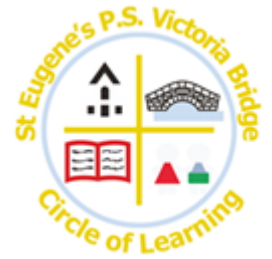


St Eugene's PS, Victoria Bridge

Newsletter

March 2023



Journey to Integrated Education!

Our journey towards transforming to become an Integrated School continues. On the 14th of March, the Board of Governors submitted our Case for Change to the Education Authority. The Education Authority will begin a consultation period for our proposal on the 17th of April, at this time schools in the local area will be able to respond to the proposal. We will continue to work through the targets on our Transformation Action Plan and look forward to updating you on developments as they arise.

Odds On for Integrated Education.

Throughout March we have been celebrating Integrated Education Month. We will complete our celebrations with a fundraising event on Tuesday 4th of April, this will be a non-uniform day for the end of term and children are asked to wear odd socks and bring a donation of £1. The Integrated Education Fund have been a phenomenal support to our school, and we would like to support them in return.

Grandparents Art Workshop 2023

Thank you to the Grandparents who attended our annual Intergenerational Workshop on Wednesday 1st of March. It was a lovely day for all involved and the sculptures are beautiful. There will be a celebration event on Wednesday the 19th of April, a bus will collect the children and their Grandparents at 9.10am here at the school and travel to Sion Mills PS. The event will last approximately one hour, and refreshments will be served.



Reminders!!!

School Milk for Term Three

If you would like to order milk for term three, please telephone Mrs Gallagher by close of business on Monday 3rd of April. Milk for term three costs £9.80.

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.

Changes to School Calendar!

The Department of Education have notified us of a change to the school calendar. Monday 8th of May has been declared an official bank holiday to mark the King's Coronation. On our original calendar, our school was due to be closed to pupils on Friday 28th of April, we have decided to move this closure to the weekend of the Coronation.

The May closures are now as follows:

- Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday
- Friday 5th May - School Closure
- Monday 8th May - Bank Holiday
- Thursday 18th May - School Closure - Election
- Monday 29th May - Bank Holiday

Important Dates:

4th April - Non-Uniform & Odd Socks Day.

School Closes at 12 noon to pupils for Easter Break.

17th April - School Resumes for Term 3.

Breakfast Club and 2.15 Club will be running as normal.

19th April - Intergenerational Art Celebration at Sion Mills Primary School, for P6 and their Grandparents; bus leaves St Eugene's PS at 9.10am.



Summer Uniform.

Children will be able to wear their summer uniform from Monday 17th of April. This year we are returning to the formal summer uniform, during covid we had relaxed this.

Summer Uniform is as follows:

Girls:

- Blue & White Gingham Dress/Skort.
- Navy Cardigan.
- Navy or white socks and black shoes.

Boys:

- Short sleeved pale blue smart collared shirt and navy tie.
- Navy Jumper.
- Navy tailored knee length shorts (not jersey or sports shorts)
- Navy socks and black shoes.

Children are expected to wear their uniform with pride, we thank you for your co-operation with this. Should you have difficulty with any items of uniform, we will be happy to help you out with some of our pre-loved items. All requests will be handled discreetly.



Confirmation.

Congratulations and well done to our P7 children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 25th of March. Thank you to Father Canning for a lovely ceremony, to Mr Donnelly for his hard work preparing the children and to Mrs Gallagher for providing a celebratory tea party for the children after their special day.



Dance Hall Project.

Well done to P5/6/7 for all their hard work on the Dance Hall Project. We enjoyed a lovely morning at Edward's PS on Wednesday 29th of April for the celebration. Thank you to the parents, grandparents and our Chair of Governors, Carmel Corry for attending. We are so thankful to the Rural Housing and Derry City and Strabane District Council for inviting us to the part of the project.



Titanic Educational Visit.

Thank you to Mr Donnelly for organising a wonderful educational trip to the Titanic Exhibition Centre in Belfast on Monday 27th of March. The children had a brilliant day out. Thanks to Mrs Preston for accompanying the group.



Funding Crisis!

Many of you will be aware that funding has now ceased for the Holiday Hunger Scheme, Cycling Proficiency Teacher Release, Happy, Healthy Minds and the Engage Programme. This is a massive blow to all those in education and we feel that our children deserve better. Anne McVeigh is paid by the McHale Foundation, and we hope that this will mean she can continue with us until at least the end of June. Pamela from Neuroskillshop will complete her six-week block with the children currently involved in her sessions.

We have made the decision to pay Miss Mayse from our own budget until the end of April so that the small group support is not pulled from the children straight away. These initiatives have made such a positive difference to our children, and we call upon our politicians to return to Stormont and fight for what our children deserve. We would love to see these programmes reinstated!