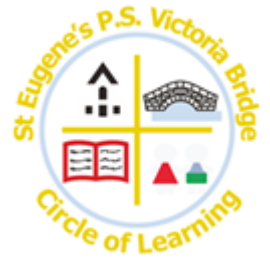


St Eugene's PS, Victoria Bridge

Newsletter

January 2024



Admissions to Reception and P1 for 2024!

It was great to see such a good turnout at our Open Morning back in December, we hope that everyone who attended enjoyed their visit. The EA Admission Portal opens on Tuesday 9th of January and parents should use this to apply for their child's Reception or P1 place. Please note that if you are applying for a Reception place you will find this under 'primary' and not 'pre-school'. There will be a Stay and Play event on Wednesday 17th of January from 9.45 to 10.30 for children aged 2 years and over. Everyone in our school community is looking forward to welcoming the new children and their families to our Circle of Learning. If you are interested in our school and were unable to attend Open Morning, please contact the office on 028 8165 8439 and we can arrange a private appointment for you.



Confirmation Preparation 2024

Mr Donnelly will begin preparations with children due to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation which takes place on Saturday 13th of April 2024. We look forward to working with Therese Ferry from the Derry Catechetical Centre and Bishop McKeown for the 'Disciples of Jesus, Filled with Joy' Confirmation Programme which will take place through a series of daily workshops beginning on Monday 8th of January. This is a special time for the children, and we look forward to watching them grow on their faith journey.

Planned Strike Action

It is with great frustration that we are communicating about further strike action over workload, pay and conditions. There is planned strike action scheduled for Thursday 18th of January. This will be the biggest public sector walkout that Northern Ireland has ever seen and will result in our school being closed for the day. We call on the Secretary of State and the Department of Education to bring about a resolution to avoid this strike going ahead.

Reminders!!!

Term Two PE Days

Please be aware that the PE Days for this term will be Wednesdays and Fridays for all classes. Children should attend school in full PE uniform on these days. PE uniform is plain navy joggers/leggings, pale blue polo shirt and school jumper.

P7 Parents — Apply for Post Primary!

It will soon be time to apply for your P7 child's Post Primary School. EA Connect will open on 30th of January and parents should make their application through this portal before the closing date on 22nd of February. If you experience difficulties, you can contact the Admission Helpdesk on 028 9598 5595.

Important Dates

8th — 11th January — Daily Workshops for children making their Confirmation.

9th January — EA Admission Portal Opens for Reception and P1 place applications.

12th January — Free Friday Breakfast Scheme begins.

17th January — Stay and Play event for children aged 2+ and their grown-ups, 9.45 — 10.30.

18th January — STRIKE SCHOOL CLOSED!

21st January — beginning of Catholic Schools Week

25th January — Grandparents Breakfast 9am

26th January — EA Admission Portal closes for Reception and P1 applications.

30th January — EA Connect Opens for P7 applications to Post Primary Schools.

31st January — Trocaire Game Changers Workshops KS2.

Mid-Term Break: 12th - 16th February inclusive.



Grandparents Day 2024

On Thursday 25th January, we will be celebrating Grandparents Day as part of Catholic Schools Week. Grandparents play a big part in our school community and in line with the theme 'communities of service' we invite Grandparents to come to school with the children to school on this morning, there will be a cup of tea available in the Hall between 9am and 9.30.



Successful Christmas Show 2023!

Well done to the children for their performances in our Christmas Shows in December and a big thank you to the children and staff for all their hard work leading up to show. We are sure you will agree that once again, this special event was 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 £2000 for school funds which will help provide resources for the children here at our school.

New Student Teacher.

We look forward to welcoming Miss Aine Ni Reannachain to our team from Monday 22nd of January. Aine is a 2nd year student teacher from St Mary's College, Belfast. She is passionate about music and drama, and we are excited for her to share her specialism with our children. She will be working with our KS2 class. Good luck on your placement Aine!



Breakfast Club - Free Fridays.

We are thrilled to announce that we are due to receive a small amount of additional funding for our popular Breakfast Club, this funding will allow us to provide a greater variety of food for the same small price. We are acutely aware of the difficult financial times that we are all experiencing and are delighted to inform you that beginning on Friday 12th of January we will begin a series of 'Free Friday Breakfasts' with the help of this funding. To ensure a safe pupil-staff ratio we need to operate this initiative on a rotational basis, which is as follows:

- Every Friday in January — free for Miss Gormley's Class.
- Every Friday in February — free for Mrs Connolly's Class.
- Every Friday in March — free for Mr Donnelly's Class.

This means on the Fridays, when it is your child's class turn, you will not need to send payment for the Breakfast Club. The other days of the week remain priced at £1 per day. Please remember too that the club begins at 8.15 and the final serving is 8.45, therefore, if your child needs to eat, they must be in for this time to allow the children time to eat and staff time to clear up before school at 9am.

