families and friends of St Eugene’s PS and as in previous years, we will rely heavily on parental support. If you can volunteer to help out in any way, please contact the school. This includes baking for the Cake Stall/Teas or being in charge of one of the activities/stalls.

We welcome donations for:

* **Lucky dip** - (small value items such as toys, key rings, colouring pencils etc).
* **Bottle Stall** - unopened bottles of any kind for our bottle stall, these can be soft drinks, alcohol, condiments, cleaning products, shower gels etc.
* **Cake Stall/Coffee Shop** - Any donations for our cake stall and coffee shop can be brought to school closer to the date.
* **Larger Prizes** - If you would like to make a donation for one of our larger prizes such as vouchers, spirits, perfumes, hampers etc these would also be greatly received.

We thank you in advance for your generosity. All money raised on the day will be put into school funds. These funds have helped the children of the school immensely in the past and will continue to do so. There will be boxes available in the school foyer for dropping of any donations.

**Pupil Council**

Our Pupil Council recently surveyed the pupils in each class to establish their thoughts on prizes for our ‘Pupil of the Week’.

Pupils who receive this award can now either chose a prize from a luck dip or a ‘Homework Pass’. These alternative prizes are proving very popular. A ‘Homework Pass’ is just that and pupils DO NOT need to ‘catch up’ at another time.

The Pupil Council have now turned their attention to assisting staff with ideas for break and lunchtime play and also consulting their peers on school end of year trip arrangements. More on that in June’s Newsletter….