

St Eugene's PS, Victoria Bridge Newsletter



April 2024



Congratulations Confirmation Children!

Well done and congratulations to our P7 children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday. The children should be very proud of how well they conducted themselves in the Church and of the great job they all did with their readings. Thank you to Fr Malachy for such a lovely intimate Mass and to Stella for preparing the Church for the occasion. Thanks also to Jamie Donnelly who provided the music and singing. A final thanks and well done goes to Mr Donnelly who prepared the children so well for their special day, the amount of hard work that had gone into the preparations was evident throughout the morning. On Thursday it will be the turn of our P4 children as they receive the Sacrament of Penance in St Theresa's Church.



Stay and Play Every Thursday.

We are delighted to be able to provide the venue for our local Health Visiting Team to offer drop-in clinics/stay and play events. Each Thursday from 10.30am — 12noon, the team will be in our hall ready to welcome babies and all pre-school children with their grown-ups. This is a fantastic opportunity to get tips and advice from a Health Visitor, meet other adults, enjoy a cuppa, and allow your little one to play and socialise with other young children. Last Thursday there was a fantastic turn-out which demonstrates the demand for the provision in the area. We look forward to seeing everyone again this week and maybe some new faces too!!

Reminders!!!

Telephoning the Office

Please be advised that Mrs Gallagher does not start work until 9.30am, therefore, there is no one available to take calls before this time. Other staff are tied up in morning briefings and other duties. If you are calling before 9.30am a recorded message can be left on the answer phone.

2.15 Club

We are delighted to be able to continue with 2.15 Club this term, Monday-Thursday each week. Can I appeal to you that you please make sure you are up to date with all payments for our 2.15 Club, this money is used to pay the staff and it can be difficult when payments are late. Money should be sent on a Monday for the week ahead. Thank you as always for your co-operation.

Free Friday Breakfasts!

Great news — Free Friday Breakfasts continue this term. Miss Gormley's Class are free every Friday in April.

Important Dates:

- 12th April — Back on Track Programme.
- 13th April — Confirmation for P7 children.
- 18th April — First Confession for P4 children.
- 25th April — Parents notified of Reception and P1 places on the EA Portal.
- 1st May - Transition Meeting at Holy Cross College for parents of children who require additional support.
- 3rd May - Reception -P4 children trip to see Matilda in St Patrick's Hall.
- 6th May — School Closed Bank Holiday

ADVANCE NOTICE — SPORTS DAY

We plan to hold our annual Sports Day on Friday 7th of June, with the races commencing at 1pm. The event will run into the afternoon. Please be aware that this is weather permitting.



Seesaw Messaging Function

We have made the very difficult decision to disable the Seesaw messaging function this term. This has been a facility that staff and parents alike have availed of since the beginning of covid, however, it has sadly become too much of a burden for our teaching staff. Whilst the function was great for parents to send a message, it was becoming impossible for staff to manage and reply to the volume of messages coming through all whilst trying to teach a class full time simultaneously. Most parents did use the app appropriately but there was a number of messages still being sent to teachers very late at night and during weekends, which was having an impact on our staff work/life balance. At St Eugene's the wellbeing of everyone in our school community is important, therefore, we are returning to more traditional means of communication between home and school. Parents are asked to telephone the office for queries and to report absences through Mrs Gallagher or alternatively send a note with your child. If any communication requires a response from a teacher, we will get back to you in due course, however, please be aware that this may not be on the same day unless urgent. As always, we will follow our Code of Conduct for dealing with queries and complaints and we ask that parents do the same. The Code of Conduct is available on our school website:

www.steugeneps.com

Please do stay connected to Seesaw for all the other fantastic features, such as whole school announcements, photographs, videos, and updates of your child's learning.



Small Group Support



Naomh Eoghan Coaching



Resilience & Wellbeing Workshops



Springfest @ Millennium Forum



Gloria Perry Grandparent Art Workshop

Back on Track Programme.

We are thrilled to be part of the Back on Track Programme, a charity run initiative which uses retired teachers to go into schools and provide one to one/small group support for children having difficulties with areas of learning. The programme will run throughout the term and parents of children involved have already been notified. We know this programme will make an incredible difference for those involved.

Call for Volunteers.

Would you be interested in providing some help to our fabulous school? Our school is 'in the community, for the community' and we are keen to get as many people involved as possible. Would you be willing to volunteer once a week or month? To help children access the Library or Sensory Snug? Help with gardening/growing in our Polytunnel or perhaps even support some children with their learning? If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please telephone the office, and leave a message with Mrs Gallagher for a member of our team to get in touch.

Marvellous March!

A special thank you to everyone in our school community for all the efforts throughout the month of March, like every month it was a busy one. So much has happened since our last newsletter that it would be too much to report on each individually so here are a few mentions; World Book Day, Rois Kelly Wellbeing Drama Classes, Free Friday Breakfasts, we said goodbye to our student teacher, new children joined Reception, Springfest at the Millennium Forum, Gloria Perry Intergenerational Art Workshop, Swimming Certificate Presentation, St Patrick's Green Day celebrations, £500 funding secured for our planting project, Eco-Schools Green Flag Application, St Eugene's Has Talent Show, Easter Draw and Easter Eggs, to name but a few and this is all on top of our day to day teaching and weekly reoccurring events. You will see a few photos of the highlights to the left!