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**Reception/P1 Pupils**

Do you know of any pupils in the local area who are perhaps old enough for Reception Class (children who have turned 4 since 2nd July 2018 or due to turn 4 soon), or any pupils currently at nursery or Playgroup and due to begin school next September?

The time for pupils to apply for places in Primary School is approaching soon. We would appeal to you to please let any parents know about our fantastic school and/or ask them to get in touch to arrange a visit and meet the staff and pupils. Or – let us know about any pupils who may be considering St Eugene’s for their child.

**Open Morning**

Our Open Morning for parents of prospective pupils will take place on **Thursday 29th November** from 9.30 – 12.30.

Parents of children of any age for Primary School are very welcome along, but most especially parents of those ***children who are already 4 years of age*** or who ***will be turning 4 any time before 2nd July 2019*** are invited to visit the school on this day. The day will allow parents and children the opportunity to see our school in operation, meet the staff and pupils and see what St Eugene’s PS Victoria Bridge has to offer.

**Families First Awards 2018**

We are delighted that the school has been nominated in the Best Primary School category for the awards which take place at The Sligo Park Hotel on Saturday evening 10th November.

A HUGE Thank You to everyone who has voted for our school and also to those who voted for Mr Gallagher in the Best Principal Category.

The evening promises to be an enjoyable one and regardless of the outcome, we as a school are very proud to have been nominated. It is fantastic for St Eugene’s PS and the wider community of Victoria Bridge to have our profile raised. It takes more than a building and our staff to make a school. This nomination is a recognition of our entire school…pupils, parents, staff, governors and our friends in the community and beyond.

**Friends of St Eugene’s PS**

We are delighted to announce that our Parents’ Support Group has been established under the name “Friends of St Eugene’s”.

Together we will aim to raise funds for our school through various fundraising events in the months ahead. Any new members are welcome and of course, your participation and support of events will be greatly appreciated.

*Keep an eye on the school website, newsletters, Twitter and Facebook for further information.*

**Diary Dates**

Monday 12th – Friday 16th November – Anti Bullying Week

Wednesday 14th November – P6 & 7 pupils to W5 Belfast – Launch of Seismic Citizenship

Wednesday 14th November – Tuesday 20th November –Scholastic Book Fair

Wednesday 21st November – Culture Quarter Workshops (P3-7)

Tuesday 27th November – Final After Schools Sports for the term

Wednesday 28th November – Final Library Van visit of the term

Thursday 29th November – ‘Open Morning’ for prospective new pupils and parents

**Value of The Month – November**

***Respect*** – Please discuss this value at home with your child(ren). Adults will be on the lookout for children displaying this value throughout the month.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

Thank You for attending these meetings during the week before Mid –Term Break. We hope that the meetings were useful and helped you as parents to understand how your child is doing at school. Remember – teachers are willing to meet throughout the year should any issues arise. If you are concerned about your child at all, or have anything that you need to share with your child’s teacher, please arrange an appointment through the office.

**Sacraments**

Fr Canning has visited the school on a number of occasions again this term and blessed each of our classrooms. Our older pupils have enjoyed the Sacrament of Reconciliation too. Fr Canning has also been able to inform us of the dates for the sacraments of Confirmation (Sunday 10th March 2019) and First Holy Communion (Saturday 11th May 2019).

**Anti-Bullying Week**

Anti-Bullying Week takes place from Monday 12th – Friday 16th November. In each of our classrooms, pupils will have the opportunity to engage in activities on this subject.

Please discuss this very important subject at home and reinforce the important message that if pupils feel worried, unhappy or concerned about bullying or any other situation that they should TELL, TELL, TELL an adult at home or in school.

**SUSTRANS Active Travel Programme – Cycle Skills Training**

Today, some of our P5, P6 and P7 cyclists participated in Sustrans Cycle Training.

The session with Active Travel Officer, Ronan McLaughlin took place outdoors on the school playground and centred on fun cycling skills games (aimed at improving co-ordination, balance and awareness) as well as developing an understanding of bike safety checking. Cycle Skills Training took place as part of our whole school ‘Active Travel Programme’ that has been on-going for the last year.

**FEET FIRST FAMILIES**

As part of our Whole School Active Travel Programme (begun last year) we are holding a Feet First Families Event on Friday 23rd November. This event will be similar to our previous walking to school events. On this particular Friday, we are encouraging as many pupils and parents as possible to make a full or part journey (e.g. car to Victoria and walk from the shop) to school on foot, by bicycle or scooter. Staff will be on hand near the Community Building on the morning to meet pupils and parents before the journey up to school. Pupils who cannot engage in this way can meet Mrs Preston at the Breakfast Club and she will arrange a short walk within the school grounds. More details to follow closer to the time.

**Prayer of the Month – November**

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

Eternal rest grant onto them O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed,

Through the mercy of God,

Rest in peace

Amen.

**Healthy Break**

In St Eugene’s we promote a healthy lifestyle and diet. We encourage all pupils to bring a healthy snack to school for mid-morning break. Please refer to the list of healthy options available on the website or through Twitter (@StEugene58) and Facebook

**Christmas Show/Nativity**

Advanced notice of this year’s Christmas Shows in the school. These will take place on the morning (10.00) and evening (7.00) of Tuesday 11th December. We look forward to joining with you our parents to celebrate Christmas with our pupils and enjoy their talents on stage. Our Christmas Draw will take place at the evening performance. This is our main fundraiser for Term 1 so we would appeal for parents to support it as well as possible by selling tickets and/or donating a prize. More details to follow later in the month.

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 **‘Oh Yes It Is!!’**

Our annual trip to the Christmas Panto (Peter Pan) will take place on Wednesday 19th December. A note with further details will be sent home shortly. This is always a wonderful occasion for the entire school community and the pupils are excited about it already!

Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to our school from Wednesday 14th November until Tuesday 21st November. The Book Fair always provides a wonderful selection of books for pupils at keen prices and might interest parents especially with Christmas approaching. The Book Fair is a wonderful means for our school to promote reading and all of its benefits. Pupils will all have a chance to visit the Book Fair (set up in the hall) and browse before purchasing items. Pupils can purchase on any day. The Fair will also be open to parents or anyone in the wider school community on Thursday (2.00-3.30) and again on Tuesday (2.00-3.30) for purchasing. Remember that the school will benefit from a % of the intake which we can then use to purchase reading materials for our pupils so any purchase made is supporting our school and pupils.

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**Foyle Hospice Fundraiser**

Our school community enjoyed a wonderful Coffee Morning on Friday 19th October, in the school hall. Through this event and in conjunction with a draw for the Halloween Hamper (kindly arranged by Claire West, parent and staff member at the hospice) our school community raised £600 for the Foyle Hospice.

The morning was one of laughter, conversation and enjoyment. Many thanks to all of you who contributed by either coming along as guests, baking treats for the day, buying tickets or by sharing the word of the event.

A special word of thanks to all of our staff for their organisation – most especially Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Cawley, Mrs O’Kane and Mrs Preston who invested a huge amount of time, effort and energy in preparing the day and hosting the event.

**Library Van**

The Library Van will visit this month again but will not visit again after Wednesday 28th November, until January 2019.

**Derry City & Strabane District Council**

On Wednesday 21st November, our pupils (P3-7) will all enjoy a short workshop on celebrating difference and diversity.

This workshop will be delivered through the Council and is entitled ‘Who am I? Who are you?’

This is part of the Council’s ‘Culture Quarter’ which is a local initiative run by Derry City and Strabane District Council to promote diversity and understanding amongst primary-school age children. It fits with the PDMU curriculum strand 2 ‘Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community’.