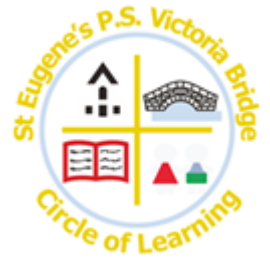


St Eugene's PS, Victoria Bridge

Newsletter

September 2022



I would like to begin by welcoming everyone in our school community to the academic year 2022/2023 at St Eugene's PS. It is great to see so many new families joining our circle of learning. We have an action-packed year ahead, there is so much happening at our wonderful school. Be sure to read all details carefully to stay up to date with all that is going on.

Seesaw

Seesaw is our online learning platform and is a great tool for allowing adults at home to see what is going on in our classrooms. We know that so many of you love it! Not only is Seesaw great for showcasing the teaching and learning in our school but it is also how we would teach in the event of remote learning being enforced by DE. We hope that this is something of that past, but it is crucial that we remain prepared for every scenario. Teachers will be sending parent and pupil codes later this week and we ask that you ensure that both you and your child have access. You can have multiple children on your family app and switch between them using the top left hand corner. Seesaw is useful for communicating with your child's teacher but we ask that only short, non-urgent messages are sent this way, as during the working day teachers may not see messages or be able to respond. For urgent messages please telephone the office after 9.30am and leave your message with Mrs Gallagher to pass on to the class teacher. If calling before 9.30am please leave a recorded message. Please also be mindful of teacher's personal time and understand that messages will not be responded to outside of contracted hours. We thank you for your cooperation with this wonderful tool.

Shared Education

We are delighted to be involved in another exciting Shared Education Project this year. Throughout this term all classes will be part of a Creative Writing Project with Newtown Stewart Model PS & St Patrick's PS Newtown Stewart. All staff attended joint training in August and we know that we will all learn so much on this journey.

Reminders!!!

School Uniform

We are delighted to see the children looking so smart in their school uniform as the new term begins. Our uniform is an important part of developing our sense of belonging and we hope that our boys and girls wear the uniform with pride. Wednesdays and Fridays are PE DAYS and children should come to school in PE uniform on these days.

Swimming

Swimming has resumed for our P5-P7 children who will visit Riversdale Leisure Centre every Friday morning accompanied by Mr Donnelly and Mrs Preston. The children will enjoy 15 sessions in total.

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

- 7th Sept — School Counselling Service Resumed.
- 8th Sept - Musical Pathways to Learning Commenced.
- 9th Sept — School Swimming Commenced.
- 13th Sept — Drawing & Talking Therapy Commenced.
- 20th Sept — Shared Education Project Commenced.
- 26th Sept — ICT Project for P6/7 begins.
- 28th October — School Closed to Pupils — Parent-Teacher Meeting.

Halloween Holidays

31st October — 4th November inclusive.



Mrs Connolly's Class enjoying Musical Pathways to Learning which will run for 30 weeks for P1-P5.

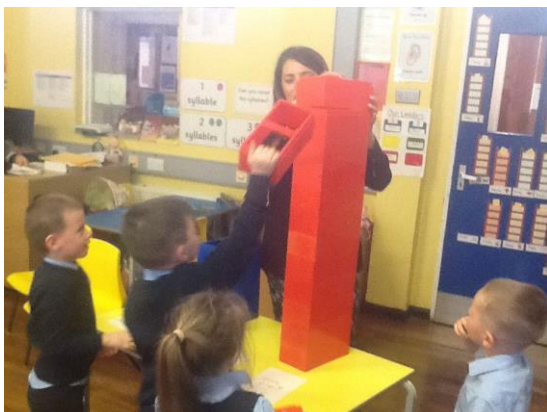


Mr Donnelly's 'Fitting Together' Project as the P6/7 children explored belonging to their new class.



Miss Gormley and some FS children painting themselves in their uniforms as they celebrate belonging.

Below: Miss Mayse doing some data handling with our younger boys and girls.



[Tramway Tales Children's Storybook](#)

We are delighted to be continuing our community project with Edward's Primary School, Castlederg, to produce a children's storybook based on the old tramline in the area. Our P6/7 children will be working with Andrew Tinney on Wednesday mornings to finish the book and prepare a dance and drama to perform at the official book launch. Full details will be announced in due course. This project is being funded by the Rural Communities Network and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, NI.

[Extended Schools ICT Project](#)

It is great to see so much collaboration going on with our neighbouring schools this term. P6/7 will begin an ICT Coding Project through our Extended Schools Cluster and will enjoy four full day sessions with Mr Coyle from St Theresa's PS. The project will conclude with a celebration event to showcase the children's work.

[Pupil Wellbeing at St Eugene's PS](#)

We are delighted to welcome back Anne McVeigh for our pupil counselling sessions this year. Throughout term one children from P1-P5 will have priority for her services. Please be aware that there is high demand for Anne and children who have not availed of sessions previously will be prioritised. For our P6/7 children we have brought in a new service. Thanks to the Happy Healthy Minds Project we can fund Drawing and Talking Therapy for this term. These are amazing, much needed, services that we are proud to be able to provide for our boys and girls.

[Integrated Education Update](#)

You will be aware that last term our parents voted overwhelmingly in favour of transformation to Integrated Status. Miss Gormley will meet with NICIE and EA on the 6th of October and will then begin writing the Case for Change which will go forward to the Education Minister. This is a lengthy process, and we will keep you updated with all developments throughout.

[Staffing](#)

There are no changes to staffing at this moment in time, staff remain the same as advised in June. We are, however, delighted to welcome back Miss Catherine Mayse. Miss Mayse will be in school 4 days each week providing small group support and classroom teacher release.