

St Eugene's PS, Victoria Bridge Newsletter

November 2023



Admissions to Reception and P1 for 2024!

It is that time again when preparations begin for welcoming new children to our school. We will be holding our Open Morning on Tuesday 19th of December between 10am and 12 noon. If you have a child due to begin Pre-School or P1 in the new academic year we would love to see you. If you are unable to attend the Open Day, contact the office and we can arrange a private appointment.



Daily Mile Santa Run

We are delighted to continue with our active travel initiatives this year. On Friday 1st of December our whole school will take part in the Daily Mile Santa Run. We will be meeting at the entrance to the Play Park at 9am. Children who are at Breakfast Club and those who travel by bus will be walked to the meeting point by staff. Christmas jumpers and hats are encouraged. We look forward to some festive, energetic fun!

Christmas Show 2023



Our annual Christmas Show is scheduled for 10am and 7pm on Thursday 14th of December. This year all pupils will be involved in one show called 'Panto Pandemonium'. On this day the children will perform at 10am and go home after this performance. They will return at 6.30 for the evening show at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale soon and will be priced at £4 for adults and £2 for under 16s. We will also have a Christmas Fundraising Draw and would be grateful if anyone is able to donate prizes for this. We thank you as always for your on-going support.

Reminders!!!

After School Clubs

The final After School Games Club with Ryan Mayse, will be on Monday 27th of November. We thank all children and parents who have supported this club throughout the term.

2.15 Club will run from 4th- 13th of December. Wednesday 13th of December will be the final 2.15 club of this term. The 2.15 Club will resume in the New Year.

Sacramental Dates

Fr Malachy has informed us that the Confirmation will take place on Saturday 13th of April at 11am. First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 18th of May at 11am. Both Sacraments will be administered in St Theresa's Church, Sion Mills.

Credit Union

Savings are collected every Tuesday. If you wish to join the Credit Union savings, please request an application form from Mrs Gallagher.



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 December — Daily Mile Santa Run

7th December — Christmas Dinner

14th December — Christmas Show 10am & 7pm

15th December — All children finish at 2.15 (reward for school show as requested by the Pupil Council)

19th December — Open Morning 10am — 12noon

20th December — School Closes for the Christmas Holidays 12noon.

3rd January — Baker Day for staff.

4th January — School Reopens to Pupils for new term.

New Cohort of Reception Children



Strike Action

Many of you will be aware from media coverage that all five Teaching Unions will be engaging in a half day strike on Wednesday 29th of November until 12noon. This means that the school will not be able to open to children on this date until 12noon. This is a last resort, there is no teacher who wants to have to do this. The responsibility to resolve this dispute lies squarely with the employing authorities and the Department of Education.

Education in Northern Ireland has been systematically defunded in recent years, resulting in decimating reductions in support, resource, and capacity. The teaching profession has filled in the growing gaps, holding the fragmenting system together and protecting children from the impact of the cuts. Pay paralysis, when set alongside the working conditions of the teaching profession in Northern Ireland, is having a devastating impact on the profession, with clear evidence that we will not be able to recruit or retain teachers and school leaders in the future if these issues are not resolved. Education is in crisis. Teachers across the rest of the UK and Ireland have received their normal pay increases, several times over the last three years. Teachers in Northern Ireland have received nothing. When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work, withdraw their labour, and do not receive any pay.



Diversity Olympics

Thank you to Rural Housing and the Community Sports Network for their involvement in the Diversity Olympics Celebration Event. This was a wonderful project for the children to take part in and everyone enjoyed all of the new skills and knowledge that were shared throughout the project. Well done to our Jag Tag Team!



Halloween Fancy Dress Party

Our Halloween Spooky Supper Dance was an overwhelming success, the staff have all been commenting on how much the late evening was worth it to see the children having such a good time. It was a pleasure to host, thanks to all our parents and families who went to such effort with the fancy dress and the pumpkin carving competition.



INTO Film Festival

Thanks to Mrs Connolly for organising a trip to the Alley Theatre for our KS1 and KS2 children to celebrate INTO Film Festival 2023. The children had a fantastic time.



Renew You

Our KS2 children are halfway through their wellbeing programme with Renew You. The children are enjoying their relaxation and meditation on Tuesday afternoons. Aoibheann the coach is very pleased with how the children are progressing. Thanks to the Extended Schools Cluster funding for this initiative.