

St Eugene's PS, Victoria Bridge

Newsletter

January 2023



Admissions to Reception and P1 for 2023!

Thank you to all those who have applied for a Reception or P1 at St Eugene's PS for the new academic year. We are thrilled with the number of applications, which will bring our enrolment number to a record high for 23.24. Everyone in our school community is looking forward to welcoming the new children and their families to our Circle of Learning. We have very limited availability in our other classes, if you are interested in our school, please contact the office and we can arrange a private appointment.

Successful Christmas Show 2022!

Well done to the children for their performances in our Christmas Shows in December and a big thank you to the staff for all their hard work leading up to show. The Christmas Nativity and Aladdin were both an amazing success, we are so lucky to have so many talented children in our school. The show would not have been such a success without the support of our school community, thanks to everyone who bought tickets, donated prizes, and attended the performances. We raised over £1800 which is phenomenal, £500 of this from the morning show is for The Children's Heartbeat Trust, in memory of Miller's little brother Reid McGlinchey Stewart and £100 went to the Young Farmers to cover the utility costs of us using their hall. This leaves a healthy £1200 for school funds which will help provide resources for the children here at our school.



Grandparents Day 2023

On Wednesday 1st of February, we will be celebrating Grandparents Day as part of Catholic Schools Week. The theme for Wednesday is 'Walking Together to Celebrate'. In line with the theme, we invite Grandparents to walk with the children to school on this morning, there will be a cup of tea available in the Hall for those adults taking part between 9am and 9.30.

Reminders!!!

P7 Parents — Apply for Post Primary!

The Education Authority will open their admissions portal on Wednesday 1st of February. Parents must use this portal to apply for their P7 child's place in Year 8 for September 2023. The portal will close again on the 23rd of February at 4pm. You can find out more at:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

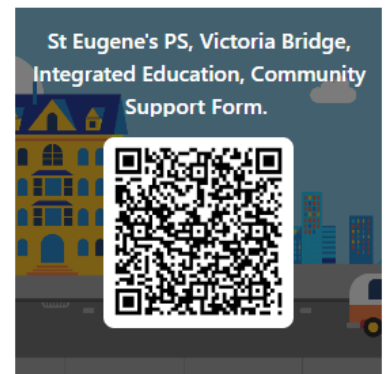
If you experience difficulties, you can contact the Admissions Helpdesk on 028 9598 5595.

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.

Important Dates

- 1st February - Grandparents Walk to School Morning.
 - Library Van.
 - Admissions Portal Opens for P7 Parents.
- 2nd February - Gaelic Blitz at St Theresa's PS.
- 2nd & 9th February - Transition Workshops P6/7.
- 4th February - Service of Light for Confirmation Children & their Parents in St Theresa's Church Sion Mills at 6.30pm.
- 6th February - Superhero Week to celebrate Autism.
- 7th February - Safer Internet Day.
- 9th February - Extended Schools Coding Celebration at 10am.
- 10th February - Miss Gormley attending NICIE Headquarters.
Mid-Term Break: 13th - 17th February inclusive.
- 20th February - Pupils Return after mid-term break.
- 21st February - advance notice: possible disruption due to Teacher Strike Action (awaiting operational guidance)



Integrated Education Update

Our Three-Year Action Plan has been finalised and Miss Gormley has been very busy writing the Case for Change document. Miss Gormley will attend the NICIE Headquarters on Friday 10th February to finalise the document. We are aiming to submit the document to EA on 15th of March. Our proposal will then go through several consultations before going forward to DE, then eventually to the Minister for Education or in their absence the Permanent Secretary. We will keep you fully informed of all developments as we progress on this exciting journey.

- We are continuing to collect COMMUNITY SUPPORT FORMS (QR CODE ABOVE OR CLICK): <https://forms.office.com/e/SCcNYyK5XN>
- We also welcome EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PLACES (QR CODE ABOVE OR CLICK): <https://forms.office.com/e/j2RNFZrdsC>



P6/7 Transition Preparations

Work is underway with Mr Donnelly's class to prepare for the 'big-move' to Post Primary. During January we welcomed representatives from all the local schools to speak to the class. The children also enjoyed a 'Big School Event' at Castledearg High School on Friday 27th of January. The children are very fortunate to have weekly workshops with Mary from the CHILD Project to help make sure that they are ready for the transition.



Stay & Play

Thank you to all of the families who attended our Stay and Play event on Friday 20th of January. The session was fully booked and the feedback extremely positive. The children and their grown-ups had a very enjoyable morning. It was lovely to meet you all and we look forward to welcoming you again soon.



BRAND NEW SENSORY SNUG!

We were delighted to open our beautiful new SENSORY SNUG on the morning of our Stay and Play. This is a fabulous new resource for our school, which was made possible through our Extended Schools Cluster Group and also SEN funding. Thank you to Mrs McDermott for taking the lead on this project. We are very proud of the finished space and know that this is another wonderful new addition to our learning resources. It will make such a difference to our children here at St Eugene's PS.